

# SB 1317

## Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII.

Report Title: Japanese American Experience in Hawaii; Nisei Veterans Legacy Center; Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center; Appropriation; Matching Funds (\$)

Description: Appropriates \$500,000 for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center. Release of appropriation is subject to matching funds. Allows the value of in-kind donations to be calculated in the matching amount, subject to verification by the director of finance.

Companion: [HB1396](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: TEC/WTL, WAM

Introducer(s): ESPERO, IGE, NISHIHARA, TANIGUCHI, Chun Oakland, Ihara, Kidani, Shimabukuro, Tokuda, Wakai



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM**  
**Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

on

February 14, 2013 at 1:20 p.m.

By Gene I. Awakuni

Chancellor, University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu

SB1317 – RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Solomon and Members of the Committees:

***UH West O'ahu supports SB 1317*** as 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 such as the Center for Labor Education and Research's Labor Archives and the Henry Guigni film collection.

SB1317 appropriates \$500,000 for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center with release of this appropriation subject to matching 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 the SB 1317 provided its passage does not compete with other priorities in the University's budget.**

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

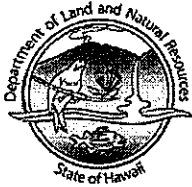
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William J. Aila, Jr.	Department of Land and Natural Resources	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: See attached document.

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NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

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

**Before the Senate Committees on  
TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS  
and  
WATER AND LAND**

**Thursday, February 14, 2013  
1:20 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

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

Senate Bill 1317 proposes to make an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resource (Department) of \$500,000 for planning, design and construction of a center in West Oahu that would incorporate a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center. Matching funds must be secured prior to the release of the appropriation. The Department has the following comments.

Act 235, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, set forth the following:

1. Require the Department to establish a seven-member Honouliuli park site project advisory group to develop recommendations to leverage funding for an educational resource center at the Honouliuli site;
2. Require the advisory group to submit a report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2013 on its progress and the status of designating the site as part of the United States National Park Service (NPS); and
3. Appropriate funds from the Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 to fund the advisory group established pursuant to this Act.

The Group first convened in October and has met four times, including a site visit to the Internment Camp. Approximately \$52,000 is being used to match a Preserve America Grant to develop a high school teachers guide and curriculum materials to accompany the film, "*The 1800: The Untold Story of the Internment of Japanese in Hawaii*." The remaining \$48,000 will

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

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI  
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

be used to hold a visioning meeting/charrette with stakeholders and to develop outreach materials including maps and story boards.

The Honouliuli Internment site is being studied as a possible NPS park site, and to that end, Monsanto has begun the process of subdividing the Honouliuli parcels. Monsanto plans to transfer the Honouliuli Internment Camp to NPS.

At this point, the Honouliuli Advisory Group is considering possible locations for the education center. Things to consider include infrastructure, access, how to tell the story, and how to relate this story to other Valor in the Pacific sites.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center is an effort by the sons, daughters and supporters of the Nisei Veterans to preserve and educate the public about the roles and contributions of the Nisei during World War II. Their goal is to open their doors by 2015.

The Department has not had an opportunity to meet with both groups, nor have the groups had an opportunity to meet with each other. However, the Department believes funding for the planning, design and construction of these projects should go directly to each of these groups via grant funds.

The Department suggests that the funding run for five years, rather than for one year with an option to extend the ability to use the funds after five years, and upon a request to the Legislature for an extension.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Hoshijo	Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission	Support	No

Comments: If there is any problem with this testimony, please contact me.

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# HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

February 14, 2013  
1:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 414

To: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Malama Solomon, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committees on Technology and the Arts  
and Water and Land

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

Re: S.B. No. 1317

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, 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 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.



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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carole Hayashino	Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

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## JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
CAROLE HAYASHINO**

February 11, 2013

**TO:** The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair  
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts

The Honorable Malama Solomon, Chair  
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Water and Land

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

**RE:** **Support for SB1317**  
**Related to the Japanese American Experience in Hawai'i**  
**Hearing Date: Thursday, February 14, 2013**

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, I am writing to ask for your support of SB1317 for the planning, design and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center in West O'ahu.

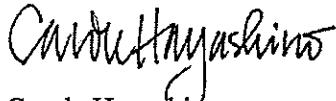
For the past ten years, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i has documented the experiences of Japanese Americans detained at Honouliuli by gathering oral histories, translating and studying diaries, letters and poems of Hawai'i internees. Working with landowner, Monsanto, and the National Park Service, 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."

Currently, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i is participating in the State Advisory Committee on Honouliuli established by Act 235 in 2012. We will be distributing the documentary film "The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i" and curriculum materials to Hawai'i's schools in the coming year. Later this spring, the State Advisory Committee is sponsoring a series of community meetings to conceptualize the Honouliuli Educational Center in West O'ahu.

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 provides the opportunity to learn from the past.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i supports S.B.1317 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 cursive script that reads "Carole Hayashino".

Carole Hayashino  
President & Executive Director

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kent Mori Walther	JACL Honolulu Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for your consideration.

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## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

HONOLULU CHAPTER

P.O. BOX 1291, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96807

PHONE: 523-8464 EMAIL: [jaclhon@gmail.com](mailto:jaclhon@gmail.com) WEBSITE: [www.jaclhonolulu.org](http://www.jaclhonolulu.org)

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Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Thursday, February 14, 2013 at 1:20 p.m.  
Hawai'i State Capitol – Room 414

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB 1317, Relating to the Japanese American Experience in Hawaii

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Nishihara, Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committees:

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Honolulu Chapter supports the passage of Senate Bill 1317, which appropriates funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center.

JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization with over 20,000 members. Locally our organization has consistently supported efforts to ensure equal rights to all citizens of this state.

We believe that Senate Bill 1317 is a meaningful step in the right direction for preserving our history for the purpose of improving our community's future. The internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II is an appalling part of US history that we must never forget. The internment of US citizens based solely on their ethnicity should never be allowed to happen again to anyone. There should never again be a group of people who are made an exception to the protections afforded under our constitution.

Creation of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Education Center will not only ensure that our history is preserved and remembered, but will be a means to educate others about what can happen if we fail to remain vigilant about our civil rights and fail to exhibit care for all members of our community.

We urge you to pass out the measure. For your time and consideration, thank you.

Respectfully,

Kent Mori Walther  
Legislative Committee Chair

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edwin P. Hawkins	Japan-America Society of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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February 12, 2013

Regarding Measure SB1317

On behalf of the members of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, I want to express unequivocal support for the bill creating a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center to preserve and share the legacy of the Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in the United States Armed Forces in World War II.

The Nisei veterans overcame extreme prejudice and injustice by stepping forward to serve their country in time of crisis and need. In so doing, they proved forever to future generations and to the world that they are Americans of the highest standing and caliber. Their actions overcoming such great injustice is a story that needs to be told, perpetuated, and preserved. Their selfless and patriotic actions are a model to the world, and one that stands as a shining reminder that America stands for equality for all, and those rights and privileges need to be protected for people of all backgrounds.

I urge legislators to support this great project, one that brings honor to not only to the sons of Hawaii, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice, and all who distinguished themselves so bravely and selflessly. In so doing, we celebrate the accomplishments of the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely, and with respect,

Edwin P. Hawkins  
President  
Japan-America Society of Hawaii

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**Attachments:** [Inouye Daniel 442 E Co.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Inouye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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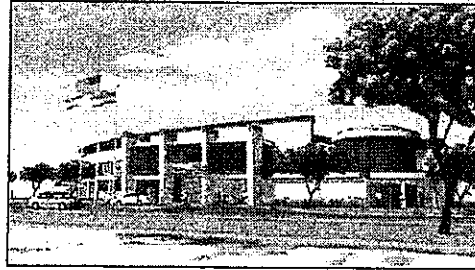
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

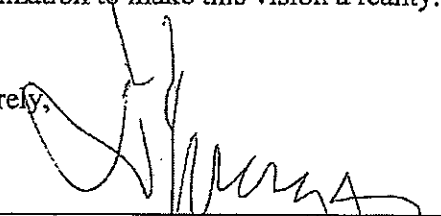
Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation -- have joined forces to create the Nisei Legacy Center (NLC), which aims to ensure that the veterans' sacrifices 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,



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DANIEL K. INOUÉ      1st      E

Name                                      Battalion                                      Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frank Sato	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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NOV 13 2012

Nisei Legacy Center

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

*Frank S. & June N. Sato*  
22304 NE 157th Street  
Woodinville, WA 98077  
425/788-7856, email: [FSato@frontier.com](mailto:FSato@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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald Oba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

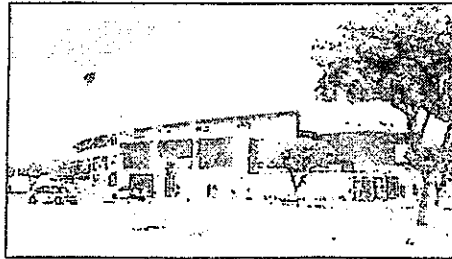
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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,

*Ronald Oba*

Name	Battalion	Company
<i>Ronald Oba</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>F</i>

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [442veterans@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiantel.net)  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Satoru Shikasho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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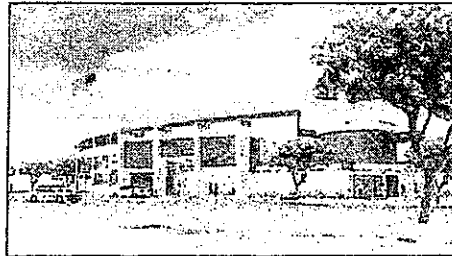
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AUG 14 2012



Nisei Legacy Center

933 Wiliwili Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 Ph: 808.949-7997



Nisei Legacy Center

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Sincerely,

---

*Satoru Shikesho 3rd HQ*  
 Name Battalion Company

Aug. 12/12

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frank Takao	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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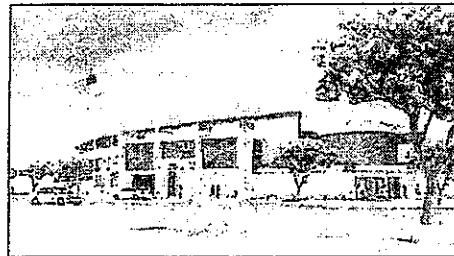
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

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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 T. Takao*

FRANK T. TAKAO 171<sup>ST</sup>  
 Name Battalion Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toshiaki Tanaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

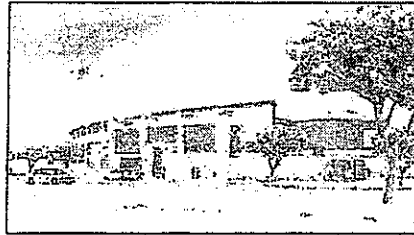
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

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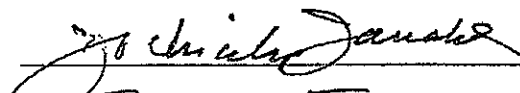
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I believe this is a worthy project and I fully support the efforts of the Nisei Legacy Center Organization to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOSHIKI TANAKA, MEDICS, 442  
 Name Battalion Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralph Tomei	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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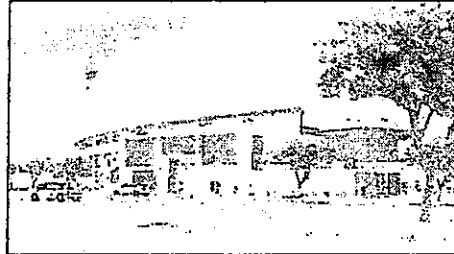
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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Sincerely,



Ralph Y Tomei      3rd      M.  
Name                                      Battalion                                      Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frank Nomura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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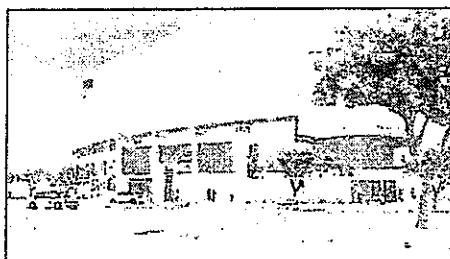
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



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Sincerely,

FRANK M. NOMURA	3RD	Co. M
Name	Battalion	Company

FRANK M. NOMURA 5075 Kilauea Ave Honolulu, HI 96816
---

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [442veterans@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiintel.net)  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sonsei Nakamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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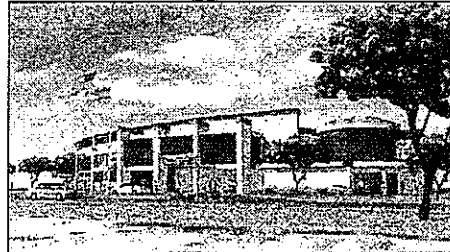
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a World War II veteran of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 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. Many say what we and the other Americans of Japanese ancestry did is an amazing story and historically significant. I see it as my contribution to my country.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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Sincerely,

*Sonsei Nakamura*

<u>SONSEI NAKAMURA 100<sup>th</sup> "B"</u>		
Name	Battalion	Company

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Akira Otani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

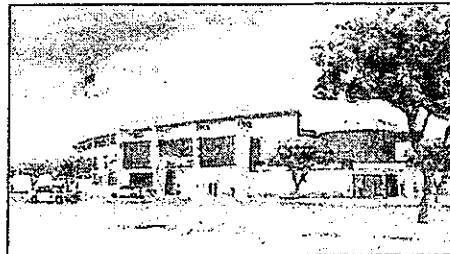
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Sincerely,

AKIRA OTANI	442 (RCT)	171ST BTN
<i>Name</i>	<i>Battalion</i>	<i>Company</i>

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samuel Sasai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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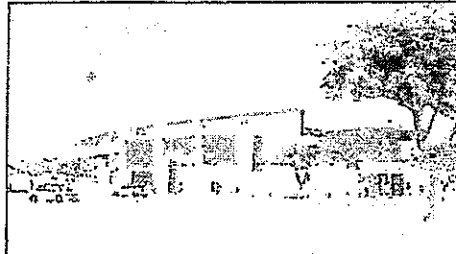
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AUG 16 2012



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Sincerely,

Samuel Y. Sasai  
Arcadia #1006-04  
1434 Punahou Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822-4750

Name

212

Battalion

HQ

Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jack Yamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Tsukiyama	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

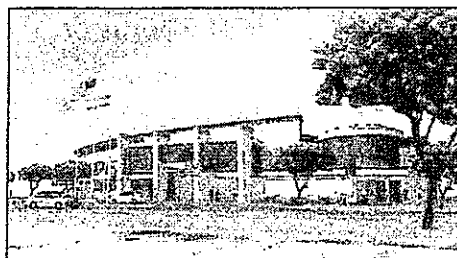
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, I believe the time has come to create a legacy center, which will help preserve our story, not for ourselves, but for the sake of our grandchildren and their children. 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 my country.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 veterans group has now a collection of documents, artifacts and memorabilia, and as the veterans pass on, these collections continue to grow. 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 did not make it home. They made the ultimate sacrifice. The NLC will ensure that they are not forgotten. It will be a lasting tribute for all those who served.

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,

Ted Fukuyama  
 Ted Fukuyama 522 FA BN. "B" Battery  
 Name Battalion Company



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [442veterans@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 11, 2013 10:32:20 PM  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Iwao Yokooji	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

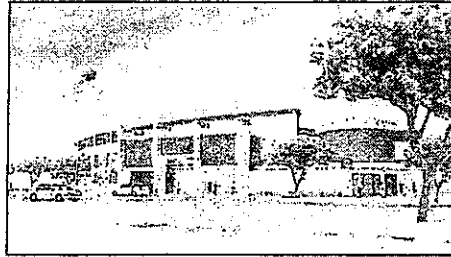
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

My husband was a member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. I believe the time has come to create a legacy center, which will help preserve their story for future generations, including our grandchildren and their children. The story of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT transpired 70 years ago. It is an amazing story with great historical significance.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 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 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,

*Iwao Yokooji*

Name

*Iwao Yokooji*

Veteran's Name

*Iwao Yokooji 171<sup>st</sup>*

Battalion

Company

*B*

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [442veterans@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leighton Sumida	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

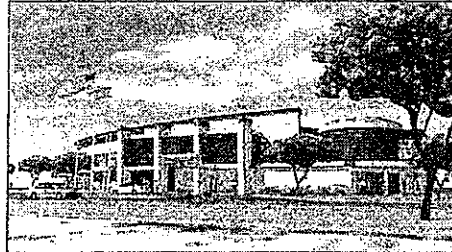
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a World War II veteran of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 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. Many say what we and the other Americans of Japanese ancestry did is an amazing story and historically significant. I see it as my contribution to my country.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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,

<u>LEIGHTON G. SUMUDA</u>	<u>100<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>A</u>
Name	Battalion	Company

*Leighton G. Sumuda*

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [442veterans@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 11, 2013 10:28:29 PM  
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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shigeru Tsubota	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

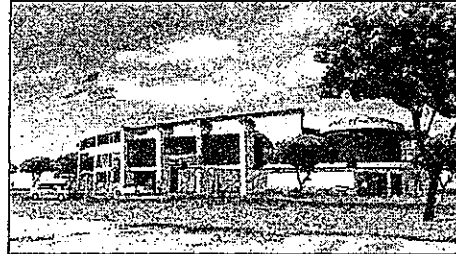
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a World War II veteran of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 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. Many say what we and the other Americans of Japanese ancestry did is an amazing story and historically significant. I see it as my contribution to my country.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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,

*Shigeru Tsubota*

*Shigeru Tsubota 100<sup>th</sup> Inf D*

Name

Battalion

Company

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TEC Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [442veterans@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 11, 2013 10:25:35 PM  
**Attachments:** [Scan\\_Doc0394.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Nakasato	Individual	Support	Yes

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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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,

Gen NAKAGATO 442 F

Name

Battalion

Company



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [byrnes.yamashita@aecom.com](mailto:byrnes.yamashita@aecom.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Monday, February 11, 2013 12:11:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [Yamashita ltr of support.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Byrnes K. Yamashita	Individual	Support	Yes

**Comments:**

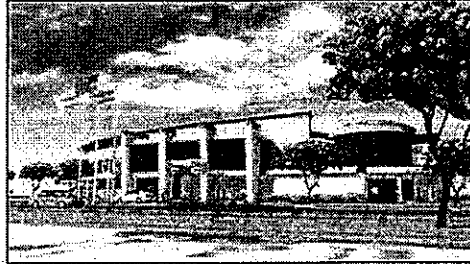
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As family members of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, we believe the time has come to create a legacy center, which will preserve their story, for the sake of their grandchildren and future generations. The story of the 442 transpired 70 years ago. Many say it's an amazing story with historical significance.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 our father/grandfather's 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.

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

Sincerely,

Byrnes K. Yamashita  
Son of Victor I. Yamashita, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT

Dylan K. Yamashita  
Grandson of Victor I. Yamashita, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ronkanji@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:ronkanji@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 7:25:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [SB\\_1317\\_Testimony.doc](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ron Chung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 13, 2013

RE: SB 1317

Relating To The Japanese American Experience In Hawaii

I support SB 1317

My grandfather spent more than 3 years interned in Haiku, Sand Island, Angel Island, Lordsburg and Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was taken into custody from his home in Wailuku on September 1, 1942 and brought before an Internee Hearing Board in Wailuku on September 8, 1942. After hearing the evidence, the board determined my grandfather was a threat to the United States and recommended he be interned for the duration of the war. The evidence? He was an officer and member of various social and educational organizations.

Growing up I was aware of my grandfather's internment but the issue never raised my interest. In 2000 I researched my family's genealogy and decided to pursue my grandfather's internment. None of his 7 surviving children at the time was able to provide me with much information including where he was interned on the mainland. I spent many hours trying to find answers to my questions.

There are maybe 50,000 – 60,000 direct descendants living today from the approximately 1,200 Japanese interned during World War II. I'm sure many if not most of the sansei generation have some knowledge of their grandfather's internment. But most don't know why it happened. The yonsei generation probably has no clue of their great grandfather's internment. For those other Japanese and general public who were not affected by the internment in Hawaii, the recollection of what happened fades with the passing of the nisei generation.

Honouliuli provides us with a great opportunity to spread the Untold Story to the world. Not only for what happened at Honouliuli and the other 12 internment camps in Hawaii but as a vehicle to also tell the story of those who were interned on the mainland. Creating an educational and learning center at Honouliuli and recreating in some form, the internment camp at Honouliuli must be completed in my lifetime. And my lifetime is running short.

It is sad that this story has been ignored for so long. I have learned a lot these past few years but there is still much more to learn. I will go to my grave angry at what happened to the Japanese during World War II.

Thank you,

Ron Chung  
ronkanji@hawaiiantel.net

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [wesley@ad2intl.com](mailto:wesley@ad2intl.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 8:31:03 AM  
**Attachments:** [NVLC testimony.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/13/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wes Deguchi	442nd Veterans Club	Support	Yes

Comments:

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## 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 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and the 1399<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**To:** [TECTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [falgout@hawaii.edu](mailto:falgout@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 9:38:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [testimony2.docx](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Falgout	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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**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.



**From:** [JMKL1B@aol.com](mailto:JMKL1B@aol.com)  
**To:** [JECtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 1317; support the bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 11:09:45 AM

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I am Jane Kurahara, Staff Associate at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and I have been involved in the Hawaii Internment effort for over ten years. I am in support of this bill.

The Hawaii internment story has been thinly documented and in danger of being lost over the years. For that reason two things seem necessary for preserving this part of history:

- 1) an educational center or museum where people can go to find out about the internment
- 2) an opportunity to gain a strong sense of place so that the life lessons from this part of history are not forgotten. This can be derived by being allowed to walk in the same places where the internees and POWs lived for several years.

That the museum portion is being suggested to be adjacent to the Veterans Legacy Center connects two major related events about the Japanese Americans in Hawaii in WWII fairly completely--like two related books on the shelf next to each other.

Both those legacies plus the legacy of the nearby Valor of the Pacific Pearl Harbor complex will help us all remember the important ideas the late Senator Inouye wanted us to remember: "Freedom and Fairness".

Thank you very much.

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**Attachments:** [Anita's Veterans support letter.docx](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

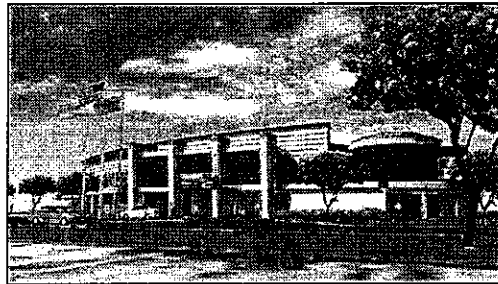
Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anita Nihei	Individual	Support	No

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*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a descendant of a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, I believe the time has come to create a legacy center, which will preserve my father's story, not just for him and his brethren, but for the sake of my son and future generations. The story of the 442 transpired 70 years ago. My father would never speak of the horrors of the war, but what I've learned after his passing, is that it is truly an amazing story with historical significance.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 those veterans 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,

Anita Nihei, Daughter of Henry Hori, 442 RCT, G Co.

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<i>Name</i>	<i>Battalion</i>	<i>Company</i>
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**Attachments:** [Murashige, Richard 442 F Co.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Murashige	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

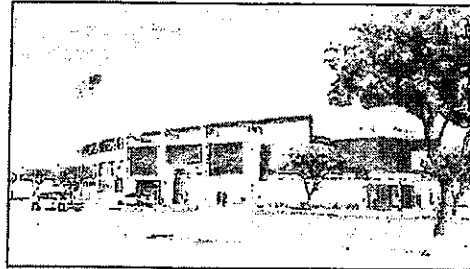
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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. Mucackijic*

Name

Battalion

Company

*2<sup>nd</sup>*

*FOX*

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**Attachments:** [Matsuda Fujio 442 232nd Eng.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fujio Matsuda	Individual	Support	No

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harold Kudo	Individual	Support	No

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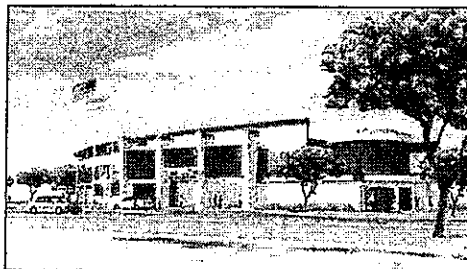
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

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Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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,

*Harold I. Kudo*

*Harold I. Kudo*

*Name*

*3<sup>rd</sup>*

*Battalion*

*M*

*Company*

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Kishinami	Individual	Support	No

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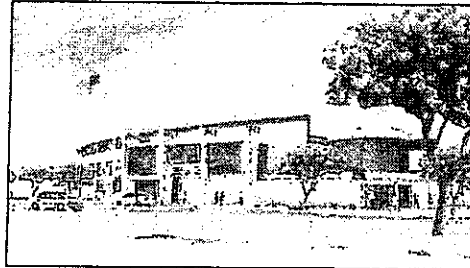
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2012

Nisei Legacy Center

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

*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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,

ROBERT KISHINAWA

ROBERT + KISHINAWA 2nd BATTALION H. COMPANY  
 Name Battalion Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shigeo Kawamoto	Individual	Support	No

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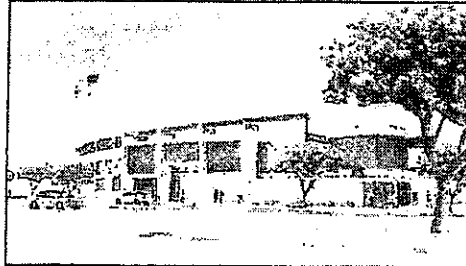
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100th

Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

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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,

*Shigeo Kawamoto*

DR SHIGEO KAWAMOTO	442 RCT	232 <sup>ND</sup> EQ BR.
Name	Battalion	Company

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**Attachments:** [Inuzuka Mineo 442 F Co.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mineo Inuzuka	Individual	Support	No

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**Attachments:** [Ijima Charles 442 232nd Eng.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

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

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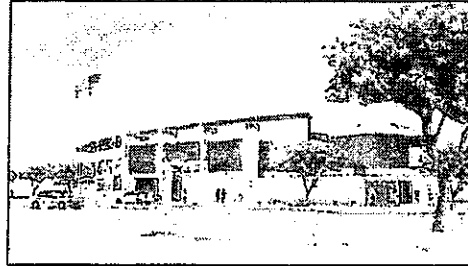




Page 1

Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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,

*Charles T. Ijima*

<i>Charles T. Ijima</i>	<i>442<sup>nd</sup> RCT</i>	<i>232<sup>nd</sup> Engineers</i>
Name	Battalion	Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuo Honda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

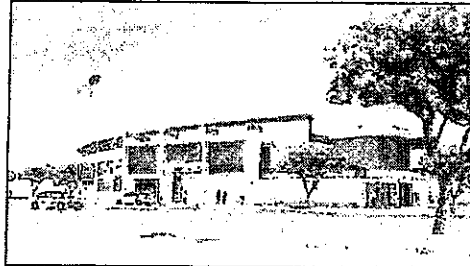
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



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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,

MITSUO HONDA 232<sup>nd</sup> Eng Co  
 Name Battalion Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Asa Higuchi	Individual	Support	No

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth Higa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

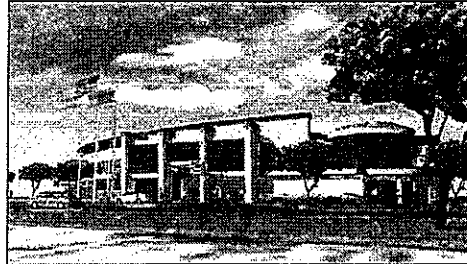
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a World War II veteran of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 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. Many say what we and the other Americans of Japanese ancestry did is an amazing story and historically significant. I see it as my contribution to my country.

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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,

*Kenneth M. Higa*

KENNETH M. HIGA 100TH FCO  
Name Battalion Company

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Heirakuji	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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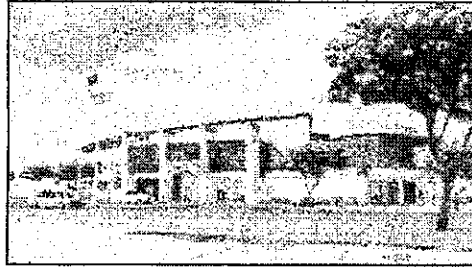


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Nisei Legacy Center

935 Wiliwili Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 Ph: 808 949-7997



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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,

Walter I. Heirakiji

Walter I. Heirakiji

3rd

K

Name

Battalion

Company

442nd

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**To:** [TEC Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [442veterans@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 8:15:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [Furuva Isamu 442 3HQ.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isamu Furuva	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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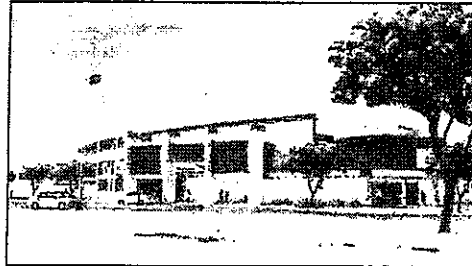
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

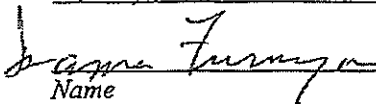
Each veteran's organization now has a collection of valuable documents, artifacts and memorabilia. As veterans pass on, these collections continue to grow as family members look to donate their own collection. These priceless items need to be preserved to teach future generations. The Nisei Legacy Center 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,

ISAMU FURUYA

	3rd.	Hq.
Name	Battalion	Company



Mr. Isamu Furuya  
1339 Humuula St  
Kailua HI 96734

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Attachments:** [Deguchi Yasunori 442 F Co.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yasunori Deguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

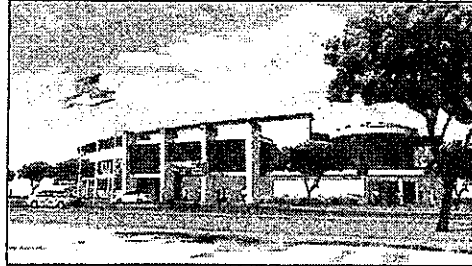
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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,

YASUNORI DEGUCHI 2ND BN 442ND F  
Name Battalion Company

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**Date:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 8:12:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Chinaka Ralph 442 Service.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ralph Chinaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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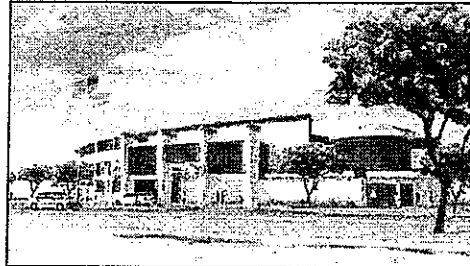
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



Nisei Legacy Center

As a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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,

*Ralph T. Chinnick*

*Ralph T. Chinnick*

Name

Battalion

*SERVICE*

Company

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Attachments:** [Arine George MIS.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Arine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service, I believe the time has come to create a legacy center that will preserve our story, not for ourselves, but for the sake of our grandchildren and future generations. More than 6,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry served in the MIS during World War II. We have been credited with saving countless lives and shortening the war against Japan. Most of what we did is unknown to most Americans, but it is a story worth telling, today and to future generations.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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 MIS does not have a clubhouse or archive. 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,

*George M. Arine*

George M. Arine

02 Sep 12

Mr. George Arine  
1722 Noelani St.  
Pearl City, HI 96782

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**Attachments:** [Arakawa Hideo 442 M Co.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hideo Arakawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

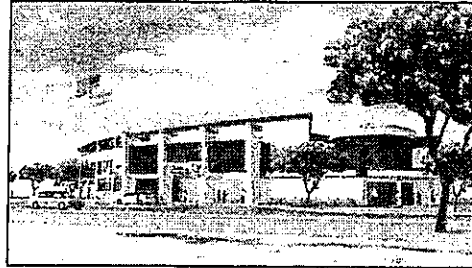
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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

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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,



HIDEO ARAKAWA  
551 KALOLINA ST  
KAILUA, HI 96734-2048

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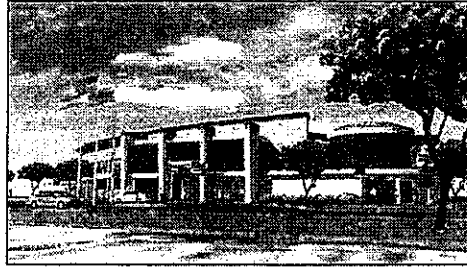
<i>Hideo Arakawa</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>"A"</i>
Name	Battalion	Company

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Nisei Legacy Center

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



*Nisei Legacy Center*

As a World War II veteran of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 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. Many say what we and the other Americans of Japanese ancestry did is an amazing story and historically significant. I see it as my contribution to my country.

Six organizations -- the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> veterans clubs and the 100<sup>th</sup> IB Legacy Organization and the 442<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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,

*ROBERT S. ARAKI*

*Robert S. Araki*  
Name

Battalion  
100<sup>th</sup>

*Co. "B"*  
Company

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [mkm900ss@yahoo.com](mailto:mkm900ss@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1317 on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 3:26:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [120823 G Matsunaga letter.pdf](#)

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**SB1317**

Submitted on: 2/12/2013

Testimony for TEC/WTL on Feb 14, 2013 13:20PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Matsunaga	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I am submitting the attached testimony on behalf of my father, George Matsunaga, of Moanalua. We are both lifelong residents and voting taxpayers of Hawaii and we ask for your favorable consideration of SB1317. As a former journalist for the Honolulu Advertiser and KHON TV who witnessed the tremendous changes in Hawaii since Territorial days, I firmly believe the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center deserves your support. What these men did in their youth, in the face of racism and suspicion, was more than outstanding military heroism and an object lesson in patriotism. As veterans, they came home to play a pivotal role in creating the State of Hawaii that you and I enjoy today. Their story deserves your support and a permanent home where it can be recorded and retold to educate future generations and newcomers about this vital ingredient of our Hawaii. Mahalo nui loa, Mark Matsunaga

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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.

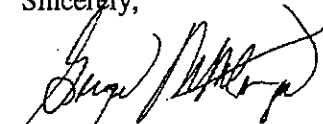
There were already AJAs in uniform when Japan attacked. Most of them became the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Later on, thousands from Hawaii volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. For the MIS AJAs, our stories are different from the guys who served in the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup>. 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