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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO  
KEEP, IN PERPETUITY, THE EHIME MARU MEMORIAL AT ITS PRESENT  
LOCATION AT KAKAAKO WATERFRONT PARK.

1           WHEREAS, the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park  
2 is a landmark of historical and cultural significance; and

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4           WHEREAS, the memorial is a reminder of the tragedy that  
5 occurred on February 9, 2001, when the United States Navy  
6 submarine U.S.S. Greeneville was demonstrating an emergency  
7 surfacing maneuver for civilian guests and collided with the  
8 Ehime Maru, a Japanese fishing boat carrying students and  
9 teachers, causing the boat to sink to the ocean floor in waters  
10 off Oahu; and

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12           WHEREAS, nine Japanese nationals -- four students and two  
13 teachers from Uwajima Fisheries High School and three  
14 crewmembers -- needlessly lost their lives; and

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16           WHEREAS, the people of Japan suffered great anguish knowing  
17 that the senseless deaths of innocent persons could have been  
18 avoided had proper submarine protocols been followed, and many  
19 Hawaii residents were deeply affected based on cultural ties to  
20 Japan; and

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22           WHEREAS, in the years since the tragedy, the two countries  
23 have worked to improve understanding, foster goodwill, and take  
24 steps necessary to avoid a similar tragedy in the future; and

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26           WHEREAS, the people of Ehime Prefecture and the State of  
27 Hawaii, who share a sister state relationship, regard the Ehime  
28 Maru Memorial as a solemn remembrance of the victims and a  
29 source of comfort for the victims' families, especially since it  
30 overlooks the location where the Ehime Maru sank; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the  
3 Hawaii Community Development Authority's Parks Master Plan  
4 proposes that improvements be made to Kakaako Waterfront Park  
5 over a twenty-year period; and  
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7 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised in the community that  
8 the memorial could one day be relocated in light of rising real  
9 estate values spurred by luxury development in the Kakaako area;  
10 and  
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12 WHEREAS, although the Ehime Maru Memorial sits atop a man-  
13 made grassed mound that is labeled in the master plan as  
14 "unmovable", the memorial itself is not labelled and it is not  
15 sufficiently clear that the memorial's location is permanent;  
16 and  
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18 WHEREAS, any relocation of the Ehime Maru Memorial would be  
19 an affront to the nine people who died, their families, and the  
20 people of Japan and Hawaii; now, therefore,  
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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
23 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
24 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Community  
25 Development Authority is strongly urged to keep, in perpetuity,  
26 the Ehime Maru Memorial at its present location at Kakaako  
27 Waterfront Park; and  
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the  
30 Hawaii Community Development Authority is requested to provide  
31 written reassurances to the Legislature that the memorial will  
32 not be moved from its present location as part of the  
33 Authority's Parks Master Plan and will be kept in perpetuity at  
34 its present location; and  
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the  
38 State of Hawaii, the Commander of the United States Pacific  
39 Command, the United States Ambassador to Japan, the Prime  
40 Minister of Japan, the Governor of Ehime Prefecture, the Mayor  
41 of Uwajima City, the Principal of Uwajima Fisheries High School,



# H.C.R. NO. 25

1 the President of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, and the  
2 President of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association.

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OFFERED BY:

K. H.

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JAN 24 2017

