



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

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Working For A Greater America

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To: The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
The Honorable Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Members, House Committee on WLO

Re: Strong Support for SB 2678 SD 2

Hrg: WLO/EEP, Mon., March 19, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in Rm 325

The Japanese American Citizens League ("JACL")-Honolulu Chapter strongly supports SB 2678 SD 2 and urges that you pass it out of Committee. SB 2678 SD 2 will appropriate funds to allow for the preservation and development of the Honouliuli internment camp, one of the 13 sites of confinement identified by the US Department of Justice. The measure will also create an advisory group who will report to the State Legislature on the preservation of the Honouliuli internment site.

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 advance numerous interests in preserving this physical reminder of what happened—the actual Honouliuli site. Perhaps most significantly, SB 2678, SD 2 will allow for many important intangibles—future generations learning and reflecting on the past, and then dedicating themselves to make sure the denial of due process never happens to another group of people ever again.

The JCCH and many others are working tirelessly to make sure Honouliuli is remembered. We can ill afford to lose momentum and risk losing this once-forgotten history. Please pass SB 2678, SD 2. For your time and consideration, thank you.

Respectfully,

Trisha Y. Nakamura
President