



## JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

*Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.*

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The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, strives to strengthen our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The Center features a Community and Historical Gallery, Resource Center, Kenshikan martial arts dojo, Seikōan Japanese teahouse, Gift Shop and Grand Ballroom.

**DATE:** February 24, 2012

**TO:** The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

**RE: Support for SB 2678 SD 1**  
WAM, Friday, February 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm 211

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, I am writing to ask for your support of SB2678 with amendments, a bill that will provide preliminary planning funds to preserve the former site of the Honouliuli internment camp and create an advisory committee to make recommendations about the site to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

It has been nearly 70 years since the Honouliuli internment camp was opened in central O'ahu, the site where more than 300 persons of Japanese ancestry were detained during World War II. The vast majority were leaders rounded up from throughout the state-- Japanese language school principals, Buddhist priests, Japanese newspapers editors, business leaders, and others. The 1942 round-up and imprisonment community leaders effectively criminalized these members of the community and had a chilling effect upon all Japanese living in Hawai'i.

In 1980, a federal investigation was conducted to examine the facts, circumstances and consequences of the Japanese American wartime incarceration. In 1982, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded that decision to round-up, exclude and detain Americans of Japanese during World War II was not justified by military necessity, but was based upon "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." In 1988, Congress enacted and President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, granting an official government apology and monetary reparations to the Japanese Americans who had been wrongfully imprisoned.

Since the passage of the redress bill, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, through its Resource Center and the establishment of the Hawai'i Confinement Sites Committee, have been documenting the World War II internment of Japanese in Hawai'i through a collection of oral histories, letters, poems, diaries of Hawai'i internees. We have educated the public on the story of Hawai'i interment through a number of photo displays, publications, exhibits including *Dark Clouds Over Paradise: The Hawai'i Internees' Story* and *Right from Wrong: Honoring the Lessons of Honouliuli Internment Camp* and a full-length documentary.



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Currently, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i is working with Monsanto and the National Parks Service to preserve the former Honouliuli internment camp as a national historic site.

The National Park Service describes the former internment site as: "the largest and longest-lived of the Hawaiian internment sites. The site provides a tangible link to the World War II internment of American citizens and residents, and the effects of martial law. In addition, Honouliuli is one of the best-preserved prisoner of war camps in the nation."

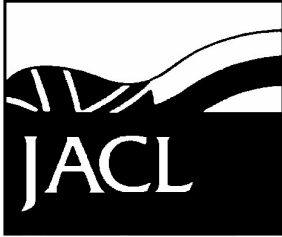
The legacy of the Japanese American incarceration in Hawai'i is significant to our state and nation. Honouliuli is part of the rich history of Japanese in Hawai'i and represents the unique experience of Japanese living in Hawai'i during World War II. Its preservation and the educational efforts surrounding Honouliuli allows us to learn from the past and serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all people, at all times.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i strongly supports S.B. No. 2678 with amendments and looks forward to working collaboratively with the Honolulu JAACL 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 educate current and future generations on the lessons and legacies of Japanese Americans wrongfully interned at Honouliuli.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

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 David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Strong Support and Recommendations for SB 2678 SD 1  
DM: WAM, Friday, February 24, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm 211

The Japanese American Citizens League (“JACL”)-Honolulu Chapter strongly supports SB 2678 SD 1. We urge you pass it out of Committee with amendments. SB 2678 SD 1 appropriates funds to help preserve Honouliuli and directs DLNR to form an advisory group to make recommendations about the Honouliuli site, one of the 13 confinement sites identified by the US Department of Justice.

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. SB 2678 SD 1 will ensure the physical site of Honouliuli is preserved. Perhaps most significantly, SB 2678 SD 1 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 representatives from the JACL, JCCH, and University of Hawai‘i at West O‘ahu (“UH West O‘ahu) serve on the advisory committee itself. All 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. The JCCH has led the way in researching and preserving the history of Honouliuli, including finding initial funding and forming key partnerships with JACL, UH West O‘ahu, and Monsanto which owns the land where the Honouliuli site is. UH West O‘ahu has contributed its services and expertise in the area of archaeology to ensure the actual physical site is documented.

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

Respectfully,

Trisha Y. Nakamura  
President