

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS & CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1317, S.D. 2

March 13, 2013

RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

Senate Bill No. 1317, S.D. 2, 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 a Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center; and an undetermined amount of funds to continue the work of the Honouliuli Park Site Advisory Group. The measure requires a matching source of public, private or in-kind donations to be secured prior to the release of the appropriation and makes the Director of Finance responsible for verifying the value of any such 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.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the House Committee on
VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Wednesday, March 13, 2013
8:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1317, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII**

Senate Bill 1317, Senate Draft 2 proposes to recognize the important history and contribution of Japanese Americans in Hawaii during World War II. Specifically, the bill proposes to fund a Nisei Veteran's Center at the University of West Oahu and to continue funding for the Honouliuli Education Center Advisory Group created by the 2012 Legislature. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of the bill but requests that the following language changes be made:

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the planning, design, and construction of a Nisei veterans legacy center.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the ~~department of land and natural resources~~ University of Hawaii at West Oahu for the purposes of this Act; provided that no moneys appropriated under this Act shall be expended unless matched by grants or donations from public or private sources.

For the purposes of this Act, the value of in-kind donations from private sources may be included for the purpose

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

of calculating the amount of matching funds; provided that the director of finance shall first verify the value of any such donation.

SECTION 3. The [~~department of land and natural resources~~
University of Hawaii at West Oahu] shall report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2014 on the status of the Nisei veterans legacy center, including funding.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to continue the work of the Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group created by Act 235, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2012.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University of Hawaii ~~department of land and natural resources~~ for the purposes of this Act; provided that no moneys appropriated under this Act shall be expended unless matched by grants or donations from public or private sources.

For the purposes of this Act, the value of in-kind donations from private sources may be included for the purpose of calculating the amount of matching funds; provided that the director of finance shall first verify the value of any such donation.

The Department notes that the Nissei Veteran's Legacy Center is already working with the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. They have developed a course based on their collaboration, and the Nissei Veteran's Legacy Center building will be built on land leased from University of Hawaii at West Oahu. As such, the University should be the expending agency for the Nissei Veteran's Legacy Center.

On the other hand, the Department is already the expending agency for the Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory group and should to continue serve as the expending agency.

With these changes, the Department fully supports this initiative. The Department also prefers this vehicle over the House version (1396) because it separates the two projects which are at very different stages of development. The Nissei Veteran's Legacy Center is projecting that their building will be complete by 2015, while the Honouliuli Park Advisory Group is in the beginning stages of assessing the feasibility of becoming a National Park; how to tie an educational center to the Honouliuli Internment Camp site; and how to enhance the visitor experience although the site is very remote and difficult to access.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1317, SD2 (SSCR585),
RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

PRESENTATION TO THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

BY

MR. RONALD P. HAN
DIRECTOR OF STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

March 13, 2013

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee members:

I'm Ron Han, Director of the State Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the concepts in Senate Bill 1317, SD2 (SSCR585).

This measure would appropriate a blank amount of funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans legacy Center and a Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group. Appropriation is subject to matching funds. It allows the value of in-kind donations to be calculated in the matching amount subject to verification by the director of finance.

This gallant group of Veterans deserve to be honored and recognized for their loyalty to the United States against the torment of martial law, subsequent internment, and alienation during this difficult era in U.S. history. They demonstrated their battlefield heroism and sacrifices that contributed immeasurably to political leadership, social movements, and social transformation in Hawaii and throughout the United States.

The freedoms we enjoy today have been paved by their dedicated and honored service.

We defer to the agency with direct responsibility for implementation.

The OVS supports the concepts and intent expressed in this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget for Fiscal Biennium 2013-2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Hawaii's Veterans and their families in support of SB 1317, SD2, (SSCR585).



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs,
& Culture and the Arts
March 13, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
By Gene I. Awakuni
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu

SB1317 SD2 – RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

UH West O'ahu supports the intent of SB 1317 SD2 provided its passage does not adversely impact other priorities of the University's budget. Locating a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center in West O'ahu near the University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu would complement academic and research programs offered at the university including, but not limited to the Center for Labor Education and Research's Labor Archives and the Henry Giugni film collection.

This bill appropriates an unspecified sum for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group with release of the appropriation subject to matching funds. Although the bill calls for the University to be the expending agency for appropriations made to support the Honouliuli Park Site Advisory Group, we believe ***funding should be appropriated directly to the Advisory Group via grant funds.***

The establishment of a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center would create a facility dedicated to researching, preserving, and interpreting the history of 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion to develop deeper understandings of their unique place in history. Additionally, the Honouliuli Internment Camp is a major historical site located on property currently owned by Monsanto in West O'ahu. The United States National Park Service, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, the State of Hawai'i, Monsanto, and other stakeholders are working to preserve the history and share the legacy of Americans of Japanese ancestry who were detained in these internment camps during World War II.

UH West O'ahu supports SB 1317 SD2 provided its passage does not replace other priorities in the University's budget.



Aloha,

Seventy years ago, a lot of us AJAs in Hawaii were trying to come to grips with post-Pearl Harbor suspicions about our loyalties. We knew whose side we were on, but a lot of people in America and Hawaii did not.

When we had a chance, thousands of us volunteered, because of patriotism, because we wanted to prove the doubters wrong. With martial law in place, wages were frozen. Our non-Japanese neighbors were getting good civilian jobs with the Army and Navy, but they weren't hiring Japanese. Everyone was saying the war would last 20, 30 years. So we figured if we're all going to die overseas, we might as well go with our friends.

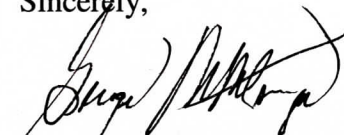
There were already AJAs in uniform when Japan attacked. Most of them became the 100th Infantry Battalion. Later on, thousands from Hawaii volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. For the MIS AJAs, our stories are different from the guys who served in the 100th and 442nd. After language school, we were sent all over the place, usually in ones and twos or small detachments. Most of what we did – there were more than 6,000 of us – was unknown to our friends and family and the rest of America.

We didn't go to war as a single unit. A lot of our service was unrecorded because the units that we were temporarily assigned to didn't do the paperwork. And our work was classified until long after the war. MIS Nisei served all over the Pacific, from the Aleutians to New Guinea, throughout the China-Burma-India Theater, stateside and in Australia and Europe. There were three MIS linguists aboard the battleship Missouri when Japan signed the surrender documents in September 1945. And many thousands of us served in the occupation of Japan and taught those folks about American democracy.

There aren't many of us left now. I'm glad to hear that some members of the next generation are working to establish a Nisei Legacy Center. It's important to remember what happened in Hawaii before, during and after the war, and to know what the "buta-head" soldiers did. Otherwise, like the old saying goes, "Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it."

I hope you will also support the Nisei Legacy Center. I believe this is a worthy project and I fully support the efforts of the Nisei Legacy Center Organization to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,



George M. Matsunaga

SB1317 SD2

RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

To: Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

From: Wes Deguchi, 442nd Veterans Club

The 442nd Veterans Club is in support of the creation of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center. Senate Bill 1317 seeks to provide partial funding for the planning, design and construction of the project.



Nisei Veterans Legacy Center

The mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center (NVLC) is to preserve, perpetuate and share the legacy of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry who served in the U.S. armed forces in World War II. It would do so through research and educational programs, outreach efforts and public displays supported by the collaborative effort of the veteran organizations of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The vision of the NVLC is to establish a new complex at the University of Hawai`i-West O`ahu campus dedicated to researching, preserving and interpreting the materials of these four military units to develop deeper understandings of their unique military histories which are themselves part of Hawaiian, American and global histories. The NVLC would collect, inventory and catalog, and organize the materials from which to (1) interpret the story and the legacy of the Nisei soldiers of World War II who fought loyally, valiantly and sacrificially against fascist enemies on the European and Pacific battlefields while having to fight distrust, racial prejudice and discrimination at home; (2) critically explore the concepts of "race," "loyalty," "citizenship," and "Americanism," -- against the backdrop of martial law, internment, and the fragility of civil liberties and civil rights; and (3) explore how those battlefield experiences and sacrifices may have contributed to political leadership, social movements, social transformations in both Hawai`i and the continental United States, and the continuing quest for peace and social justice. For example, the study of these materials might help contextualize the emergence of the Matsunaga Peace Institute, as well as, the longstanding support the late Senator Inouye gave to Native Hawaiian Recognition and programs.

The NVLC would complement other academic and research units at UHWO, such as the Center for Labor Education and Research's Labor Archives and the Henry Guini film collection. As a complex, it would also house the proposed Center for Democratic Principles and Social Justice which is continuing its multi-disciplinary research on Honouliuli and the internment and prisoner of war camp experience in Hawai'i. As Honouliuli is designated a National Historic Site, it provides opportunities to further expand educational programs in historical and forensic archaeology, the sociology of ethnic diversity, museum studies, interpretative history, and edu-tourism. The complex would further support the collaborative work with the U.S. National Park Service, the World War II Valor in the Pacific Monument, and various other community partners. It would promote student pursuit of the recently approved Certificate Program in Democratic Principles and Social Justice, as well as, generally support opportunities for student participation in various learning circles both locally and in other locales throughout the Pacific.

The NVLC educational programs would utilize the archives to be located on the second floor of the complex, thereby, creating a living research entity. Professional archivists and student assistants, housed in appropriate office space, would staff the archives and coordinate volunteer activities. The Resource Center, to be located on the ground floor, would be multi-purposed to serve as a place for receiving and orienting visitors; a display area for selective artifacts, and permanent and revolving interpretive exhibits; and a reading room for visiting researchers.

The flexible/expandable multi-purposed classrooms would be used to teach courses in history, sociology, historic preservation, indigenous studies, political science, social justice studies, etc. in support of the Certificate Program in Democratic Principles and Social Justice. The classrooms would also be used for docent training for Honouliuli and other confinement sites in Hawai'i, as well as, a venue to host larger public events such as lectures, performances, and film showings.

The time has come to create a legacy center to honor and perpetuate the story of the Nisei soldiers. They helped shape our lives and the world we live in. Their story is not only of their accomplishments during WWII, but equally important, it covers their influence on Hawaii after the war.

**442nd VETERANS CLUB
933 WILIWILI STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96826**



Testimony of 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans
In Support of SB 1317, SD2
Relating to the Japanese American Experience
Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs and
Culture and the Arts
Wednesday, March 13, 2013, 8:30 am, Rm. 312

Honorable Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Committee Members:

I am testifying on behalf of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans, a non-profit membership organization of 100th Infantry Battalion veterans, wives, widows, siblings, and descendants.

Our organization is fully supportive of SB 1317, SD2 which appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center.

The 100th Infantry Battalion was the first all-AJA (Americans of Japanese Ancestry) military unit formed in June, 1942. It has been more than 70 years since our veterans joined what has become the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States. In 2011, the U.S. Congress honored these veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal. It is time for Hawaii to honor the veterans with a long-lasting tribute of a learning center that will educate students and the public of the innumerable challenges faced by the Nisei AJA soldiers and their historic accomplishments, which have shaped the state and nation we live in today.

Despite their heroic accomplishments, the AJA veterans are generally humble and rarely talk about the war. While humility has its virtues, it does not necessarily lead to lessons passed on to future generations if information is not shared. The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center would ensure that important, relevant information that could inform future decisions will not be lost as the veterans, now in their late 80s and 90s, pass away.

Please pass this bill and provide adequate funding so that the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center may be built while our veterans are still able to see and contribute to it. Time is of the essence.

Mahalo,

Lloyd Kitaoka
President, 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

2012-2013

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March 12, 2013

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CAROLE HAYASHINO

TO: Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts

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

RE: **REVISED STATEMENT OF SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1317, SD2
Related to the Japanese American Experience in Hawai'i
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013**

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, I am writing to request your support of S.B.1317, S.D. 2 to support the planning, design and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and to continue the planning efforts of the Honouliuli Park Site Advisory Group for the Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center in West O'ahu.

While we support the intent of S.B.1317, S.D. 2, we respectfully request that funds for the work of the Honouliuli Park Site Advisory Group be appropriated and expended by the department of land and natural resources rather than the University of Hawai'i as stated in Section 4 of S.B.1317, S.D.2. This would be consistent with the current work of the Honouliuli Park Site Advisory Group under Act 235, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 2012.

Currently, the Japanese Cultural Center is participating in the State Advisory Committee on Honouliuli established last year through Act 235. With the Advisory Committee, we successfully leveraged state funds to raise additional funds to produce a classroom version of the documentary film, "The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i." This 28-minute video accompanied with supplemental curriculum materials will be distributed to Hawai'i's schools in fall 2013. Later this spring, the State Advisory Committee is hosting a series of community meetings to further conceptualize the Honouliuli Educational Center in West O'ahu.


For the past ten years, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i has documented the experiences of Japanese Americans detained at Honouliuli by gathering oral histories, translating and studying diaries, letters and poems of Hawai‘i internees. Working with landowner, Monsanto, and the National Park Service, we have worked to preserve the former 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 preservation of Honouliuli is at a critical juncture with the anticipated transfer of approximately 106 acres of land, the former site of the confinement site, from private to public ownership. The continuing efforts to preserve the Honouliuli site, capture the stories of former internees, develop educational materials, strengthen the partnerships with National Park Service, UH West O‘ahu, and launch the planning and design of the educational center will better prepare and position us when the transfer occurs in the coming year.

The legacy of the Japanese American incarceration in Hawai‘i is significant to our state and unique to our 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 provides the opportunity for generations in the future to learn from the past.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i supports S.B. 1317, S.D. 2 and looks forward to working collaboratively with the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and others on this important project. 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 and Executive Director

vmitestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2013 7:32 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: palehorse235@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Mar 13, 2013 08:30AM*

SB1317

Submitted on: 3/10/2013

Testimony for VMI on Mar 13, 2013 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Among Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



NOV 13 2012

Nisei Legacy Center

933 Wililili Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 Ph: 808 949-7997

Frank S. & June N. Sato
22304 NE 157th Street
Woodinville, WA 98077
425/788-7856, email: FJSato@frontier.com

November 7, 2012

To Whom This May Concern:

My brothers Robert S. Sato and John H. Sato were proud members of the 442nd RCT and the MIS during WW II. I believe the time is long overdue to create a legacy center, which will help preserve their story of Service to Country for future generations, including our grandchildren, their children...and all Americans. The story of the Nisei soldiers of World War II transpired 70 years ago. It is an amazing American story with great historical significance...a story that really needs to be told & retold. Let's do it without delay!

Six organizations -- the 100th, 442nd, MIS and 1399th veterans clubs and the 100th IB Legacy Organization and the 442nd RCT Foundation -- have joined forces to create the Nisei Legacy Center (NLC), which aims to ensure that the veterans' sacrifices and service are never forgotten and that their stories and artifacts will be preserved with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

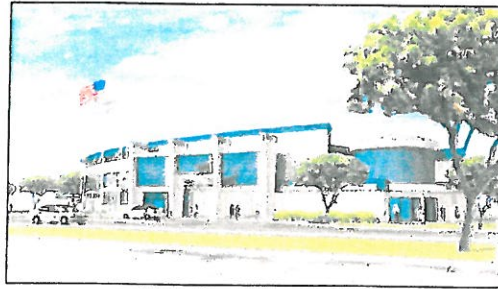
Each veteran's organization now has a collection of valuable documents, artifacts and memorabilia. As veterans pass on, these collections continue to grow as family members look to donate their own collection. These priceless items need to be preserved to teach future generations. The Nisei Legacy Center will serve as the single location where these items can be archived and made available for research and education.

In addition to serving as a resource center for information on the veterans, the NLC will also honor those who made the ultimate and valiant sacrifice and did not safely return home to their families. The NLC will ensure that they are not forgotten. It also will be a lasting tribute for all those who loyally served our country...at a time when their loyalty was being questioned

I believe this is a worthy project and I fully support the efforts of the Nisei Legacy Center Organization to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Frank S. Sato, Major, USAF Reserve (retired)
Former Inspector General (1981-1988)
US Department of Veterans Affairs



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, I believe the time has come to create a legacy center, which will preserve our story, not for ourselves, but for the sake of our grandchildren and future generations. The story of the 442 transpired 70 years ago. Many say it's an amazing story with historical significance. I see it as my contribution to my country.

Six organizations -- the 100th, 442nd, MIS and 1399th veterans clubs and the 100th IB Legacy Organization and the 442nd RCT Foundation -- have joined forces to create the Nisei Legacy Center (NLC), which aims to ensure that the veterans' sacrifices and service are never forgotten and that their stories and artifacts will be preserved with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Each veteran's organization now has a collection of valuable documents, artifacts and memorabilia. As veterans pass on, these collections continue to grow as family members look to donate their own collection. These priceless items need to be preserved to teach future generations. The Nisei Legacy Center will serve as the single location where these items can be archived and made available for research.

In addition to serving as a resource center for information on the veterans, the NLC will also honor my fellow comrades who made the ultimate and valiant sacrifice and did not safely return home to their families. The NLC will ensure that they are not forgotten. It will be a lasting tribute for all those who loyally served our country.

I believe this is a worthy project and I fully support the efforts of the Nisei Legacy Center Organization to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Muraoka
2nd *Fox*

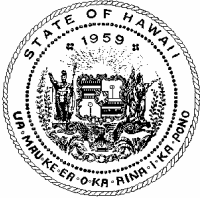
Name

Battalion

Company

SB1317 Nisei Legacy Center Form letter received by:

1. Charles Ijima
2. Mitsuo Honda
3. Asa Higuchi
4. Kenneth Higa
5. walter Heirakuji
6. Isamu Furuya
7. Yasunori Deguchi
8. Ralph Chinaka
9. George Arine
10. hideo Arakawa
11. Robert Arakaki
12. Anita Nihei
13. Byrnes Yamashita
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23. Ted Tsukiyama
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27. Shigeru Tsubota
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29. Inouye Daniel
30. Inuzuka Mineo
31. Kawamoto Shigeo
32. Kishinami Robert
33. Kudo Harold
34. Matsuda Fujio



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

March 13, 2013
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

To: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military &
International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

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

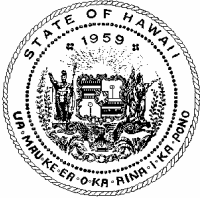
Re: S.B. No. 1317, S.D.2

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. No. 1317, S.D.2, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget. This bill makes an appropriation to be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to plan, design and construct a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center as well as a Honouliuli Internment Camp education center. The story and legacy of Hawai‘i’s Nisei soldiers is well known, but the history of the Honouliuli is less known.

During WWII, over one thousand Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i 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 an appropriation for the creation of an education center at the site, preserving the remnants of the internment camp with a memorial.

S.B. No. 1317, S.D.2, appropriates funds for both the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and the Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center, to educate future generations about the WWII Japanese American experience, offering more than a celebratory perspective on race, discrimination, and social change in Hawai‘i and the United States. The HCRC supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget.



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

March 13, 2013
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

To: The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military &
International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts

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

Re: S.B. No. 1317, 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. No. 1317, S.D.2, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget. This bill makes an appropriation to be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to plan, design and construct a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center as well as a Honouliuli Internment Camp education center. The story and legacy of Hawai‘i’s Nisei soldiers is well known, but the history of the Honouliuli is less known.

During WWII, over one thousand Japanese Americans in Hawai‘i 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 an appropriation for the creation of an education center at the site, preserving the remnants of the internment camp with a memorial.

S.B. No. 1317, S.D.2, appropriates funds for both the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and the Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center, to educate future generations about the WWII Japanese American experience, offering more than a celebratory perspective on race, discrimination, and social change in Hawai‘i and the United States. The HCRC supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Executive Budget.

LATE TESTIMONY

My name is Suzanne Falgout. I would like to offer testimony in support of SB1317 relating to the Japanese American Experience in Hawaii, a bill that supports the planning, design and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center. I offer this testimony as a private citizen.

The tremendous importance of Hawai'i's role in WWII can be witnessed in the 1.7m local, national, and international visitors to visit Pearl Harbor each year, the site of the event that marked the United States' entrance into that war. Until recently, very little has been known about the equally significant role that Hawai'i played in the internment of more than 2,000 peoples of Japanese, Okinawan, "German" (which actually included a wide range of individuals from allied and enemy nations in Europe) and Italian ancestry, who then resided as citizens and residents, in 13 detention sites in Hawai'i. Even less known has been the imprisonment of approximately 17,000 prisoners of war of Italian, Japanese, Okinawan, Korean, and Filipino ancestry sent to Hawai'i and held in 13 compounds in Hawai'i, from both the European and Pacific Theaters of war.

The Honouliuli Camp located in West O'ahu was the largest and longest lasting of all WWII camps in Hawai'i. It held more than 200 internees, and up to 4,500 POWs. Honouliuli's significance can be seen in the tremendous interest of local peoples who have overflowed in attendance at recent Days of Remembrance and clamored for more tours of the site (which are currently limited). It can also be witnessed in the site's recent acceptance to the Hawai'i State Register of Historic Places and to the National Register of Historic Places. The development of a Honouliuli Educational Center near the site in West O'ahu would help to meet this growing local interest and demand, and would be eventually be matched by national and international visitors who remain interested in WWII and Pearl Harbor.

The nearby location in West O'ahu of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center dedicated to educating the public about the unique and important history and legacy of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion would be an extremely valuable link to the stories of both Pearl Harbor and of Honouliuli.

This West O'ahu location of these Centers would also tie in with several educational resources and activities at the new UHWO campus. In addition to the curation of the Center for Labor Education and Research archives and also the Guigni film collection mentioned in SB1317, I would like to mention two additional resources at UHWO. First, for the past several years, 8 UHWO faculty members have conducted research and education related to various aspects of the Honouliuli Internment and POW Camp. In addition, they have held a summer field archaeology course for local, national, and international students, and members of the local community have also been invited to volunteer for several days at the site. Also, UHWO has now added a new Certificate in Democratic Principles and Social Justice; this new program will focus on the Honouliuli site and the many issues that it has raised; for a culminating experience, students will apply their learning in internships conducted with local, national, and international institutions.

Finally, Tokai University also plans to establish their new campus in the West O'ahu region. It can be expected that some of those faculty and students will become interested in the stories told at the Honouliuli Education Center and the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center. This has the potential to strengthen international interest in the important stories of WWII that Hawai'i holds.