

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on  
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES  
and  
TOURISM

Friday, March 23, 2012  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 194  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE  
DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE WAIKIKI NATATORIUM SITE

House Concurrent Resolution 194 requests the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to convene a task force to consider various uses of the Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial (Natatorium), and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature. The Department understands that the City and County of Honolulu convened a Task Force in 2009 to consider various alternatives for the Natatorium and is now moving forward with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Although extensive work has already been done by the City and County Task Force, the Department appreciates the Legislature interest in the future development for the Natatorium site, and has no objection to convening a task force and report findings to the Legislature.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committees on Water, Land and Ocean Resources,  
and Tourism

Friday, March 23, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

By

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 194 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE  
DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE WAIKIKI NATATORIUM SITE

Aloha, Chairs Chang and Brower, Vice Chairs Har and Tokioka and Members of the  
Committees, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for House Concurrent  
Resolution 194. This measure will convene a task force to consider various uses of the Waikiki  
Natatorium War Memorial (Natatorium), and report its findings and recommendations to the  
Legislature. The University of Hawai'i stands ready to assist as a member of the task force.



TO: Rep Jerry Chang, Chairman, Water, Land and Ocean Resources Committee  
Rep Sharon Harr, Vice Chairman, Water, Land and Ocean Resources Committee  
Rep Tom Brower, Chairman, Tourism Committee  
Rep James Kunane, Vice Chairman, Tourism Committee

FROM: Donna L. Ching, Vice President, Friends of the Natatorium

HEARING DATE: Friday, March 23 2012, 10:30 a.m., Conference Room 325

RE: **HCR 194; REQUESTING DLNR TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO SUTDY THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE WAIKIKI NATATORIUM SITE**

On behalf of the Friends of the Natatorium (FoN), I am writing with requests for amendments and to offer the Friends of the Natatorium's support of HCR 194.

Since its incorporation in 1986, the Friends of the Natatorium's sole mission has been to preserve and restore to its original purpose the "living memorial" that we know as the War Memorial Natatorium.

We have reviewed and fully concur with amendments to the context and background as recommended by Historic Hawaii Foundation. In particular, we support HHF's recommendation that the task force's stated purpose or mandate include developing specific plans for: 1) stabilizing the structure to prevent further deterioration, 2) undertaking planning and permitting for a rehabilitated swimming course and 3) developing a public-private partnership for the long-term rehabilitation, maintenance and operation of the facility.

In addition, we recommend the following friendly amendments:

- Correcting the resolution title reference from "Waikiki Natatorium" to the proper site name "War Memorial Natatorium." All references in the text of the resolution should also be amended accordingly.
- Expanding HHF's recap of the \$4 million in renovations completed by 2001 to include "a parking lot for 36 cars, a volleyball court, restrooms and showers, bleachers, the ornamental façade, and the Ocean Safety South Shore Operations Office and Rescue Unit 1, all of which (excluding the off-limits bleachers) are in use today."
- That the task force representative from the University of Hawaii be specified to be a faculty member of the Department of Historic Preservation or that a task force member from Historic Hawaii Foundation be added.
- That the task force members from the State DoH, DLNR and City Department of Design and Construction be decision-makers or policy setters, such as the Director or Deputy of those Departments.



We commend the state, as owners of the Memorial, for taking a leadership role and moving to convene the appropriate expert parties to determine a way forward for the Natatorium.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments and amendments to HCR 194 concerning the War Memorial Natatorium.

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**HISTORIC  
HAWAII  
FOUNDATION**

**To:** Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources  
  
Rep. Tom Brower, Chair  
Rep. James Kunane Tokioka, Vice Chair  
Committee on Tourism

**From:** Kiersten Faulkner  
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

**Committee Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012  
10:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

**Subject:** **HCR 194; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE WAIKIKI NATATORIUM SITE**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing with comments on HCR 194, which would request the department of land and natural resources to convene a task force to study development alternatives for the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium. HHF recommends that the resolution be amended.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF's 850 members and numerous additional supporters work to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believe that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

The resolution's statements of fact and purpose should be expanded to include additional context and background related to the history, design, significance and value of the Waikiki War Memorial, including:

- The Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium was built in 1927 to be a "living memorial" to honor the men and women who served during the Great War (World War I);
- The 1921 legislation creating the memorial specifically states that it, "...shall include a swimming course at least 100 meters in length;"
- The Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is significant for its contributions to the history, architecture and culture of Hawai'i and America; embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type; possesses high artistic value; and provides social, cultural,

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**Historic Hawai'i Foundation**

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Tel: 808-523-2900 • FAX: 808-523-0800 • [www.historichawaii.org](http://www.historichawaii.org)

Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.

educational and recreational values which contribute significantly to the history and culture of Hawai'i and the nation;

- Although the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium has deteriorated since its initial construction, in 2001, over \$4,000,000 of repairs were completed on the site including a façade restoration and the rehabilitation of the bleachers and public restrooms;
- Adverse environmental impacts that would occur from the demolition of the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium would have a negative effect on reef and marine life, debris from the demolition would take space in a landfill, and any such demolition would cause the loss of embedded energy inherent in existing structures, as well as the expenditure of new energy for the conveyance of materials;
- Proposals to demolish the historic structure will face regulatory, permitting and legal challenges that will be unpredictable, time-consuming, expensive and cause additional delays;
- It is in the best interests of Hawai'i to preserve its uniqueness and identity for the benefit of all its residents as well as its visitors;
- It would be unconscionable to destroy a Memorial that commemorates the sacrifices of Hawaii's citizens who gave all in service to their communities, nation, and world; and
- Stewardship of the historic, cultural and natural resources of Hawai'i is the ethical and moral obligation of the people of Hawai'i.

Based on the historic and cultural significance of the Waikiki War Memorial, HHF further recommends that **the purpose of the task force should be to determine a plan for the stabilization, preservation and rehabilitation of the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium**, to include three phases: 1) the immediate strengthening, repair and stabilization of the structure's frame, including the sea walls and deck; 2) simultaneously with resuming the work to stabilize the structure, that engineering, planning and permitting be undertaken for the re-design and rehabilitation of the swimming pool, and 3) developing a public-private partnership for the long-term rehabilitation, maintenance and operation of the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and suggested amendments to HCR 194 concerning the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium.

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**Historic Hawai'i Foundation**

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Tel: 808-523-2900 • FAX: 808-523-0800 • [www.historichawaii.org](http://www.historichawaii.org)

Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:43 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** fredhawaii@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Frederick A Wong  
Organization: VFW Post 8616  
E-mail: [fredhawaii@msn.com](mailto:fredhawaii@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

Most of us who have lived here a while have used this pool and are dismayed that it has gone for years in such a state of disrepair. WE SHOULD NOT BE ONE OF THE ONLY CITIES in the United States of America with the distinction of HAVING TORN DOWN OR OTHERWISE SEVERELY MODIFYING A WORLD CLASS HISTORIC WAR MEMORIAL to make a pittance of room for adjacent beach goers! VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, POST 8616, A Natatorium neighbor

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:39 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** WAIKIKIJIM@AOL.COM  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jim Anderson  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [WAIKIKIJIM@AOL.COM](mailto:WAIKIKIJIM@AOL.COM)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

**Comments:**

I Support the complete Restoration of the Waikiki Natatorium



## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:49 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** bmajor@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: B.D. Major  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [bmajor@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:bmajor@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:51 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** Geesey@Hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Yvonne Geesey  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Geesey@Hawaii.edu](mailto:Geesey@Hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:36 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** Concillag001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Greg Concilla  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Concillag001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Concillag001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

**Comments:**

I think it is important for DLNR to form a committee to study the feasibility of the use of the War Memorial Natatorium. It is a very sad statement that it has been allowed to get to the state that it is in.

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 7:58 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** keahipua@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Comments Only  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Joy Mills  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [keahipua@yahoo.com](mailto:keahipua@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

### Comments:

Please save our historic Waikiki Natatorium, where Duke Kahanamoku made history. We need to save this for our children to know what a great Hawaiian man he was. Make it a museum of some sort. Bring it back to its glory of being our War Memorial & only one of its kind. I am of Hawaiian decent & see this structure as a historic landmark for our Hawaiian people to show pride in what our Duke has accomplished. Not to mention where our Hawaii Lifeguards like Eddie Aikau & Rell Sunn became Lifeguards. There is a lot of local history there. Folks learned to swim in that pool. It needs to be held to great respect. Mahalo

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:36 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** ourhunnybaby@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Comments Only  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: JESSICA BAUGUES  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ourhunnybaby@yahoo.com](mailto:ourhunnybaby@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

**Comments:**

Gideon Potter died on October 28, 1917. He was 19 years old. He died too young to have any children. He was my grandfathers uncle. My grandfather would always tell us about how his uncle's name was on the Natatorium. And how we should be proud of him and always remember Uncle Gideon.

Gideon Potter has a stone in Tyne Cot cemetery in Belgium. I will never get to Belgium. Most likely my family will never get to Belgium to see this gravestone. The Potter name has died, no boys are left to carry it on. My grandfather was the last.

It would be a great honor to these people who lost their lives for their country if you could restore the Natatorium and so wonderful so that future generations of my family can go visit and see their uncles name there.

As far as I am concerned those names are names of heroes. Every hero deserves to be remembered! I'm sure if there are any remaining families of these heroes they would feel the same way as I do.

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:42 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** owen@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Owen Miyamoto  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [owen@hawaii.edu](mailto:owen@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

**Comments:**

I support this resolution in hopes that the bickering and indecision over how to treat this historic place can be settled once and for all with a plan on how to preserve the memorial and improve the public area for our community.

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:49 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** Thomaskhackett@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Tom Hackett  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Thomaskhackett@gmail.com](mailto:Thomaskhackett@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

Comments:  
I support the restoration of the Natatorium.

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 11:52 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** johnh2oog@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John Hoogsteden  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [johnh2oog@yahoo.com](mailto:johnh2oog@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

**Comments:**

The Natatorium is intended to be a living memorial. A refurbished facility will allow the public to honor those who served and sacrificed for their country. It will enable today's citizens to recreate while having a connection with war heroes from the past.



## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:09 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** doshea55@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dennis O'Shea  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [doshea55@comcast.net](mailto:doshea55@comcast.net)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

I do not live in Hawai'i; I'm 5,000 miles away in Baltimore. So my vote doesn't count. But perhaps my perspective does.

Here's some of what I have learned about Hawai'i. You all live in a place with a sacred past and a culture that values that sacredness. You live in a place and a culture that reverences the people and the places that are important to who you are and what you have become.

Places like the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium.

And so it continues to mystify me: Why - given this reverence for history, for culture, for inspirational people and for those who have served; given this special sense of place and purpose - why is there any question at all in Hawai'i about preserving and restoring the Natatorium?

I support HCR 194. Further, I support the positions of the Friends of the Natatorium and the Historic Hawaii Foundation on the resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to express my views.

Dennis O'Shea  
307 Stanmore Rd.  
Baltimore, Md. 21212-1138  
[doshea55@comcast.net](mailto:doshea55@comcast.net)

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:34 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** MarkDvornik@Gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Mark Dvornik  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [MarkDvornik@Gmail.com](mailto:MarkDvornik@Gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

### Comments:

I treasure the memories of swimming in the Waikiki Natatorium, As a swimmer, and someone who respects the purpose of which this war memorial was built , it is with a passion uncontested that I believe that it should be restored. Memorials are not supposed to have an expiration date!They dont come with one when they are built and they should not have one thrust upon them after.

The baton of this responsibility that is passed from one generation to the next can not be dropped. This storied and historic natatorium must be put to its best and highest use which salutes the service of the fallen that served to protect our liberty while creating memories for generations to come. By restoring it to full use, it is a statement on the importance of this landmark, which is wholly unique, and reweaves it back into the fabric of the islands active culture.

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:54 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** cahmow@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: cristin ah mow  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [cahmow@yahoo.com](mailto:cahmow@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

The Natatorium needs and should be restored. This place holds so many wonderful memories for so many people including myself. My father Clifford Ah Mow Sr. & Grandfather Walter Ah Mow Sr. were lifeguards for C&C . My father taught me how to swim (in the salt water) pool, to fish, showed me how to dig for sandcrabs and let me participate in the Hukilaus that everyone joined in. I have so many wonderful memories of this special place. I don't understand how it was left to deteriorate? I believe that it should be restored to its original state so our children and theirs can experience the Wakiki Natatorium as I did and be taught what it stands for, our fallen soldiers. I LOVE THIS PLACE and so does my family.  
Aloha

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:31 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** akr92003@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: alethea rebman  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [akr92003@yahoo.com](mailto:akr92003@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 5:51 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** mikeclaus@me.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael Claus  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [mikeclaus@me.com](mailto:mikeclaus@me.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:  
This is a national treasure !!

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:16 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** aerickson@wje.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Aaron Erickson  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [aerickson@wje.com](mailto:aerickson@wje.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

As a frequent visitor to O'ahu and granddaughter of a World War I veteran, I support the position of the Historic Hawaii Foundation and Friends of the Waikiki Natatorium on this legislation. I recently took my nephew for a surf lesson by the Natatorium and was again appalled by the lapse in care for this landmark memorial. Surely the natatorium's history, the respect due Hawaii's veterans and the surrounding precious marine life could all be safeguarded in a way that benefits residents and visitors alike. I believe the creation of a state task force is a good start to that end, and appreciate your consideration.

Jeanne Cooper  
Menlo Park, California

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:23 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** ticoachtodd@att.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Todd Erickson  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ticoachtodd@att.net](mailto:ticoachtodd@att.net)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

As a frequent visitor to Honolulu and Waikiki, 3-4 times per year, I often visit this Memorial. The last time in January 2012 while visiting and previously in November 2011 for the Wreath laying ceremony on Veterans Day 11/11/11. Besides being a Veteran's Memorial it is also the site of one of the "home" grown swimmers feats and Olympic Swimmer "Duke." I have often looked at through the gates and envisioned times past of competitions in the Natatorium and the feeling of being able to swim in it today. It would really be a "Living Memorial" if it were repaired to a usable status. Please consider this legislation favorably.



## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** n\_erickson@att.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: nancy erickson  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [n\\_erickson@att.net](mailto:n_erickson@att.net)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

As the daughter of a Pacific WWII veteran, wife of a recent veteran (who is a swimmer as well) and frequent business traveler to Honolulu, I strongly urge you to honor our veterans by restoring this beautiful memorial. In what can be a very commercial area of Honolulu, this memorial is a beautiful testament not only to the war veterans, but to water and swimming that are core to the beautiful culture in Hawaii. Mahalo!

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:02 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** mgmmartens@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Gerald Martens  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [mgmmartens@aol.com](mailto:mgmmartens@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

I am opposed to any further studies for the Waikiki Natatorium. The facility no longer serves the purpose for which it was constructed and has fallen in such disrepair that it is no longer feasible or cost effective to repair the structure. Other than the center section of the facade that honors WW1 veterans, the entire facility should be demolished and the remaining center structure moved inland as a standing memorial to veterans. Further studies at this stage would only perpetuate the inaction regarding the Natatorium in hopes of something happening. Enough is enough.

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:32 AM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** patsysross@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: patricia ross  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [patsysross@yahoo.com](mailto:patsysross@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

please consider restoring this beautiful site where the "duke" swam. Everytime we walk past this, I wonder and think about local kids using this pool for swim meets, lessons or water polo. It is a waikiki treasure. Please keep it and restore it so many can enjoy and use.

Rich Callard , Civilian / Visitor / former Navy  
4310 Staunton Ave.  
Charleston, WV 25404

Subject : HCR 194

Honorable Ladies & Gentlemen

While visiting your beautiful state last summer I came upon the Natatorium that I spent so much time visiting during my time spent in Hawaii. I could not believe that it had been so ignored by the state. It was a place that I swam and dived from the 10 metre tower and was able to get away from ship business and enjoy the beach.

I hope that you are not planning to cave in to some land grabbing group to develop another hotel in that beautiful setting. I think it needs to be restored to its original beauty.

If the State of Hawaii cannot do something, maybe they could turn it over to the Federal Government and maybe they can take better care of the Natatorium. They have done a good job with the Punchbowl Cemetery and other War Memorials.

Hope you make the right decision.

Rich Callard

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 12:21 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** now\_in\_mi@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael Wixted  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [now\\_in\\_mi@msn.com](mailto:now_in_mi@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

I believe restoration would benefit the public, as it would allow usage and tours of a very unique and historic building. The structure is amazingly cool and its loss would not only be an architectural loss, but would dishonor the veterans it was built originally to honor.

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 1:15 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** dmching@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Deborah M. Ching  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [dmching@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:dmching@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** makana@kevcom.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Matthew Swalinkavich  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [makana@kevcom.com](mailto:makana@kevcom.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

There was already a task force appointed. There is now an EIS being conducted. This new resolution is a blatant attempt by certain special interests to circumvent the process already in place for determining the future of the area, and is a blatant attempt to lobby the DLNR to allow for the commercialization of the area, which remains as the last non-commercial beach on the south side.

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:40 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** leioakes@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lei Oakes  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [leioakes@msn.com](mailto:leioakes@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:  
I oppose!



**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:40 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** leioakes@msn.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lei Oakes  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [leioakes@msn.com](mailto:leioakes@msn.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:  
I oppose!

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:47 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** salinavaughn@mac.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Salina Vaughn  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [salinavaughn@mac.com](mailto:salinavaughn@mac.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:48 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** pcr lance@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lance Espinda  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pcrlance@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pcrlance@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:50 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** jesslenegogreen@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jesslene Vaughn  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jesslenegogreen@hotmail.com](mailto:jesslenegogreen@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:53 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** islandgirl400cici@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Crissia Vaughn  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [islandgirl400cici@gmail.com](mailto:islandgirl400cici@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** sierra1116@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sierra Vaughn  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [sierra1116@gmail.com](mailto:sierra1116@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:55 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** Radhadivine1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Radha Divine  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Radhadivine1@gmail.com](mailto:Radhadivine1@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:56 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** pacificvaughn@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Thomas Vaughn  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pacificvaughn@gmail.com](mailto:pacificvaughn@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:



## TESTIMONY ON

HCR 194

As one of seventeen members of the Mayor's Natatorium Task Force which vetted this issue for seven months, I oppose HCR 194. It has always been of paramount importance to community members and beach users that the Kaimana Beach and Natatorium areas remain free of commercialization. All aspects of the Natatorium were studied and experts from many fields were brought in to offer their expertise on this multifaceted issue. One of the most important things that came to light was that the Natatorium cannot be permanently stabilized or repaired. Both Clifford Lau, the City and County structural engineer who was the point person on the original restoration

project and Rick Heltzel, the lead structural engineer for Healey Tibbitts, the construction company that had the restoration contract under Mayor Harris, stated that the Natatorium, if it were to ever be used again as a swimming pool and stadium, would have to be demolished and rebuilt. This is because of the extensive structural deterioration due to its proximity to salt water over the course of eighty three years. According to City and County engineers, the cost of this demolition and reconstruction was determined to be in the neighborhood of sixty million dollars. The other option was to create a "Memorial Beach" with appropriate groinage to protect Kaimana Beach and the new Memorial Beach from erosion, rebuilt arches and new bathrooms. The price for this plan is estimated to be about sixteen million dollars.

When the Commission voted on the final recommendations, it was decided that the Memorial Beach was the sensible conclusion and the vote reflected that. Because the vote favored a new beach, the City and County commissioned an EIS with Will Chee and Associates. From what I understand, the study is nearly complete.

Let me be clear about the motivation of this resolution before you today and those individuals who are behind it. The Friends of the Natatorium is a lobby that is disguised as a historical preservation and patriotic organization. Historically, the Friends of the Natatorium has been made up of sincere patriots and historical restorationist and, at the same time, opportunists with selfish motives to co-opt the project for personal financial gain. The individuals

who stand out as "wolves in sheep's clothing" are obvious by their other lines of work and conflicts of interest.

These people are officers and leaders of the the Friends of the Natatorium. They are very clever in involving other members of the community who good heartedly "join in the fight" to save the Natatorium. If you look at the jobs of these officers of the Friends of the Natatorium you will see that one is employed by the original engineering company for the twelve million dollar contract to rebuild the Natatorium under Jeremy Harris. She and her company stand to profit if any further work is done. Another officer and leader of the group is an ex-legislator who also has a tour company that takes visitors to "Hawaiian sense of place" destinations and also has a Hawaiian music band. This is relevant because when the original plans to restore the Natatorium were announced by Mayor Harris and the

then President of the Natatorium, they told the press that they intended to have sunset hula shows at the Natatorium to help defray the large expense of maintaining the salt water swimming pool. While I have never seen this person at Kaimana Beach in the forty five years I have been going there, he insists that he has a deep connection to the place. These two individuals are the main movers in the save the Natatorium movement. To be sure, there are many others who are sincere in their desire to hold on to the past and or show their patriotism by honoring the decaying monument. Finally, in the past it was the agenda of the Friends of the Natatorium to manage and control the Natatorium upon its completion and to benefit from monies generated. This after the State and/or the City and County spend millions upon millions of dollars in construction costs.

In case it is helpful and by way of further background information, Kaimana Beach Coalition would oppose the House Concurrent Resolution for a number of other reasons. The Task Force met over a period of seven months carefully considered virtually every plausible option for the Waikiki Natatorium site. The investigation was aided by presentations and testimony from federal, State and City and County government officials on all relevant economic, environmental, legal, policy issues, etc.. The Task Force was comprised of a diverse and balanced spectrum of members from across the community. After careful and exhaustive deliberation, the Task Force voted in favor of the plan which is the subject of the current EIS. The Task Force also issued a detailed report analyzing the issues and justifying its decision.

Accordingly, the newly-proposed task force proposed in the resolution - seeking a “second bite at the apple” – is unnecessary, inappropriate and a waste of taxpayers’ money. The new task force would require the City and County to serve as a member, thereby essentially forcing the City and County to repeat its prior extensive efforts to address the Natatorium issue. Other proposed members of the new task force would also be duplicating effort – further compounding inefficiency and waste of time and effort. Importantly, the new task force appears structured to exclude important community voices, including recreational users, native Hawaiian interests, and others.

In short, the appropriate way forward is to stay the course. Rather than inventing unnecessary and wasteful

new task forces and other diversions, the original City and County Task Force's measured and carefully considered vote and report, and the EIS process under way, should be allowed to come to completion. This appears to be the only reasonable and prudent course of action, especially given the documented work of the Task Force and the nearly-completed EIS. It is critical to protect the City and County's interest in an orderly development process and its investment to date in the Task Force and EIS process. Finally it is important to note that the original task force included representatives from the University of Hawaii, Veterans Organizations, an retired legislator, and other stakeholders from across the community.

Rick Bernstein

March 23,2012



Kaimana Beach Coalition

732-7993

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:57 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** annieweihwa@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Annie Bernstein  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [annieweihwa@gmail.com](mailto:annieweihwa@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

Definitely oppose a new task force.....it is redundant as the original task force has extensively studied the Natatorium situation and concluded that the best solution is to make it a beach....EIS is currently underway....and there can be NO COMMERCIALIZATION in the Natatorium/Kaimana beach area....

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:58 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** morrie@hondawindward.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Morrie Stuebner  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [morrie@hondawindward.com](mailto:morrie@hondawindward.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

**har2-Samantha**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:00 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** pamswalinkavich@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Pamela Weaver  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pamswalinkavich@yahoo.com](mailto:pamswalinkavich@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** pamswalinkavich@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Pam  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pamswalinkavich@yahoo.com](mailto:pamswalinkavich@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

## har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** dr.portuondo@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Madeleine Portuondo  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [dr.portuondo@gmail.com](mailto:dr.portuondo@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

har2-Samantha

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** WLOtestimony  
**Cc:** carolphilips1@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR194 on 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WLO/TOU 3/23/2012 10:30:00 AM HCR194

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Carol Philips  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [carolphilips1@gmail.com](mailto:carolphilips1@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislatures,

I'm writing to oppose this resolution because the best thing that we can do to honor the men and women who died protecting our country is to protect our aina. Build a small memorial way off the shore line and then remove the natatorium entirely and allow the beach sand to return. The reason is because sandy beaches are highly desirable...think about all the past and current efforts to restore sand just down the beach at Queens. In the future Hawaii will only have pocket beaches left, Waimea Bay for example. These are place where the shoreline is allowed to lay in a natural state. Return Kaimana Beach to it's natural state and leave a real legacy honoring the ten thousand people who died in World War I, a real legacy that thousands of visitors and locals alike will appreciate, after all Kaimana Beach could easily end up being the only sandy beach left in Waikiki.

Respectfully,  
Carol Philips