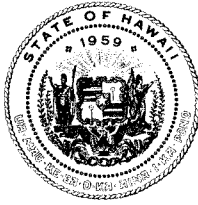
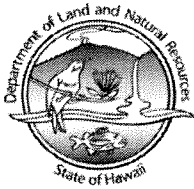


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD, ROOM 555
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**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
TOURISM, CULTURE, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Friday, April 24, 2009
10:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 423**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 183, SENATE DRAFT 1 -
URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II HONOULIULI
INTERMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED
MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 183, Senate Draft 1 urges full preservation of the World War II Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument, Museum and Restored Memorial Park for the State of Hawaii. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments for consideration.

In a report to the Twenty-Fourth Legislature prepared by the Department in response to Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, the Department suggested that a museum be placed at the Kilauea Internment Camp on Hawaii Island, rather than at Honouliuli, because it is the most intact and is already located in an area frequented by tourists. The report also went on to say the development of a memorial at Honouliuli would require structures to be built, as well as a road to access the site.

The Department notes that in these difficult economic times, the Department would not be able to commit any funding toward this pursuit.

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To: Representative Joey Manahan, Chair
Representative James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs

From: Lenny Yajima Andrew, President / Executive Director
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Re: SCR 183 SD1 URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II
HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT,
MUSEUM AND RESTORED MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF
HAWAI'I.

(Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10:45a.m. Room 423)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Good morning, Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs. I am Lenny Yajima Andrew, President / Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) testifying in strong support of SCR 183 SD1 to fully preserve the Honouliuli internment camp as a national monument, museum and restored memorial park for the State of Hawai'i.

A few years back, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i received a request from a local television station asking where the World War II internment camp named Honouliuli was located. No one at the JCCH knew, and, after making some phone calls, it was apparent that no one else knew either. Some did not even know that people were interned in Hawai'i. That simple request and the apparent lack of knowledge about the general topic of Hawai'i internees has led to that topic being one of the main priorities of the JCCH's research, programs, and collections over the past few years.

While the smoke from the Japanese bombs that had wreaked havoc on Pearl Harbor was still clearing, local officials had sprung into action and had begun to arrest local Japanese, along with local Germans and Italians. Amidst fears that war between the United States and Japan was imminent, the Japanese community in Hawai'i had been under surveillance by various intelligence agencies for the prior decade and lists of which local Japanese to arrest in the event of war had been generated. For the most

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The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, strives to strengthen our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The center features a Community and Historical Gallery, Resource Center, Jushikan martial arts dojo, Seikōan Japanese teahouse, Gift Shop and Grand Ballroom.



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Page 2 / Testimony in Support for SCR 183 SD1

part, these lists named Japanese immigrant community leaders, Buddhist priests, Japanese language school teachers, newspaper editors, and so forth, who were believed to have particular influence in the community. These men, along with a few women, were arrested and held in local prisons initially, before being transferred to a camp constructed on Sand Island, which opened shortly thereafter. The 1,200 or so who were detained were held at Sand Island for periods ranging from a few months to a year or more before being transferred to camps on the mainland or to Honouliuli, a camp constructed in Central O'ahu. For most, internment lasted to the end of the war and beyond, a period of approximately four years. The interned were held without charge and with only token hearings and in many cases did not know exactly why they were being held. Most of the internees returned to Hawai'i after the war, where they and their families were often stigmatized in the early postwar years.

The story of Hawai'i internees has remained largely unknown for many years. The passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the subsequent search for former internees in the 1900s led to new knowledge about internment and also about those in Hawai'i who were excluded but not detained. Recently the National Park Service has noted the existence of five internment sites in Hawai'i: Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island, Haiku Internment Camp on Maui and Kalaheo Stockade on Kaua'i in addition to Sand Island and Honouliuli on O'ahu and has conducted some preliminary research on them.

In December 2006, then-President George Bush signed HR 1492, the Camp Preservation Bill, which specifically mentions Honouliuli as one of the sites eligible to seek federal funds for preservation. On March 11, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus Appropriations Act that included \$1 million for the Confinement Sites Preservation Program. These funds are available immediately and now is the time to move on securing a distinguished memorial of Honouliuli internment site for the State of Hawai'i. On April 23, 2009, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a bill in Congress to have the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to determine if internment camps in Hawai'i are eligible to be listed as historic sites under the National Park System. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono is expected to also introduce the companion bill in the US House of Representatives in the coming days.

The preservation and recognition of sites like Honouliuli can serve as educational tools for meeting DOE standards that both specifically mention the World War II internment of Japanese Americans and that more generally address issues of civil liberties and racial stereotyping. A memorial there can serve as catalyst for further research and documentation on both the Honouliuli site and on internment in general.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of SCR 183 SD1.

000010

April 23, 2009

To: Representative Joey Manahan, Chair
Representative James Tokioka, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs

From: Brian Niiya, Resource Center Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Re: SCR 183 SD1 URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.
(Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10:45ap.m. Room 423)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Good morning, Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs. I am Brian Niiya, Resource Center Director at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i testifying in strong support of SCR 183 SD1 which urges full preservation of the World War II Honouliuli internment camp as a national monument, museum, and restored memorial park for the State of Hawai'i.

On the evening of December 7, 1941, my grandfather, Shoichi Asami, was detained by local authorities beginning a long odyssey that would end with his family spread across the ocean and with his own death there-and-a-half years later. He was a newspaper editor in Honolulu, a Japanese immigrant who had lived in Hawai'i for some forty years, a father of five children born and raised in Hawai'i, and like most of the other 1,200 or so local Japanese who were interned, a leader of the ethnic community here. Like the others, he was detained without charges and with only a token hearing.

The internment of Japanese in Hawai'i was small in scale compared to what happened subsequently on the West Coast, where all 110,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly removed and incarcerated. But though the numbers were small, the impact was large. The vast majority of the interned were Japanese immigrant men, though there were others including a few women and about a hundred local Germans and Italians. These immigrant leaders had families who were directly affected. Like about 1,000 others, my mother and her mother and siblings "voluntarily" chose to join their interned father or husband in a mainland camp, though it was hardly a choice, since he was the sole breadwinner as were most of the interned. The internment of these Japanese school principals, Buddhist priests, newspapers editors, and others in positions of influence had a chilling effect on the entire community and effectively criminalized Japanese culture. Everyone knew that they could be next. Like my father's family on the Big Island, many local Japanese families burned their Japanese books and papers fearing arrest.

The story of Hawai'i internees remains little known even here. But as the Federal Government, our own Department of Education, and many other official and unofficial entities have decreed, this story is one that needs to be known, that needs to be taught to our children, for those who don't know this history are doomed to repeat it. One need only study today's headlines to recognize the relevance of this history to current debates on civil liberties and national security in times of war.

A memorial at the Honouliuli site, the best preserved of the Hawai'i internment camp sites, would bring attention to the entire Hawai'i internee story and could serve as a locus of educational efforts. As we have learned from the mainland case, where internment camp pilgrimages have taken place for over thirty years, on-site memorials can become destinations for internees, their descendents and others affected by the events of the war. It can help bring closure for those who were affected and can help to heal old wounds and divisions in the community.

The Honouliuli internment site as a national monument, museum and restored memorial park will benefit not only Japanese Americans but all of the people of Hawai'i by reminding us of what can happen to people like my grandfather if we don't remain vigilant about our freedoms.

I urge your Committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in strong support of SCR 183 SD1.

000011

April 23, 2009

To: Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair
Rep. James Tokioka, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs

From: Donald Amano and Jane Kurahara
Co-Chairs, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) Hawai'i Confinement Sites Committee

Re: SCR 183 SD1 URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II HONOULIULI
INTERNMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED
MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.
(Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10:45a.m. Room 423)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Good morning, Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture & International Affairs. We are Donald Amano and Jane Kurahara and we are submitting testimony as Co-Chairs of the Hawai'i Confinement Sites Committee of the JCCH in strong support of SCR 183 SD1.

The story of selective internment of Japanese in Hawai'i during World War II is much less well known relative to the story of the mass forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast. Though the number of internees in Hawai'i was small compared to the total number of Japanese living in the islands, the impact of their internment was great given that the interned included most of the leadership of the Japanese immigrant community. Local Germans and Italians were also interned at Honouliuli and other Hawai'i camps.

Studying the internment of locals during World War II raises larger issues concerning civil liberties in time of war that remain relevant today. The preservation and recognition of sites like Honouliuli can serve as educational tools for meeting Department of Education standards that both specifically mention the World War II internment of Japanese Americans and more generally address issues of civil liberties and racial stereotyping.

Because the Honouliuli site is largely undisturbed and undeveloped, it is a good candidate for preservation and a potential memorial. On the other hand, because it has been largely unexplored there is a need for archeological research and mapping to solidify our knowledge as to where exactly the camp was and what is still there.

Honouliuli is one of at least five World War II era confinement sites in the islands; each of the others—Sand Island (O'ahu), Kilauea Military Camp (Big Island), Haiku Camp (Maui), and Kalaheo Stockade (Kauai)—is equally worthy of further research, recognition and/or preservation. In order to fully document the internment story in Hawai'i, historic preservation, research, and recognition of the confinement sites must be augmented with archival research, oral history, and the collection of manuscripts, images and objects.

The movement to memorialize the Honouliuli site takes place in the context of efforts by the Federal Government to further explore Hawai'i internment. We were very pleased when President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Appropriations Act on March 11, 2009 because it included \$1 million for the Confinement Sites Preservation Program. Most recently, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a bill in Congress to study eligibility of internment camp sites in Hawai'i listed as historic sites under the National Park Service. We'd like to keep the momentum moving forward at the State and Federal levels.

We urge your Committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SCR 183 SD1.

000012

To: **House Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs**
Rep. Joey Manahan, Chair
Rep. James Tokioka, Vice Chair

From: Kevin Chang, Private Citizen

Re: SCR 183 URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II HONOULIULI
INTERMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM AND
RESTORED MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAI'I.
(Friday, April 24, 2009 at 10:45 a.m. Room 423)

Good afternoon, Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs. My name is Kevin Chang, a private citizen, testifying in strong support of SCR 183 to fully preserve the Honouliuli internment camp as a national monument, museum and restored memorial park for the State of Hawai'i.

Studying the internment of locals during World War II raises larger issues concerning civil liberties in times of war that remain relevant today. Because the Honouliuli site is largely undisturbed and undeveloped, it is a good candidate for preservation and a potential memorial.

Looking at the larger picture, given our agricultural dependency and the development pressures of our times, I believe current cultural and natural resource preservation efforts throughout the central O'ahu area are important.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

000013

Amy Luke

From: Yoshie Tanabe [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 11:29 AM
To: Rep. Joey Manahan; Rep. James Tokioka; Rep. Lyla B. Berg; Rep. Isaac W. Choy; Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Barbara Marumoto; Rep. Angus McKelvey; Rep. K. Mark Takai; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Glenn Wakai; Rep. Jessica Wooley; TCItestimony
Subject: SCR 183, SD1: Urging Full Preservation of WWII Honouliuli Internment Camp....
Importance: High

Dear Members of the House Committee on Tourism, Culture and International Affairs
Rep. Manahan, Chair; Rep. Tokioka, Vice Chair and members:

We are forwarding the Internment Camp Bill that Senator Daniel Inouye introduced to the U.S. Congress today!

Please pass SCR183, SD1 Urging full preservation of the WWII Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument, Museum and Restored Memorial Park for the State of Hawaii.

Very sincerely,

James and Yoshie Tanabe

[redacted]

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

[redacted]

Fyi, a press release issued by inouye's office this morning.

**INOUYE SEEKS FEDERAL STUDY TO DETERMINE IF HAWAII SITES WHERE
JAPANESE AMERICANS WERE UNJUSTLY INTERNED DURING WORLD WAR II
QUALIFY AS HISTORIC PLACES**

Thursday, April 23, 2009

For Immediate Release

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye – who during World War II fought alongside Nisei soldiers from the mainland whose families were unjustly incarcerated in mass detention camps simply because of their ancestry – today introduced a bill to have the Secretary of the Interior conduct a study to determine if internment camp sites in Hawaii are eligible to be listed as historic sites under the National Park System.

“During World War II, over 1,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in at least eight locations on Hawaii,” said Senator Inouye. “In a report completed in 2007, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii documented these sites that include Honouliuli Gulch, Sand Island, and the U.S. Immigration Station on Oahu, the Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island, Haiku Camp and Wailuku County Jail on Maui, and the Kalaheo Stockade and Waialua County Jail on Kauai. These camps also held approximately 100 local residents of German and Italian ancestry.

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“Those detained included the leaders of the Japanese immigrant community in Hawaii, many of whom were taken from their homes and families in the hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The forced removal of these individuals began a nearly four-year odyssey to a series of camps in Hawaii and on the continental United States. Over 1,000 immediate family members of these men joined their husbands, fathers and relatives in mainland camps. The detainees were never formally charged and granted only token hearings. Many of the detainees’ sons served with distinction in the U.S armed forces, including the legendary 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service.

“This report found that both the Kilauea Military Camp and the Honouliuli sites feature historic resources and recommended that the sites be nominated for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. In 2008, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii published a more detailed archeological reconnaissance of the Honouliuli site. This report found that there were numerous historic features that would qualify the site for National Historic Register and further recommended that the site be conserved. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii is currently working with Monsanto, the landowner, to nominate the Honouliuli Gulch site to be listed on the National Historic Register.

“So far I have received letters in support of this legislation from a range of local, regional and national organizations, including the Japanese American National Museum, Hawaiian Historical Society, Go For Broke National Education Center, Japan America Society of Hawaii, Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese Citizens League, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii, the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, Japanese American Citizens League, The Conservation Fund, Densho, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Japanese American National Heritage Coalition and the Friends of Minidoka.

“This legislation will enable the National Park Service to study these important sites in my state and make recommendations to Congress regarding the best approach to conserve and manage these sites to tell this chapter in our nation’s history to current and future generations.”

Senator Inouye, who received the nation’s highest award for military valor, the Medal of Honor, for his combat service, has said that it was an eye-opening experience to learn that many of his mainland 442nd “brothers” were willing to serve in harm’s way to prove their patriotism, even when their country had placed their family members in harsh, desolate camps surrounded by barbed wire and machine-gun towers.

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, a co-sponsor of Senator Inouye’s bill, said: “The internment of innocent Americans at Honouliuli and elsewhere is a tragic chapter of our country’s history that we must never forget. Building on existing National Park Service initiatives, this new study will further efforts to share this difficult history in a way that appropriately honors the experience and memory of those interned.”

The House version of Senator Inouye’s bill was also introduced today by U.S. Representative Mazie Hirono. Its co-sponsors include U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie.

Representative Hirono said: “I am proud to introduce the House version of this legislation. Most people do not know that Japanese Americans were forcibly interned in Hawaii during the war. It is important that we recognize that even Hawaii was not immune to race-based arrests and internments after the Pearl Harbor attack. The story of Honouliuli and the other incarceration sites would complement existing efforts to preserve and interpret the history of this period at the USS Arizona Memorial, the USS Missouri, and other World War II sites in Hawaii.”

Representative Abercrombie added: “The internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry was one of the most shameful episodes in our nation’s history. Sadly, one has only to scan the headlines to realize that

we need constant reminders about the ease with which we become suspicious and begin to assign blame for the challenges we face. These sites would also stand as a monument to the courage, quiet pride and unshakable loyalty of those who were subjected to internment.”

In addition to the support of the entire Hawaii delegation, the Inouye measure is also co-sponsored by Representatives Michael Honda, Doris Matsui, and Laura Richardson, all of California; David Wu of Oregon; Al Green of Texas; and Bobby Scott of Virginia; and Delegates Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa; Madeleine Bordallo of Guam; and Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands.