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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HONOULIULI.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. In the decade following the September 11, 2001,  
2 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, racial  
3 profiling, increases in hate crimes targeted toward specific  
4 ethnic and religious groups, and the detention of individuals  
5 without trial have resounded with past injustices.

6           Until September 11, 2001, the last place in the United  
7 States that was attacked by foreign enemies was Pearl Harbor.  
8 The Arizona Memorial became one of Hawaii's most popular tourist  
9 attractions because of its significance in world history as the  
10 site of the event that compelled the United States to enter  
11 World War II. As part of our nation's World War II Valor in the  
12 Pacific National Monument, approximately one million five  
13 hundred thousand people view the Arizona Memorial each year.

14           Honouliuli is also the setting of other key World War II  
15 sites. In Kapolei, Fort Barrette's cannons and road served as a  
16 supply road and connector to the Kapolei Military Reservation,  
17 and made Fort Barrette a target for neutralization on December  
18 7, 1941. In a pre-dawn, one-hour attack, air fighters riddled



1 Fort Barrette road with bullets. In the same hour, Japanese  
2 planes launched a preemptive strike to disable military aircraft  
3 on the Marine Corps Air Field in Ewa. Nearly three years later,  
4 West Loch in Honouliuli was the base for Operation Forager,  
5 commanded by Admiral Chester Nimitz. This victorious, offensive  
6 attack in the Mariana Islands was a pivotal point in World War  
7 II for Allied Forces.

8 As a result of the actions by Japan in World War II,  
9 President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066,  
10 which authorized the military to relocate those whom it deemed  
11 to pose a threat to national security and to declare large  
12 sections of the country as military areas and exclusion zones.  
13 The order authorized the exclusion of persons of Japanese  
14 ancestry from the entire Pacific coast. The federal Census  
15 Bureau secretly provided confidential information on Japanese-  
16 Americans to assist in the internment efforts. Citizens with as  
17 little as one-sixteenth per cent of Japanese blood were placed  
18 in the internment camps. Korean-Americans, mistakenly thought  
19 to be Japanese, were also affected.

20 Without judicial process, one hundred ten thousand to one  
21 hundred twenty thousand innocent Americans of Japanese ancestry  
22 were unlawfully rounded up, sent to, and detained in war



1 relocation camps. Sixty-two per cent of the detainees were  
2 citizens of the United States. Interrogators accused the  
3 detainees of disloyalty, sabotage, and spying. These  
4 accusations stung the hearts of the detainees who had committed  
5 no crime. Entire families, with children born in the United  
6 States, were taken out of their homes and placed in internment  
7 camps with only basic belongings. Once removed, their lands  
8 were seized and forfeited. The only basis for the deprivation  
9 of liberty and property was that their ancestors came from  
10 Japan.

11 In Hawaii, American authorities interned between one  
12 thousand two hundred to one thousand eight hundred Japanese-  
13 Americans. The already existing state of martial law lessened  
14 the perceived need for wholesale internment. When five of the  
15 relocation centers in Hawaii were closed, many of the Hawaii  
16 internees were transferred to mainland internment sites. Three  
17 hundred detainees remaining in Hawaii were housed in a newly  
18 constructed camp in Honouliuli. While no persons were  
19 officially charged, they remained in the detention centers for  
20 the duration of the war. Sanji Abe, the first American of  
21 Japanese ancestry to be elected to the territorial senate, and



1 Thomas Sakakihara, a member of the territorial house of  
2 representatives, were among the Honouliuli internees.

3 In her landmark book, "Farewell to Manzanar," Jeanne  
4 Wakatsuki Houston echoes what many survivors felt about their  
5 experiences in the internment camps. Visiting the Manzanar  
6 internment camp with her husband and three children decades  
7 later, the author needed to remind herself that it actually  
8 existed, because with time, she began to think that the  
9 experiences in her young life were only a creation of her  
10 imagination.

11 In Hawaii, the Alien Internment Camp in Honouliuli stands  
12 as a reminder of a time when fear and prejudice overrode the  
13 civil rights for which America is known. A report entitled  
14 "Costs of War," written by a multi-national team of highly  
15 respected scholars, shows that the actions taken in response to  
16 September 11, 2001, echo the injustices experienced by innocent  
17 Japanese-Americans during and following World War II.

18 The purpose of this Act is to:

19 (1) Provide state support towards preservation of the site  
20 of the World War II internment and prisoner of war  
21 camp in Honouliuli;



- 1           (2) Establish a mechanism to leverage county, state,
- 2                   federal, and private funding of an educational
- 3                   resource center at the site; and
- 4           (3) Memorialize the struggle for civil rights by Hawaii's
- 5                   people.

6           SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural  
7 resources shall establish a Honouliuli park site project  
8 advisory group to develop recommendations to leverage county,  
9 state, federal, and private funding for an educational resource  
10 center at the Honouliuli site. The advisory group shall work  
11 with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Japanese American  
12 Citizens League, University of Hawaii at West-Oahu, historians,  
13 and other interested stakeholders, including business, veteran,  
14 community, legislative, and other organizations. The work of  
15 the advisory group shall complement the Japanese Cultural Center  
16 of Hawaii's goal of designating the Honouliuli internment-  
17 prisoner of war camp site and associated sites within Hawaii as  
18 part of the United States National Park Service.

19           (b) Members of the advisory group, including a  
20 representative from the department of land and natural resources  
21 state historic preservation division shall be appointed by the



1 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
2 senate.

3 (c) The advisory group shall report to the legislature no  
4 later than twenty days prior to the regular session of 2013 on:

5 (1) Recommendations to leverage county, state, federal,  
6 and private funding for an educational resource center  
7 at the Honouliuli site; and

8 (2) The status of designating the Honouliuli internment-  
9 prisoner of war camp site and associated sites within  
10 Hawaii as part of the United States National Park  
11 Service.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for  
15 deposit into the Hawaii historic preservation special fund  
16 established under section 6E-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii  
18 historic preservation special fund the sum of or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to  
20 accelerate the collection, preservation, and organization of  
21 resources related to the World War II internment experience in  
22 Hawaii.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



**Report Title:**

Honouliuli Camp Site; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires DLNR to establish a Honouliuli park site project advisory group to develop recommendations to leverage county, state, federal, and private funding for an educational resource center at the Honouliuli site; requires report to 2013 legislature; appropriates an unspecified sum for deposit into the Hawaii historic preservation special fund; requires moneys to be expended to accelerate the collection, preservation, and organization of resources related to the World War II internment experience in Hawaii. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

