



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



LATE

STATEMENT OF
JESSE K. SOUKI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND THE ARTS

ON

Thursday, April 13, 2017

3:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

HCR25 HD1 – 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.

David Y. Ige
Governor

John Whalen
Chairperson

Jesse K. Souki
Executive Director

Chair Taniguchi and Vice Chair English and members of the committee.

The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) offers the following **comments** on HCR 25 HD1.

This testimony reflects my view alone. The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) has not acted on this measure.

The Ehime Maru Memorial is a solemn site in the Kakaako Waterfront Park with magnificent views of the Pacific Ocean that brings comfort to the family and friends of the nine Japanese Nationals who died in the 2001 tragedy. In addition, the mikan trees planted near the memorial are a symbol of the strong friendship that has developed between the people of Hawaii and Ehime Prefecture.

The memorial is a treasured part of the Kakaako Waterfront Park, and the Hawaii Community Development Authority is honored to host it. The HCDA has no intention of moving the memorial.

The Kakaako Makai Area Parks Active Use Master Plan is the community's master plan and was developed with input from the community.

Any changes to current park use would only occur after further consultation with the stakeholders and the community and public meetings where

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everyone would be invited to provide testimony before the HCDA board makes a decision on any changes to the use of the park.

We are committed to a fair and open process driven by the community that allows everyone to enjoy the park in the best way possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 25.



LATE

To: Senator Brian T. Tagiguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on International Affairs on the Arts

Subject: **HCR 25, HD 1** – Strongly urging the Hawaii Community 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 of which the Ehime Maru Memorial is located.

Hearing: Thursday, April 13, 2017, 3:00pm
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Aloha. My name is Pavela Fiaui. I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa pursuing my degree as a social worker. I am also a veteran of the United States Military forces. I am private citizen who is testifying in support of the bill.

The history of the Ehime Maru Memorial is as important as anyone's history. Our individual histories as well as the history of Ehime Maru Memorial molded us to who we are now and to where we are now. I am sure fathers, mothers, leaders, families, friends, and individuals of different backgrounds came together and shared their mana'o (thoughts or beliefs) about where Ehime Maru Memorial should be located. I am sure it was not an easy process. So why are we trying to change it? I'm guessing money! New developments and businesses? I want to testify that we need to cherish our history and where we came from. Our relationships with other countries such as Japan is important too. Tears and blood were spilled for peace and relationship building. This is what Ehime Maru Memorial stands for. Ehime Maru Memorial is part of thousands of people's lives. Ceremonies and important events were celebrated at this location to commemorate Ehime Maru and its history. Let us continue this by leaving Ehime Maru Memorial alone. Let us cherish our history more than financial gains and other material or worldly reasons. As a veteran, it is important to me that soldiers of our country and other countries who died for our freedom is important. Let us recognized and honor them by cherishing the Ehime Maru Memorial and not remove it from its current location at Kakaako Waterfront Park.

In conclusion, I am testifying in support of this bill. I thank the Chair and the entire committee for making time to read my testimony.

Pavela Fiaui

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