
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AIR
STATION EWA AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED
PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, as international tensions intensified and military
2 conflicts broke out in Europe and Asia prior to America's entry
3 into World War II, Japan resented what they perceived to be
4 interference by the United States in the affairs of the Far
5 East; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Japan decided to destroy the United States Pacific
8 Fleet based in Pearl Harbor and all Army, Navy, and Marine air
9 forces on Oahu to ensure that the United States could not hinder
10 Japan's plans for conquest in Asia and the Pacific; and

11
12 WHEREAS, in order to attain this objective, Japan sent a
13 powerful naval force of six aircraft carriers and supporting
14 ships across the Pacific Ocean to attack American forces based
15 on the island of Oahu; and

16
17 WHEREAS, in the early stages of that attack, at
18 approximately 7:53 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941,
19 Lieutenant Kiyokuma Okajima led nine Mitsubishi Type 0 (Zero)
20 carrier fighters from the aircraft carrier Hiryu toward the Ewa
21 Mooring Mast Field (later re-designated Marine Corps Air Station
22 Ewa) on the island of Oahu, and coming from the north, the
23 fighters flew as low as twenty feet over the unsuspecting Marine
24 Corps airfield, and in subsequent firing passes, destroyed many
25 of the forty-nine aircraft there, damaging buildings and
26 equipment; and

27
28 WHEREAS, within minutes, fighters from the aircraft
29 carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu arrived over the Ewa Mooring
30 Mast Field and caused further destruction at the base; and
31

1 WHEREAS, the attack on Ewa Mooring Mast Field was so
2 precise and well-executed that it appeared as though the
3 Japanese fighters had previously selected their particular
4 targets with the purpose of riddling them, and setting fire to
5 the gas tanks so as to render them useless for pursuit and
6 interception; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field lay along the departure
9 route for many Japanese aircraft flying toward their rendezvous
10 point northwest of Kaena Point, and those aircraft subjected the
11 field to additional strafing attacks and completed the
12 destruction of thirty-three aircraft and the damage to sixteen
13 others of the forty-nine present; and
14

15 WHEREAS, within minutes, the Marines mounted a gallant
16 defense of their base, while the remainder of the Japanese
17 strike force attacked Pearl Harbor and other airfields on Oahu;
18 and
19

20 WHEREAS, the bravery of the United States Marines at Ewa
21 showed itself in full force that morning, with the men fighting
22 gallantly in the face of a ruthless and determined enemy who
23 carried out its mission of neutralizing any American aircraft
24 that could intercept and counterattack the Japanese invaders;
25 and
26

27 WHEREAS, in one example of courage, Private William G.
28 Turner, who died of his wounds and received a posthumous Bronze
29 Star, assisted Master Technical Sergeant Emil S. Peters who
30 jumped into the rear cockpit of a SBD-2 dive bomber, with Peters
31 firing from the cockpit as Turner fed ammunition; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the Japanese aircraft also inflicted other
34 casualties among the Marines at the Ewa Mooring Mast Field,
35 killing three men and wounding thirteen others; and
36

37 WHEREAS, Sergeant Carlo A. Micheletto, Private First Class
38 Edward S. Laurence, and Private William G. Turner, gave their
39 lives in defense of their country, and two civilian residents of
40 Ewa, Yaeko Lillian Oda and Francisco Tacderan, also lost their
41 lives as a result of the attack; and
42

43 WHEREAS, Japanese Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga, leader of the
44 first wave fighter unit from the aircraft carrier Kaga, while

1 strafing the parked planes at Ewa Field with his 7.7 mm machine
2 guns, recorded for posterity the account of a lone Marine, who
3 stood amidst the gunfire striking the ground around him and
4 bravely emptied his sidearm at the aircraft attacking overhead,
5 a man in whom Lieutenant Shiga found the "spirit of dogged
6 tenacity that was the very embodiment of bravery and valor",
7 which he did not expect from an American, and commented that
8 this Marine was the bravest soldier he ever encountered; and
9

10 WHEREAS, two Army Air Force fighter pilots from Wheeler
11 Field, Second Lieutenants Kenneth M. Taylor and George S. Welch,
12 engaged Japanese dive bombers in the vicinity of the Ewa Mooring
13 Mast Field in one of the most famous dogfights of the war; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field constitutes one of the
16 very first points of the attack against the United States, which
17 precipitated our nation's entry into World War II; and
18

19 WHEREAS, during 1941, the Marine Corps developed the Ewa
20 Mooring Mast Field which later, as Marine Corps Air Station Ewa,
21 served through World War II; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the designation and development of Ewa Field as a
24 National Monument, Museum, and Restored Park would preserve this
25 critical American historic site, allowing stories to be told of
26 the associated military conflicts, American sacrifices, and the
27 heroism and determination that became the foundation for victory
28 in the Pacific arena and eventually in World War II itself; and
29

30 WHEREAS, a National Monument at the former Marine Corps Air
31 Station Ewa would further preserve documentation of Hawaii's
32 involvement in World War II, serving as a focal point for the
33 observation, remembrance, and expression of American patriotism,
34 honoring those who served within its gates; and
35

36 WHEREAS, the preservation of Marine Corps Air Station Ewa
37 as a National Monument would create opportunities for
38 employment, education, and community pride for the people of
39 Hawaii; now, therefore,
40

41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
43 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
44 supports the preservation of all or part of Marine Corps Air

1 Station Ewa and supports the construction of a memorial or
2 museum on this historic site; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional
5 delegation is requested to support the efforts to preserve and
6 memorialize Marine Corps Air Station Ewa; and

7
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the
10 United States Pacific fleet, the Hunt Development Group, and to
11 each member of Hawaii's congressional delegation.