
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND HUNT COMPANIES TO
RESERVE THE EWA FIELD LAND TO PRESERVE WORLD WAR II
HISTORIC AND HAWAIIAN CULTURAL SITES AT THE FORMER MARINE
CORPS AIR STATION EWA FOR THE CREATION OF THE EWA
BATTLEFIELD MEMORIAL PARK.

1 WHEREAS, the December 7, 1941, attack on the Ewa Mooring
2 Mast Field (later re-designated Marine Corps Air Station Ewa) on
3 the island of Oahu, constitutes one of the very first points of
4 the attack against the United States which precipitated our
5 nation's entry into World War II; and
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7 WHEREAS, it is far less known that in early 1942, Ewa field
8 became the phoenix rising from the ashes to become a major U.S.
9 Navy and U.S. Marine airfield responding to the defense of the
10 Hawaiian Islands at a very crucial period when the aggressive
11 Japanese Empire was at the height of its naval power; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature unanimously passed
14 House Resolution No. 49, H.D. 1, Regular Session of 2009,
15 advocating the designation and development of Ewa field as a
16 national monument, museum, and restored park, which would
17 preserve this critical American historic site, allowing stories
18 to be told of the associated military conflicts, American
19 sacrifices, and the heroism and determination that became the
20 foundation for victory in the Pacific arena and eventually in
21 World War II itself; and
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23 WHEREAS, a national park service battlefield protection
24 grant in 2015 documented the December 7, 1941, airfield site
25 that was subsequently nominated to the Hawaii State Historic
26 Register and National Register of Historic Places in May 2016,
27 as the Ewa Plain Battlefield; and
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29 WHEREAS, new research done with a 2016 national park
30 service battlefield protection grant documenting the Ewa field



1 revetments has found that the major American response to the
2 attack of December 7, 1941, was mounted by the U.S. Navy and
3 U.S. Marines in June 1942, at the Battle of Midway from the then
4 nascent Ewa field as funds, manpower, and materiel were
5 redirected from the nearby Naval Air Station Barbers Point, just
6 beginning construction, and meant to rapidly expand Ewa field
7 into a major Navy aircraft carrier support facility to include
8 construction of approximately one hundred seventy-five air
9 attack resistant aircraft revetments in preparation for a future
10 major naval battle; and

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12 WHEREAS, further research for the National Register of
13 Historic Places nomination of the 1942 aircraft revetments has
14 determined that the aircraft flown in the June 1942, Battle of
15 Midway, a crucial turning point of the Pacific War and
16 considered as the U.S. Navy's most important battle in its
17 history with the sinking of four of the Imperial Japanese
18 aircraft carriers that bombed Pearl Harbor, can be traced
19 directly to the still existing 1942 Ewa field revetments sites;
20 and

21
22 WHEREAS, a national monument and national historic landmark
23 designation of the historic 1942 aircraft revetments at former
24 Marine Corps Air Station Ewa would further preserve and document
25 Hawaii's involvement in World War II, serving as a focal point
26 for the commemoration, remembrance, and honoring of the many
27 brave Navy and Marine pilots from those same Ewa Field aircraft
28 revetments who willingly sacrificed their lives for the
29 foundation of victory in the Pacific and in World War II; and

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31 WHEREAS, the local community and veterans have proposed a
32 protective and commemorative park solution known as the "Ewa
33 Battlefield Memorial Park" to the State and the City and County
34 of Honolulu to serve as a focal point for the commemoration,
35 remembrance, and honoring those many brave U.S. Navy and U.S.
36 Marine pilots; and

37
38 WHEREAS, the envisioned memorial park will be an
39 educational, peaceful, commemorative, environmental, and
40 ecologically self-sustaining long-term park project utilizing a
41 dedicated core of military veterans, supporting families, and



1 local community organizations including Wounded Warriors, Youth
2 Challenge Academy, and university and high school JROTC and
3 cadet scout programs that currently support annual Ewa
4 Battlefield Commemorations; and
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6 WHEREAS, the announced plans for a major new Battle of
7 Midway motion picture creating new national awareness of this
8 incredible 1942 Pacific battle and the sacrifices made during
9 this battle will further public interest in the preservation and
10 site visitation of the Marine Corps Air Station Ewa revetments
11 as a national monument and national landmark creating
12 opportunities for employment, education, and community pride for
13 the people of Hawaii; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA)
16 plans to spend \$500,000 for a new Kalaeloa Master Plan and it is
17 important that the National Park Service have a role in defining
18 a battlefield park, a matter that HCDA has no previous
19 experience with; now, therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
22 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
23 2019, that the United States government and Hunt Companies
24 reserve the Ewa Field land for the preservation of World War II
25 historic and Hawaiian cultural sites at the former Marine Corps
26 Air Station Ewa for the creation of the Ewa Battlefield Memorial
27 Park; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's Congressional
30 delegation is urged to introduce a bill to Congress requesting a
31 National Park Service feasibility study to determine whether the
32 Ewa Plain Battlefield listed on the National Register of
33 Historic Places is suitable for inclusion in the national park
34 system; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
38 Secretary of Defense of the United States, Secretary of the
39 Interior of the United States, Commander of Navy Region Hawaii,
40 each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, Executive
41 Director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority, Mayor of



H.R. NO. 164

1 the City and County of Honolulu, Director of Parks and
2 Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu, and President of
3 the Hawaii Division of Hunt Building Company, Ltd.

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OFFERED BY: *Fida Cabanilla Aukawa*

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