
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that World War II is a
2 chapter in history that must never be forgotten. Sparked by the
3 1937 Japanese invasion of China, 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland,
4 and other events, including Japan's 1941 surprise attack on
5 Pearl Harbor, the war dragged on for six years and involved more
6 than thirty countries until the Allies defeated Nazi Germany and
7 Japan in 1945. The significance of the war included the spread
8 of communism from the Soviet Union into eastern Europe as well
9 as its eventual triumph in China, and the global shift in power
10 from Europe to two rival superpowers, the United States and the
11 Soviet Union.

12 World War II was also historically significant because of
13 the horrific human suffering and deaths involved. The war was
14 the biggest and deadliest in international history, claiming the
15 lives of sixty to eighty million people. An estimated fifty to
16 fifty-five million of the war dead were civilians, including six
17 million Jews -- many murdered in Nazi concentration camps --



1 during the Holocaust. Sixteen million Americans served in World
2 War II and more than four hundred five thousand died during the
3 war, with over seventy-two thousand Americans unaccounted for to
4 this day.

5 The legislature further finds that Hawaii played an
6 important role in World War II both geographically and in terms
7 of troop contribution. The December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl
8 Harbor claimed the lives of more than twenty-three hundred
9 military personnel and led Congress to declare war on Japan.
10 Nevertheless, more than twenty thousand Nisei, or second-
11 generation Japanese in the United States, enlisted in the United
12 States Army during the war, despite the prejudice shown by
13 fellow Americans after the Pearl Harbor attack. The 442nd
14 Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in United States
15 military history, was comprised almost exclusively of Nisei,
16 including some well-known Hawaii-based Nisei who later earned
17 numerous honors and distinctions for their public service.

18 For all of these reasons, the legislature believes that the
19 State must continue to honor the sacrifices of the men and women
20 who served, and remember the suffering and loss of life of all
21 the people involved.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys to
2 commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of World
3 War II, which will be observed on September 2, 2020, with
4 programs, ceremonies, and activities.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
8 the purpose of commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of
9 the end of World War II with programs, ceremonies, and
10 activities.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state
12 department of defense for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.
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INTRODUCED BY: [Signature]

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H.B. NO. 1947

Report Title:

World War II; 75th Anniversary; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

