



**National Trust for
Historic Preservation**
Save the past. Enrich the future.

LATE

March 16, 2017

Senator Brian T. Taniguichi, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on International Affairs and the Arts
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Via capitol.hawaii.gov

**Re: H.B. No. 1438; Relating to the World War I Centennial
Commemoration**

Dear Chair Taniguichi and Vice Chair English:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation strongly supports H.B. No. 1438, which appropriates funding for the purpose of commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of World War I.

The National Trust has a demonstrated interest in public education about World War I to advance efforts to rehabilitate the War Memorial Natatorium. The Natatorium was built as a “living memorial,” commissioned soon after the Armistice to commemorate the 10,000 Hawaii citizens who served in the Great War. It is a fitting tribute to those who served in the war, reflecting the Hawaiian islands’ indigenous swimming traditions and role in Olympic history. And it is unique to the nation as the only known war memorial to assume the form of an ocean-side swimming pool.

Funding dedicated pursuant to H.B. No. 1438 will assist in educational efforts regarding Hawaii’s role in World War I. We anticipate that it will help to generating public interest in solutions to revive the Natatorium and honor the purposes for which it was built.

Please feel free to reach me at 415.692.8083 or bturner@savingplaces.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Turner".

Brian Turner
Senior Field Officer and Attorney