



HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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

BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

ON

Thursday, March 16, 2017

9:30 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 429

in consideration of

**HCR25 – STRONGLY URGING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO KEEP, IN PERPETUITY, THE
EHIME MARU MEMORIAL AT ITS PRESENT LOCATION AT
KAKAAKO WATERFRONT PARK**

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Tokioka and members of the committee.

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

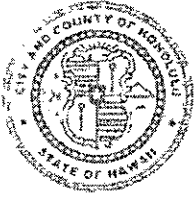
This testimony reflects my view alone. The Hawaii Community
Development Authority (HCDA) has not acted on this measure.

In my capacity as the HCDA Executive Director, I respectfully offer the
following **comments** on HCR 25.

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.

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



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LATE

**House Committee on Veterans, Military & International Affairs,
& Culture and the Arts (VMI)**

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 429

**TESTIMONY OF COUNCILMEMBER CAROL FUKUNAGA
HCR 25, STRONGLY URGING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
TO KEEP, IN PERPETUITY, THE EHIME MARU MEMORIAL AT ITS PRESENT LOCATION
AT KAKAAKO WATERFRONT PARK.**

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Tokioka, and Members of the Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs, & Culture and the Arts (VMI):

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of *HCR 25, Strongly Urging the Hawaii Community Development Authority to keep, in perpetuity, the Ehime Maru Memorial at its Present Location at Kakaako Waterfront Park*. This resolution reaffirms the cultural and historical significance of the Ehime Maru Memorial, as well as its importance in preserving relationships established between the leaders of the State of Hawaii and Ehime Prefecture to insure that the tragedy of innocent lives being lost at this Kakaako location never occurs again.

During Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Pearl Harbor with President Obama in December 2016, the Prime Minister also laid a wreath at the Ehime Maru Memorial at Kakaako Waterfront Park on December 26, 2016. He commented how he had been Cabinet Secretary during that February 9, 2001 accident, and remembered its subsequent events with sadness.

The 2017 memorial ceremony on February 9th commemorated the significant *jyuunanakalki* (or 17th anniversary memorial), and was marked by the presence of bereaved families, Ehime prefecture dignitaries and Japanese officials. In the years following the accident, Hawaii and Japan have facilitated various cultural and educational exchange programs to heal and strengthen relations between Ehime Prefecture and Hawaii. The long-term relationship has been spearheaded locally by the Japanese American Society of Hawaii (JASH), Ehime Maru Memorial Association (EMMA) and other Japan-related organizations in Hawaii.

In light of the importance of the Ehime Maru Memorial and the relationships between Japan and Hawaii during the past 17 years, I believe that the *Kakaako Makai Parks Active User Master Plan* should re-evaluate several of the proposed active and commercial activities proposed to be in close proximity to the Memorial. For example, a commercial beer garden, concessions and 'Adventure Zone' may not be compatible with the level of dignity and reverence associated with the Ehime Maru Memorial. Your Committee's actions on this resolution will help to assure that such re-evaluation and review will occur. Thank you for your consideration.