

# LATE TESTIMONY

To: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair, and Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, and Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Hearing: March 23, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

From: Brian Kanno, resident

Re: HB 324, HD 2, RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

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This testimony is to request an amendment of H.B. 324 by adding the content of S.B. 176 for the purpose of including the Ewa plain in the areas to be designated as state historical districts to recognize and preserve the rich contributions of west Oahu to Hawaii.

The rich significance of the Ewa plain in shaping Hawaii's identity reaches across both time and ethnic groups. From the pre-contact era, native Hawaiians settled in the area, living off the fertile lands and ocean, as shown by the many remnants found there. Native Hawaiian religious and cultural specialists believe that the Ewa plain and coastline contain sacred religious and burial sites. Seven ali'i are believed to be buried there, including the last king of Maui and Oahu before Kamehameha the Great unified the Hawaiian islands. The great Chief Kualaka'i accomplished many things, improving the lives of Hawaiians, and the ancient trail that runs through the plain is named in his honor. Fort Barrette Road is built on this trail, and a portion of Fort Barrette rests on what once was Puu O Kapolei, now an extinct volcano.

Hawaii's world-renowned cultural melting pot is due in part to Ewa's fertile farmlands. The Ewa sugar plantation, colonial style plantation manager's mansion in Ewa, Ewa villages, Waipahu plantation, and old Waipahu sugar mill all serve as reminders of Hawaii's grand role in the worldwide sugar industry in its golden age. The many ethnic groups who settled in Hawaii and contribute to the wonderful blend we enjoy today is a direct result of laborers being brought from overseas to work in the sugar cane fields of the Ewa plain.

Decades later came the event that brought the United States to its role in the forefront on the global stage. Before the sun rose on the fateful morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese planes staged a strafing attack on the Marine Corps Air Field in Ewa and Fort Barrette. As one of the very first acts of aggression on the United States, the Japanese

raid was calculated to neutralize America's ability to intervene in the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor hours later. In 1944, Commander Chester Nimitz prepared for the pivotal military campaign in the waters of West Loch. The tragedy that ensued led the Navy to change its weapon handling practices. Operation Forager's success in neutralizing and capturing Japanese bases in the Pacific and fortifying Allied Forces in the Asian theater resulted in the victory the United States led in World War II. Also part of annals of World War II is the sadness of the Honouliuli camp in Kunia, where loyal and innocent Japanese-Americans were interned in the mass hysteria and misunderstanding.

The role that west Oahu has played over the centuries for the many peoples who worked and lived there is well deserving of recognition by our state as a historic district. Including West Oahu in the sites designated for historical preservation honors the many events and individuals that significantly shaped the state of Hawaii into what it is today. Giving official designation to this important area will help ensure that its cultural and social significance is preserved and perpetuated as the area undergoes the inevitable changes that the future brings. I humbly ask that HB 324 be amended by adding the content of SB 176 to include west Oahu among the sites for historical preservation.

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The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, and Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Hearing: March 23, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

From: Denise Park  
Public Relations Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

Re: HB 324, HD 2, RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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*March 23, 2011*

**TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair, and Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Committee on Economic Development & Technology & Members**

**Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, & Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing & Members**

**FR: Steve Knauer, Ewa Neighborhood Bd Member/Community Advocate**

**Re: HB 324, HD 2, RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

***This testimony is in support of H.B. 324 and a request to add the contents of S.B. 176 for the purpose of including West Oahu in the areas to be designated as state historical districts.***

***The rich significance of the Ewa plain in shaping Hawaii's identity reaches across both time and ethnic groups. From the pre-contact era, native Hawaiians settled in the area, living off the fertile lands and ocean, as shown by the many remnants found there. Native Hawaiian religious and cultural specialists believe that the Ewa plain and coastline contain sacred religious and burial sites. Seven ali'i are believed to be buried there, including the last king of Maui and Oahu before Kamehameha the Great unified the Hawaiian islands. The great Chief Kualaka'i accomplished many things, improving the lives of Hawaiians, and the ancient trail that runs through the plain is named in his honor. Fort Barrette Road is built on this trail, and a portion of Fort Barrette rests on what once was Puu O Kapolei, now an extinct volcano.***

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Committee on Economic Development and Technology

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, and Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Hearing: March 23, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

From: Jane Kurahara  
Chair of the Hawaii Confinement Sites Committee,  
Resource Center Volunteer, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

Re: HB 324, HD 2, RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

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Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

Hearing: March 23, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

From: Coby Lynn, Ewa Neighborhood Board

Re: HB 324, HD 2, RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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Hearing: March 23, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

From: Adrian and Joshua Kresnak

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**fukunaga3 - Devin**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:15 PM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Cc:** gm@hawaiiin.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB324 on 3/23/2011 1:15:00 PM



Testimony for EDT/WLH 3/23/2011 1:15:00 PM HB324

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John Bond  
Organization: Save Ewa Field  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [gm@hawaiiin.com](mailto:gm@hawaiiin.com)  
Submitted on: 3/23/2011

**Comments:**

I support HB324 and would like to see the language from SB 176 incorporated into the house bill to create a West Oahu Historical District.

John Bond  
Save Ewa Field