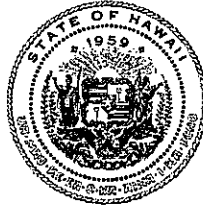


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
KAHUHIHEWA BUILDING
601 KAMOKILA BLVD, KAPOLEI HI 96706

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**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

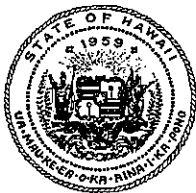
**Thursday, March 29, 2012
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2678, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HONOULIULI**

Senate Bill 2678, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a Honouliuli Park site project advisory group that shall work with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the Japanese American Citizens League, the University of Hawaii at West Oahu, other historians and interested stakeholders to designate the Honouliuli internment – prisoner of war camp site and associated sites a National Park. The Department has concerns about this bill as it is written although it believes the intent of the bill is correct.

The Department believes that is State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) would be an excellent partner in the process of designating the Honouliuli interment camp a National Register Site, and perhaps later a National Monument and a National Park. However, at this point in time, SHPD already has six councils to manage and does not feel that adding another without identifying resources for such a function makes for a successful program.

SHPD believes that the Japanese Cultural Center is the best agency to run this program and we have discussed this with them. SHPD can act as a pass through agency and act as a state partner for the project, including sitting on the advisory group. However, to add another advisory body to SHPD's already full plate will delay the project and not ensure the support that it needs.



HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 FAX: 586-8655 TDD: 568-8692

March 29, 2012
1:30 p.m.
Conference Room 308

To: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Linda Hamilton Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 2678, S.D.2, H.D.1

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that "no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights because of race, religion, sex or ancestry". Art. I, Sec. 5.

The HCRC supports S.B. 2678, S.D.2, H.D.1 which establishes a Honouliuli park site project advisory group to develop recommendations for the funding of an education center at the Honouliuli internment camp site, and makes an appropriation to fund the advisory group. During WWII, over one thousand Japanese Americans in Hawaii were initially detained because of their Japanese ancestry. While most of the detainees were later sent to mainland camps, approximately 300 people were interned in Honouliuli for the duration of the war, without being officially charged for any acts of espionage or

sabotage. The Honouliuli internment camp site is thus an important reminder of a time when fear and prejudice overrode the civil rights of a minority group, and the HCRC supports its preservation so that present and future generations of Americans can avoid repeating such mistakes.



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I
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March 28, 2012

TO: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

FROM: Carole Hayashino, President & Executive Director
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
Email: hayashino@jcch.com
Phone#: (808) 945-7633 Ext. 23

RE: **Strong Support for SB 2678 SD2 HD1 Related to Honouliuli**
Hearing Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, I request your support of SB 2678, a bill that allows an appropriation from a special fund at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (SHPD) to support efforts to preserve Honouliuli, the site of the former Department of Justice internment camp that held 300 Japanese Americans during World War II.

For the past 10 years, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i has gathered oral histories of former internees, their families, and local residents to piece together the life stories of Japanese Americans detained at Honouliuli.

With the support of foundations and other community organizations we have leveraged funds from the National Park Service to publish two memoirs written by former internees, produced a photo exhibit on Honouliuli, sponsored educational tours to the former internment camp site, and produced a documentary film.

We support the establishment of a seven (7) member Honouliuli Park Site Advisory Group. Individuals and organizational representatives to the Advisory Group should have general knowledge about Honouliuli and expertise to provide recommendations on the preservation and educational activities regarding the Japanese American internment in Hawai'i.

We recommend one appointed representative from each of the following serve on the Advisory Group: Speaker of the House, Senate President, Japanese American Citizens League - Honolulu Chapter, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, Monsanto, and the Historic Hawai'i Foundation.

Furthermore, given the funding constraints and staffing resources, we would support the Department of Land and Natural Resources contracting with an organization or firm to organize, facilitate and provide the necessary administrative support to the Advisory Group.

The work of the Advisory Group would be a significant and meaningful statement of support by the State of Hawai'i to help leverage federal and private fundraising, to monitor the progress of the National Park Service Special Resource Study and to evaluate options to preserve Honouliuli.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i strongly support S.B. 2678 with amendments and looks forward to working collaboratively with the Japanese American Citizens League - Honolulu Chapter, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu and the State of Hawai'i on this important project. I respectfully request your support to preserve Honouliuli and to help us educate current and future generations on the lessons and legacies of Japanese Americans wrongfully interned at Honouliuli.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole Hayashino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Carole Hayashino
President & Executive Director



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1291, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96807

www.jaclhonolulu.org

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To: The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Finance

Re: Strong Support and Recommendations for SB 2678 SD 2 HD 1
DM: FIN, Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Rm 308

The Japanese American Citizens League (“JACL”)-Honolulu Chapter strongly supports SB 2678 SD 2 HD 1. The measure appropriates funds to help preserve Honouliuli and creates the Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group (“Advisory Group”) to make recommendations about the Honouliuli site, one of the 13 confinement sites identified by the US Department of Justice. We urge you to pass this measure out; we also offer suggestions that speak to the Committee Report issued by the WLO Committee.

JACL is the nation’s oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization. Locally our organization worked with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i (“JCCH”) to hold annual Days of Remembrance to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans simply because of their ancestry.

Honouliuli Gulch Internment Camp held more than 300 Japanese Americans and approximately 30 German Americans. They were not charged or convicted of any crimes. They were put there simply because of who they were. Our State has an interest and an obligation to make sure Hawaii’s history is not forgotten, especially one of its most painful events. This measure will help ensure the physical site of Honouliuli is preserved. Perhaps most significantly, it will enable future generations to learn from the past and understand why protecting civil and human rights is of paramount importance.

The JACL respectfully recommends that the Advisory Group be made up of the following: 1 member from the State Historic Preservation Division, 1 member from the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu, 1 member from the Japanese American Citizens League-Honolulu Chapter, 1 member from the Historic Hawai'i Foundation, and 1 member from Monsanto, 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the House and 1 member appointed by the Senate President. All of the organizations have a unique interest in and knowledge of preserving the site. The JACL fought for redress for Japanese Americans who were interned and works to ensure the civil rights of all because of our history. In addition, UH West O'ahu, and Monsanto (which owns the land where the Honouliuli site is located) have worked with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to preserve the site thus far.

In addition, we support a direction noted by the Historic Hawai'i Foundation that recognizes the limitation of funds and DNLR staff—and suggests contracting with a planning or community organization to organize, facilitate and provide admin support to the advisory group.

Specifically, the Advisory Group would work to:

- recommend opportunities to leverage funds;
- monitor progress of NPS Special Resources Study
- evaluate options and outline actions to preserve Honouliuli

We can ill afford to lose momentum and risk losing this once-forgotten history. Please pass SB 2678 SD 2 HD 1. For your time and consideration, thank you.

Respectfully,



Trisha Y. Nakamura
President

-----Original Message-----

From: Curt Otaguro

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 9:37 AM

To: repmoshiro@capitol.hawaii.gov; replee@capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: I support Senate Bill 2678 - Preserve Honouliuli

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee -

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, thank you for considering Bill 2678 to preserve Honouliuli. As Chairman of the Board of JCCH, I have been actively involved over the years to see this project emerge to this point and I am very excited about its future. As a Yonsei, I didn't understand the significance of Honouliuli growing up and frankly didn't really know too much about internment camps in Hawaii. Much has been done on the mainland but here in Hawaii, we also have a very good story to tell.

The significance of Honouliuli along with other parts of our rich history should be remembered and enriched for our future generations. We have a wonderful partnership with the State of Hawaii, University of Hawaii, Monsanto Hawaii, National Park Services, JAACL and several other organizations that also share this same passion.

Thank you and your committee for taking time to consider this important bill.

Curt T. Otaguro

Chairman

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
ent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jmklib@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2678 on 3/29/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2012 1:30:00 PM SB2678

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Jane Kurahara
Organization: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
E-mail: jmklib@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/28/2012

Comments:

On behalf of the Hawaii Confinement Sites Committee of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii[JCCH], I am writing to ask for your support of SB2678, Relating to Honouliuli. I also support the creation of an Advisory Committee of perhaps 7 to 9 members with membership from JCCH, the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the University of HI-West Oahu, Monsanto, and the Hawaii Historic Foundation.
Thank you very much.

FINTestimony

m: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: jhayakawa@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2678 on 3/29/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 3/29/2012 1:30:00 PM SB2678

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Hayakawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jhayakawa@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Dear Rep. Marcus Oshiro:

Re: SB 2678 Preservation of Honouliuli

Please give favorable consideration to the preservation of this most important site in the incarceration of the Japanese Americans in Hawaii during World War II. It needs to be remembered for the benefit of our young people so that they can appreciate the difficult experiences of their ancestors.

Thank you.