

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII.

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

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

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



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

8       Locating a Nisei veterans legacy center in West Oahu would  
9 complement academic and research programs offered at the  
10 University of Hawaii, such as the center for labor education and  
11 research's archives and the Henry Giugni film collection.

12       The Honouliuli internment camp is a major historical site  
13 located on property currently owned by Monsanto in West Oahu.  
14 The United States National Park Service, Japanese Cultural  
15 Center of Hawaii, University of Hawaii-West Oahu, the State of  
16 Hawaii, Monsanto, and other stakeholders are working to preserve  
17 and share the existing remnants of the internment camp, with a  
18 planned educational center and memorial. In 2012, the  
19 legislature established a Honouliuli advisory group to develop  
20 recommendations to help develop this site with government and  
21 private resources, and the group will continue to meet through  
22 January 1, 2014.



1           The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for the  
2 planning, design, and construction of a center in West Oahu that  
3 would incorporate a Nisei veterans legacy center and a  
4 Honouliuli internment camp educational center. The legislature  
5 intends for a matching source of private or public funds to be  
6 secured prior to the release of the appropriation.

7           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2014-2015 for the planning, design, and construction of a  
12 Nisei veterans legacy center. The department of land and  
13 natural resources shall report to the legislature no later than  
14 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
15 2014 on the status of the Nisei veterans legacy center,  
16 including funding.

17           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act;  
19 provided that no moneys appropriated under this Act shall be  
20 expended unless matched by grants or donations from public or  
21 private sources. For the purposes of this Act, the value of in-  
22 kind donations from private sources may be included for the



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

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
8 year 2014-2015 to continue the work of the Honouliuli Park Site  
9 Project Advisory Group created by Act 235, Session Laws of  
10 Hawaii, 2012.

11 The advisory group shall report to the legislature no later  
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
13 of 2014 on:

- 14 (1) Recommendations to leverage county, state, federal,  
15 and private funding for an educational resource center  
16 related to the Honouliuli Internment site; and
- 17 (2) The status of designating the Honouliuli internment  
18 prisoner of war camp site and associated sites within  
19 Hawaii as part of the United States National Park  
20 Service.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
22 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act; provided that no moneys



1 appropriated under this Act shall be expended unless matched by  
2 grants or donations from public or private sources. For the  
3 purposes of this Act, the value of in-kind donations from  
4 private sources may be included for the purpose of calculating  
5 the amount of matching funds; provided that the director of  
6 finance shall first verify the value of any such donation.

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

8



**Report Title:**

Japanese American Experience in Hawaii; Nisei Veterans Legacy Center; Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center; Appropriation; Matching Funds

**Description:**

Appropriates a blank amount of funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group. Appropriation is subject to matching funds. Allows the value of in-kind donations to be calculated in the matching amount, subject to verification by the director of finance. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

