

**SCR 183**

**EDT**

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD, ROOM 555  
KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 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 HAWAII**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 183 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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## JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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March 31, 2009

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and  
Technology

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

Re: SCR 183 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.  
(Tuesday, April 1, 2009 at 1:15 p.m. Room 016)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology. I am Lenny Yajima Andrew, President / Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) 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.

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 a handful of 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

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, Kenshikan martial arts dōjō, Seikōan Japanese teahouse, Gift Shop and Grand Ballroom.



## JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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generated. For the most 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 1990s 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.

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.

March 31, 2009

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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

Re: SCR 183 URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II HONOLULU INTERNMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

(Tuesday, April 1, 2009 at 1:15 p.m. Room 016)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology. I am Brian Niiya, Resource Center Director at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i testifying in strong support of SCR 183 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, newspaper 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 descendants 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.

March 31, 2009

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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

Re: SCR 183 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.  
(Tuesday, April 1, 2009 at 1:15 p.m. Room 016)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology. 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.

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. A small number of local Germans and Italians were also interned at Honouliuli and other Hawai'i camps.

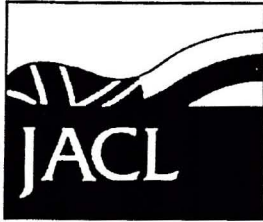
Studying the internment of locals during World War II raises larger issues concerning civil liberties in time of war that remain relevant today. The preservation and recognition of sites like Honouliuli can serve as educational tools for meeting Department of Education standards that both specifically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

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



**JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**  
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**SCR 183: 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**

**Hearing: Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 1:15 p.m. in Conf. Rm 016**

To: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology

The JACL Hawai'i, Honolulu Chapter strongly supports SCR 183, 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.

Founded in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization made up of over 20,000 members across the U.S and in Japan. Locally, we are a strong civil rights organization committed to the protection of civil and human rights of all.

Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19 1942, allowed authorized military commanders to designate "military areas" at their discretion, "from which any or all persons may be excluded." Shortly after, General DeWitt issued Civilian Exclusion Order No. 346. All people of Japanese ancestry were forced to report to assembly centers, where they would live until being moved to permanent "Relocation Centers."

In Hawaii, over 2,400 Japanese Americans in Hawai'i were interned in camps. Two of the largest internment camps in Hawai'i were on Oahu: Honouliuli and Sand Island. Honouliuli opened on March 1, 1943. There, military authorities interned over 1,500 Japanese Americans statewide along with citizens of German and Italian descents who were also evacuated from their homes. In 1988, the United States government issued an apology and reparations to surviving internees and evacuees.

Today, significant efforts are being made in Hawai'i to preserve this important piece of history. Most importantly, Honouliuli's history must be preserved as a reminder of the injustices that were done in the past and to tell the story of the internment of Japanese Americans to the present and future generations to ensure that this injustice will never happen again.

The Honolulu Chapter strongly urges you to pass out SCR 183. Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Shawn L.M. Benton  
President, JACL Hawai'i, Honolulu Chapter  
Japanese American Citizens League

## **fukunaga4 - Michelle**

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**From:** Yoshie Tanabe [yojimbo@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:42 PM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony re. SCR183--Internment Camp at Honouliuli

March 31, 2009

Hawaii Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Chairperson: Senator Carol Fukunaga  
Vice-chairperson: Senator Rosalyn Baker

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of SCR183 regarding establishment of the Honouliuli Internment site as a national monument where people may go to learn about the terrible incarceration of over 300 Japanese Americans and alien Japanese and 30 German Americans and two Italian Americans during following the attack on Pearl Harbor on 12/7/41.

Amazingly, we are finding out almost daily, the lack of knowledge by so many here in Hawaii about the internment of these innocent people during WWII. The story of the over 120,000 Japanese Americans on the mainland USA is quite well-known.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, has been working for over ten years to get the story out. Teacher training is going on at the Cultural Center. But talk to the men and women, school children on the streets and amazingly few have even heard of the Japanese incarcerated in concentration camps in Hawaii.

Then much less is the unknown story of the thirty German Americans and two Italian Americans who were also arrested, most of them few hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Most of them were not even allowed to gather extra clothing--their families were not told where they were being taken to and some did not know for days afterwards.

I know of several families--but the one I know most about is the family of my friend, Doris Berg Nye. She was only 13 years old and had a nine year old sister to take care of in Liliha when her parents were whisked away on the evening of December 7, 1941. Doris and her little sister used to visit their parents in the hot and humid confines of Honouliuli, never knowing when they would ever be able to live together again.

Then there is Mr. Joe Pacific, a teacher at St. Andrews Priory, whose parents were also incarcerated when he was a young lad.

So the FULL story must be told/taught. The 30 Germans and 2 Italians were all American citizens! They were arrested on hearsay by those who may have been afraid that they might be arrested also. We cannot let this happen in America again--but it still goes on and will go on unless we teach history correctly and to all our citizens, young and old!

Sincerely,  
Yoshie Tanabe  
1149 Namahealani Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
394-1908



LATE

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

From: Kevin Chang

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.  
(Tuesday, April 1, 2009 at 1:15 p.m. Room 16)

Good afternoon, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology. 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.