
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a Nisei Veterans
2 Legacy Center would preserve, perpetuate, and share the legacy
3 of the Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in the United
4 States armed forces in World War II. Such a center would
5 provide research and educational programs, outreach efforts, and
6 displays for residents and visitors. The establishment of a
7 Nisei Veterans Legacy Center would create a facility dedicated
8 to researching, preserving, and interpreting the history of the
9 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military
10 Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineer Construction
11 Battalion to develop deeper understandings of their unique place
12 in Hawaiian, American, and global history.

13 A Nisei Veterans Legacy Center would curate materials and
14 artifacts to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of the Nisei
15 soldiers of World War II who fought loyally and valiantly
16 against the Axis powers on the European and Pacific
17 battlefields, while having to combat distrust, racial prejudice,
18 and discrimination at home. A Nisei Veterans Legacy Center



1 would examine race, loyalty, citizenship, and "Americanism"
2 against the backdrop of martial law, internment, and the
3 fragility of civil liberties and civil rights during that era,
4 and demonstrate how the Nisei soldiers' battlefield experiences
5 and sacrifices contributed to political leadership, social
6 movements, and social transformation in Hawaii and the United
7 States.

8 Locating a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center in West Oahu would
9 complement academic and research programs offered at the
10 University of Hawaii, such as the Center for Labor Education and
11 Research's Labor Archives and the Henry Giugni film collection.

12 The purpose of this Act is to make appropriations for the
13 planning and design of a center in West Oahu that would
14 incorporate a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center. The legislature
15 intends for a matching source of private or public funds to be
16 secured prior to the release of the appropriations.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 for the
20 planning and design of a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center.

21 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
22 Hawaii at West Oahu for the purposes of this Act; provided that



1 no moneys shall be expended unless matched by grants or
2 donations from public or private sources.

3 For the purposes of this Act, the value of in-kind
4 donations from private sources may be included for the purpose
5 of calculating the amount of matching funds.

6 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii at West Oahu shall
7 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
8 convening of the regular session of 2014 on the status of the
9 Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, which shall include a report on
10 the status of grants or donations from public or private
11 sources.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.



Report Title:

Japanese American Experience in Hawaii; Nisei Veterans Legacy Center; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the planning and design of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, subject to matching funds. Requires a report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2014. Effective July 1, 2013. (HB1396 CD1)

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