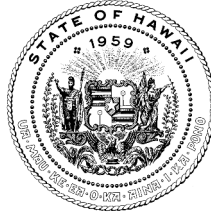


SB 2678

EDT-WLH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

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

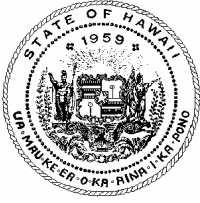
**Before the Senate Committees on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
and
WATER, LAND AND HOUSING**

**Friday, February 14, 2012
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2678
RELATING TO HONOULIULI**

Senate Bill 2678 makes an appropriation of \$100,000 to be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to preserve and develop the internment camp site in the Honouliuli District. While the Department supports the intent of this measure, the Department nonetheless has concerns regarding the cost implications it may have on the Administration's Executive Supplemental Budget request.

Should the Legislature make funding available, the Department would suggest that the first \$100,000 be directed toward the development of a master plan for the preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. The Master Plan should include phases and budgets for those phases, which would include an initial reconnaissance and evaluation of the property (some of this has been done), and then proposals to rehabilitate different sectors of the camp.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

February 14, 2012
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

To: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development
and Technology

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing

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

Re: S.B. No. 2678

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, 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: Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Mālama Solomon, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Housing

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

Committee Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2012
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Subject: **SB2678, Relating to Honouliuli**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of SB2678, 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.

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 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.

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.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) began researching these sites in an effort to 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.

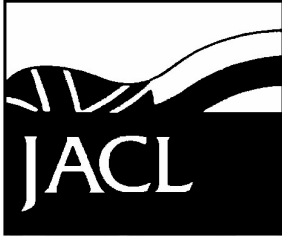
These efforts would be expanded with additional leadership and support from the State of Hawai'i. While the internment story is a difficult and painful chapter in both U.S. and Hawai'i history, these sites are important reminder of that history for both residents and visitors, and add to the education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

Therefore, HHF recommends that SB2678 be approved.

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.



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HONOLULU CHAPTER

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To: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair
The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Glenn S. Wakai, Vice Chair
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Vice Chair
Members, Senate Joint Committee on EDT/WLH

Re: Strong Support for SB 2678

Hrg: EDT/WLH, Tues., February 14, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in Rm 225

The Japanese American Citizens League (“JACL”)-Honolulu Chapter strongly supports SB 2678 and urges that you pass it out of Committee. SB 2678 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.

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 will allow for the development of a physical reminder of what happened. Perhaps most significantly, SB 2678 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. For your time and consideration, thank you.

Respectfully,

Trisha Y. Nakamura
President



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 dojō, Seikōan Japanese teahouse, Gift Shop and Grand Ballroom.

February 10, 2012

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Malāma Solomon, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land, and Housing

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

RE: SUPPORTING TESTIMONY S.B. 2678
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 14; 1:30 pm; Conference Room 225
Testifier will be present: Yes

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, I am writing to support SB2678, a bill to preserve the former site of the Honouliuli internment camp and appropriate \$100,000 for preliminary planning of an educational center.

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 newspaper 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, has 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 internment 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 and respectfully requests your support to preserve Honouliuli and to 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, flowing style.

Carole Hayashino
President & Executive Director
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

Hawai'i Confinement Sites Committee

To: Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Malama Solomon, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Housing

From: Jane Kurahara
Chair, Hawai'i Confinement Sites Committee
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Testimony Submittal Date: February 13, 2012

Committee Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2012
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Subject: **SB2678, Relating to Honouliuli**

Support or Oppose: Support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Email: jmklib@aol.com

Phone#: 988-4365

Comments:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Confinement Sites Committee (HCSC) of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH), I am testifying in support of SB2678, 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.

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 Hawai'i

Historic Foundation, Hawai`i Historical Society, the University of Hawai`i, 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 available .

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. JCCH has also sent forward a nomination application to 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.

fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 9:20 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: reinaharris@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2678 on 2/14/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for EDT/WLH 2/14/2012 1:30:00 PM SB2678

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Reina Harris
Organization: Individual
E-mail: reinaharris@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments: