
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 AND REQUESTING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY NOT TO PERMIT ANY ALCOHOL-DISPENSING VENUE TO BE LOCATED ON THE MOUND ON WHICH THE EHIME MARU MEMORIAL IS LOCATED.

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



1 Maru Memorial as a solemn remembrance of the victims and a
2 source of comfort for the victims' families, especially since it
3 overlooks the location where the Ehime Maru sank; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the
6 Hawaii Community Development Authority's Parks Master Plan
7 proposes that improvements be made to Kakaako Waterfront Park
8 over a twenty-year period; and
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10 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised in the community that
11 the memorial could one day be relocated in light of rising real
12 estate values spurred by luxury development in the Kakaako area;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, although the Ehime Maru Memorial sits atop a man-
16 made grassed mound that is labeled in the master plan as
17 "unmovable", the memorial itself is not labelled and it is not
18 sufficiently clear that the memorial's location is permanent;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, any relocation of the Ehime Maru Memorial would be
22 an affront to the nine individuals who died, their families, and
23 the people of Japan and Hawaii; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Community Development Authority's
26 master plan for the Kakaako Waterfront Park indicates that
27 whenever a function is held at the amphitheater, a beer-garden
28 venue is planned to be located on the same mound on which the
29 Ehime Maru Memorial is located; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
32 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
33 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Community
34 Development Authority is strongly urged to keep, in perpetuity,
35 the Ehime Maru Memorial at its present location at Kakaako
36 Waterfront Park; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director of the
39 Hawaii Community Development Authority is requested to provide
40 written assurance to the Legislature that the memorial will not
41 be moved from its present location as part of the Authority's
42 Parks Master Plan and will be kept in perpetuity at its present
43 location; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that due to the sanctity of the
2 mound on which the Ehime Maru Memorial is located, the Hawaii
3 Community Development Authority is requested not to permit any
4 alcohol-dispensing venue to be located on the mound on which the
5 Ehime Maru Memorial is located; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the
9 State of Hawaii, the Commander of the United States Pacific
10 Command, the United States Ambassador to Japan, the Prime
11 Minister of Japan, the Governor of Ehime Prefecture, the Mayor
12 of Uwajima City, the Principal of Uwajima Fisheries High School,
13 the President of the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, and the
14 President of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association.

