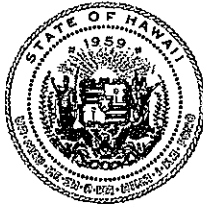


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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES**

Monday, March 19, 2012

9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

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

Senate Bill 2678, Senate Draft 2 proposes to provide funds to memorialize the struggle for civil rights by Hawaii's people, establish a mechanism to leverage other sources of funds to further the state goal of developing a history center at Honouliuli, and provides state funds as seed money for the above goals. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure but makes the following comments.

The Department recognizes the work that the Japanese Cultural Center (JCC) has already done to research the history of Honouliuli, to identify survivors and their families and to identify structures at the site. In addition, JCC has also identified groups to work with as it moves forward in its goal of establishing an educational resource center at Honouliuli.

The Department believes that this bill should recognize JCC's on-going work in this area as an in-kind match to state funds and should target JCC as the final recipient of the funds, which the Department will oversee. As such, the Department does not believe that it should be the final recipient of the funds to meet the goals of the bill.

The Department will work to identify additional funds to serve as a partial match to state funds.



HAWAII CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

March 19, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

To: The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean
Resources

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

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

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, which makes an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to preserve and develop an education center at the Honouliuli internment camp site. 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.

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

To: Rep. Jerry L Chang, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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

Committee Date: Monday, March 19, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Subject: SB2678 SD2, Relating to Honouliuli

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of SB2678 SD2, Relating to Honouliuli. The bill would appropriate funding to be expended by the department of land and natural resources to preserve and develop the historic internment camp site in Honouliuli. SD2 would require the department of land and natural resources to convene a project advisory group to develop recommendations to leverage country, state, federal and private funding for an educational resource center at the Honouliuli site. Funding would be appropriated to the historic preservation special fund for the collection, preservation and organization of resources related to the World War II interment experience in Hawai'i.

The Committee on Ways and Means requested that proponents offer recommendations related to the composition and function of the Honouliuli Project Advisory Group. Accordingly, Historic Hawai'i Foundation offers these preliminary suggestions for consideration on the four issues raised by WAM. We look forward to hearing the input of other project proponents and stakeholders, and recognize that these suggestions may be modified to address any other concerns.

(1) The number of members to be appointed to the advisory group by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate;

A working group of 10-12 people representing various interest groups and perspectives would provide a robust discussion but still be manageable to achieve recommendations and action steps.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Tel: 808-523-2900 • FAX: 808-523-0800 • 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.

(2) Whether the members of the advisory group should represent certain interest groups or stakeholders;

The advisory group should include representatives of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Japanese American Citizens League, University of Hawaii at West-Oahu, National Park Service, the property owner, a former internee or family member of an internee, and 5-7 at large positions to include other interested stakeholders, such as historians, visitor industry, business, veteran, and community organizations.

(3) Whether the advisory group should have a chairperson and how the chairperson should be chosen;

The advisor group should be chaired by the State Historic Preservation Officer (who is also the chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources) or his/her designee.

(4) Issue relating to the frequency and location of the advisory group meetings.

The advisory group should be administratively attached to the department of land and natural resources, which should develop a schedule of meetings, make arrangements for logistical support including locations, and prepare agendas and summaries of discussions, actions taken, and final report to the legislature.

Due to the reality of short-staffing at the state historic preservation division, it may be prudent for DLNR to contract with a planning or community relations firm to manage the process. If necessary to enable the department to contract for assistance, we recommend that SB2678 include authorization for SHPD to use the appropriation to develop a grant or contract for the purpose of organizing, facilitating and providing administrative support to the project advisory group process.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation believes that the historic, cultural and natural resources of Hawai'i are a great legacy and irreplaceable treasures. HHF strongly supports measures that lead to investments in Hawaii's historic places and that help keep their stories alive for present and future generations.

The proposed measure would add State funding to leverage federal funds and local efforts that have been underway for several years to evaluate and preserve the historic sites and stories of Japanese-Americans who were interned during WW II. These efforts include a feasibility study by the National Park Service (NPS) to evaluate alternatives and preferred actions for preserving Honouliuli and related sites across the state. In 2009, U.S. Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka introduced a bill to determine if World War II internment campsites in Hawai'i may be eligible for listing as "units of the National Park System."

Until just a few years ago little was known about the location of World War II Japanese Internment camps in Hawai'i. Many people were unaware that any internment camp sites remained in Hawaii. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) began researching these sites in an effort to

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determine where these camps were located and what, if any, evidence of them remains. Various archaeological surveys determined the location, significance, historic properties and area boundary of the Honouliuli site. JCCH nominated Honouliuli to the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places after conducting an archaeological survey of the former internment camp site. The site was designated on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places in 2009.

JCCH has been working with various organizations including Historic Hawai'i Foundation, the University of Hawai'i, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), the National Park Service and others to identify, preserve and interpret the Japanese internment camp experience in Hawai'i. Their work has resulted in the identification of internment sites of various sizes on all of the Hawaiian islands. This work has unveiled an important piece of history from the recent past that had until recently been largely unexplored.

NPS awarded grant money to Hawai'i-based organizations to fund work to preserve and interpret Japanese internment camp sites throughout the state, including projects such as Administration Building and Fire House Existing Condition Analysis Report at Honouliuli Internment Camp; Hawai'i Confinement Sites Project Traveling Exhibit for multiple sites and counties in Hawai'i; Multidisciplinary Research and Education at Honouliuli Internment Camp; and Oral Histories of Hawaii-Born Nisei for multiple sites and counties.

These efforts would be expanded with additional leadership and support from the State of Hawai'i. While the internment story is a difficult and painful chapter in both U.S. and Hawai'i history, these sites are important reminder of that history for both residents and visitors, and add to the education and understanding of Hawaii's history and inspiration for the future. We support the effort to identify additional funding sources to help preserve, restore and enhance these resources.

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.

Therefore, HHF recommends that SB2678 SD2 be approved.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

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PRESIDENT &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CAROLE HAYASHINO

March 16, 2012

TO: The Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Har, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

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 Related to Honouliuli**
Hearing Date: Monday, March 19, 2012

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.

The Honouliuli internment camp was opened nearly 70 years ago in central O'ahu. More than 300 persons of Japanese ancestry were detained at Honouliuli 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



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**PRESIDENT &
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
CAROLE HAYASHINO

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.

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 JACL 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 CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

Hawaii Confinement Sites Committee

To:

Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Rep. Denny Coffman, Chair

Rep. Derek S. K. Kawakami, Vice Chair

Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

From:

Jane Kurahara

Chair, Hawaii Confinement Sites Committee

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

Testimony Submittal Date:

March 17, 2012

Committee Date:

Monday, March 19, 2012

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

Subject:

SB2678 SD2, Relating to Honouliuli

Comments:

On behalf of the Hawaii Confinement Sites Committee (HCSC) of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH), I am writing to testify in support of SB2678 SD2, Relating to Honouliuli. The bill would appropriate funding to be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR] to preserve and develop the historic internment camp site in Honouliuli. SD2 would require DLNR to convene a project advisory group to develop recommendations to leverage state, federal, and private funding for an educational resource center at the Honouliuli camp site.

The HCSC was formed in 2005 in response to community need, which became apparent to the staff and volunteers of JCCH in the late 1990s. Representatives of community organizations such as the Hawaii Historic Foundation, Hawaii Historical Society, the University of Hawaii, the Japanese American National Museum, the U.S.S. Missouri, private businesses and private citizens came together for the overarching purpose of carrying out the mission statement: "to protect democracy in times of crisis and

prevent recurrence of the deprivation of constitutional rights through the lessons learned from the Japanese American experience during World War II in Hawai'i, (we shall) identify and preserve the confinement sites in Hawai'i for the purpose of educating present and future generations."

The proposed measure would add State funding to leverage Federal funds and local efforts that have been underway for several years. These efforts include a National Park Service (NPS) Special Resources Study to determine if the World War II Hawai'i internment camp sites may be suitable/feasible to become units of the National Park System. Work has presently proceeded to the point of a preliminary report.

The NPS has awarded grant money to Hawai'i based organizations to fund work to preserve and interpret internment camp sites through the state. JCCH has received grant funds to 1) produce a portable wayside exhibit; 2) produce a full length documentary on the Hawai'i internment story; and 3) carry out a trial project to take six guided tours to the Honouliuli site—two high school, two college, and two public tours. Another source of federal funding has enabled JCCH to develop internment units for three required public high school courses—U.S. History, Modern History of Hawaii, and Participation in Democracy, and to launch an educational website with resources such as the internment units, a short DVD on Honouliuli as well as taped presentations from the 2011 Day of Remembrance event .

The HCSC has coordinated the work on the internment units and educational website and helped to conduct teacher workshops on Kauai, the Big Island, Maui, and Oahu. JCCH has also nominated Honouliuli to the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places after conducting an archeological survey of the site. It was designated on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places in 2009. Just recently JCCH received notice that Honouliuli is now also on the National Register of Historic Places!

All these efforts would be expanded with additional leadership and support from the State. While the internment story is a difficult and painful chapter in both U.S. and Hawaii history, these sites are important reminders of that history for both residents and visitors, and add to the education and understanding of Hawai'i's history and inspiration for the future.

Finally, geographically, the Honouliuli internment camp site is very accessible in terms of travel time from the Pearl Harbor/USS Arizona site, and this should increase public awareness of the lessons that can be gleaned from this period of history. Visiting these historically significant sites is relatively convenient in comparison to visiting some of the mainland camp sites, which are generally isolated geographically.

The HCSC, under the aegis of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, strongly supports SB2678 SC2. Preserving Honouliuli and the lessons about the wrongful internment of Japanese Americans during World War II have critical implications for present and future generations as they grapple with understanding current world situations and the issue of discrimination.

We strongly recommend that SB2678 SD2 be approved.