

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1396, H.D. 1, S.D. 1

March 25, 2013

RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

House Bill No. 1396, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, appropriates an undetermined amount of funds for the planning, design, and construction of a center in West Oahu that would incorporate a Nisei Veteran Legacy Center and an undetermined amount of funds to continue the work of the Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group created by Act 235, SLH 2012. The measure requires a matching source of public or private funding, including in-kind donations, to be secured prior to the release of the respective appropriations. It also makes the Director of Finance responsible for verifying the value of any in-kind donation.

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) appreciates the intent of the bill to develop a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center to perpetuate the legacy of the Nisei soldiers of World War II, and defers to the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the technical issues and merits of the bill. However, we have a concern with being tasked with the responsibility of verifying the value of in-kind donations.

It should be pointed out that B&F does not have the expertise nor resources to determine the value of in-kind donations. We respectfully request that this requirement be eliminated or that an auditable and verifiable self-declaration mechanism could be implemented as an alternative.

We also request that the bill clarify the amount or ratio of the matching donations required.