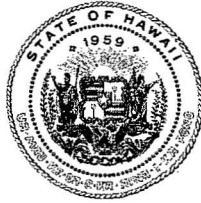


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Monday, March 30, 2009
9:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49, HOUSE DRAFT 1
URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATE MARINE CORPS AIR
STATION EWA AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM AND RESTORED PARK
FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 49, House Draft 1 resolves to encourage the President, Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior to preserve Marine Corp Air Station Ewa, or a portion of it, as a National Monument. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the substance of this concurrent resolution, the Department asks that the Legislature understand that given the budgetary cuts the Department has had to absorb this fiscal year and further cuts proposed in the Executive Biennium Budget request, the Department's personnel and fiscal resources are being spread thin, and already impacting departmental priorities. As such, the Department does not support the reporting requirement imposed in the House Draft 1.

As the concurrent resolution details, Marine Corp Air Station Ewa played a significant role in World War II as it was attacked before Japanese aircraft targeted Pearl Harbor. Three marines lost their lives in the initial attack on Hawaii, yet this part of the America's entry into World War II is overshadowed by the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Department believes that the Marine Corp Air Station Ewa represents a significant period in the history of Hawaii and the Nation and at the very least, parts of the Air Station should be incorporated into the Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

The Department is working with a group of interested individuals to nominate a portion of Marine Corp Air Station Ewa to the National Register of Historic Places. A National Monument designation would be an even more fitting tribute to the valor and sacrifices of all Marines.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS