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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE CITY OF HONOLULU TO HONOR ACT 15 OF THE 1921 TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE BY PRESERVING THE WAIKIKI WAR MEMORIAL NATATORIUM IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION ON THE WAIKIKI SHORE.

1           WHEREAS, the Twenty-Fifth Legislature finds that in  
2 upholding the legislation passed by our forefathers, this body  
3 perpetuates the integrity of the Hawaii State Legislature and  
4 further ensures that the laws passed today are protected and  
5 upheld by those elected to precede this Legislature; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, in 1921, the Territorial Legislature of Hawaii  
8 passed Act 15 which approved the construction of the Waikiki War  
9 Memorial Natatorium, a "Living Memorial" to honor the 102  
10 servicemen from Hawaii who were killed during World War I; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, completed in 1927, the Waikiki War Memorial  
13 Natatorium located in close proximity to Diamond Head, across  
14 from Kapiolani Park, and situated between San Souci Beach and  
15 the Waikiki Aquarium; and  
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17           WHEREAS, designed by famed architect Louis P. Hobart, the  
18 façade features a Beaux-Arts style ornamental arched entryway  
19 featuring four stone eagles measuring over twenty feet tall; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the actual Memorial is a 100 by 40-meter tide fed  
22 saltwater pool where Buster Crabbe and Johnny Weismuller trained  
23 for the 1928 Olympics and has also been host to world-renowned  
24 national and international swim competitions, featuring figures  
25 such as Duke Kahanamoku, Bill Smith, Ford Konno, coach Soichi  
26 Sakamoto and more; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, although the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium has  
29 deteriorated since its initial construction, in 2001, over four



1 million dollars of repairs were completed on the site including  
2 a façade restoration and the renovation of the bleachers and  
3 public restrooms; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is listed on  
6 both the National and Hawaii Registers of Historic Places, is  
7 not only an architectural anchor for the Waikiki District, but  
8 the repository of Hawaii's swimming, ocean sports and Olympic  
9 history; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, in September 2009 The Waikiki Natatorium Task  
12 Force announced that by a 9-3 vote its recommendation to the  
13 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu was that the Natatorium  
14 be demolished; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in November 2009 City and County of Honolulu Mayor  
17 Mufi Hannemann announced that he had accepted The Waikiki  
18 Natatorium Task Force's recommendation to demolish the  
19 Natatorium; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this State to  
22 preserve Hawaii's uniqueness and cultural identity for the  
23 benefit of all its residents as well as its visitors; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has  
26 proven that Cultural Heritage Tourists are overall more  
27 affluent, stay longer and spend more while contributing to  
28 global understanding through cultural exchange and commerce; and  
29

30 WHEREAS, cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average,  
31 \$623 per trip compared to \$457 for all U.S. travelers, excluding  
32 the cost of transportation; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, heritage tourism and more broadly, historic  
35 preservation and the efforts of the Heritage Caucus not only  
36 benefits the State socially but economically as well; now,  
37 therefore,  
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
40 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
41 of 2010, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and



1 the City and County of Honolulu honor Act 15 of the 1921  
 2 Territorial Legislature by preserving the Waikiki War Memorial  
 3 Natatorium in its original location on the Waikiki shore; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Department  
 7 of Land and Natural Resources, the Mayor of the City and County  
 8 of Honolulu, and the Honolulu City Council.  
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OFFERED BY:

Cornel W. Chang

Ray Stenberg

[Signature]

[Signature]

Barbara Maramba

[Signature]

[Signature]

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