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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

APOLOGIZING FOR THE INTERNMENT OF PREDOMINATELY JAPANESE  
AMERICANS AT THE HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP DURING WORLD  
WAR II.

1           WHEREAS, early on December 7, 1941, as the Japanese  
2 military attacked Pearl Harbor, government officials began  
3 selectively rounding up Hawaii residents suspected of  
4 disloyalty; and

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6           WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano  
7 Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066 (EO9066), under which  
8 more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated  
9 in ten concentration camps scattered throughout the western  
10 United States and the State of Arkansas during World War II; and

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12           WHEREAS, EO9066 inflicted upon more than 120,000 Americans  
13 and residents of Japanese ancestry a great human cost of  
14 abandoned homes, businesses, farms, careers, professional  
15 advancements, disruption to family life, and public humiliation;  
16 and

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18           WHEREAS, United States Army General John L. DeWitt, the  
19 head of the Western Defense Command, alleged that, while the  
20 majority of people of Japanese ancestry living in California  
21 were loyal to the United States, many were spies for the Empire  
22 of Japan, stating that "the Japanese in this country have more  
23 [arms and ammunition] in their possession than our own armed  
24 forces"; and

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26           WHEREAS, General DeWitt informed the Governor of California  
27 and the California Legislative Assembly before President  
28 Roosevelt signed EO9066, of the plan to intern all people of  
29 Japanese ancestry on the West Coast; and

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31           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was a  
32 civilian internment camp and a prisoner of war camp with a



1 population of approximately four hundred internees and four  
2 thousand prisoners of war over the course of its use; and  
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4 WHEREAS, roughly eight hundred people were interned and  
5 eventually transported to the United States Immigration Station  
6 and the Sand Island Detention Camp on Oahu before the Honouliuli  
7 Internment Camp was established, and of these internees, nearly  
8 all were of Japanese descent; they included influential leaders  
9 of the Japanese American community who were educated, were  
10 teachers or priests, or had access to means of communication  
11 with Japan or to transportation from Hawaii; and  
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13 WHEREAS, while most civilians apprehended in the initial  
14 years of World War II would be sent to the mainland to live out  
15 the duration of the war in Department of Justice and War  
16 Relocation Authority camps, the opening of Honouliuli Internment  
17 Camp in March of 1943 provided an alternative to mainland  
18 transfer, as the camp was designed for the express purpose of  
19 confining internees and prisoners of war for longer periods of  
20 time; and  
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22 WHEREAS, during this period, the United States Army issued  
23 hundreds of military orders, some of which were applicable only  
24 to persons of Japanese ancestry and enemy aliens, for example,  
25 people of Japanese ancestry were restricted from residing in  
26 certain areas of Oahu and were forcibly removed from their  
27 properties; and  
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29 WHEREAS, by the end of World War II, over two thousand  
30 people of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii were interned, but  
31 despite the suspicion of disloyalty, none of the Japanese  
32 American internees from Hawaii were ever found to be guilty of  
33 sabotage, espionage, or overt acts against the United States;  
34 and  
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36 WHEREAS, nearly forty years after the United States Supreme  
37 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu, Min  
38 Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of Civilian  
39 Exclusion Order No. 34 (in the case of Korematsu), and curfew  
40 (in the cases of Yasui and Hirabayashi), all authorized pursuant  
41 to EO9066, it was discovered that officials from the United  
42 States Department of War and the United States Department of



1 Justice had altered, destroyed, and withheld information that  
2 evidenced the loyalty of the people of Japanese ancestry from  
3 the United States Supreme Court in those cases; and  
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5 WHEREAS, on May 24, 2011, Acting Solicitor General Neal  
6 Katyal said World War II Solicitor General Charles Fahy, who  
7 represented the United States Department of Justice in the  
8 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi cases, "acted dishonorably" by  
9 withholding relevant information; and  
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11 WHEREAS, many attorneys and interns contributed innumerable  
12 hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of  
13 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition  
14 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental  
15 errors and injustice occurred; and  
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17 WHEREAS, in 1980, the United States Congress created the  
18 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to  
19 examine the actions and impact of EO9066. The Commission held  
20 twenty days of public hearings, conducted eighteen months of  
21 thorough investigation, and published its findings in 1983,  
22 which concluded that EO9066 was not justified by "military  
23 necessity" but was due to "racial prejudice, wartime hysteria,  
24 and a failure of political leadership"; and  
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26 WHEREAS, on August 10, 1988, President Ronald Wilson Reagan  
27 signed into law the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finding  
28 that EO9066 was not justified by military necessity and,  
29 instead, was caused by "racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and  
30 a failure of political leadership"; and  
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32 WHEREAS, the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized  
33 on behalf of the people of the United States for the forced  
34 exclusion, mass removal, and incarceration of Americans and  
35 permanent residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II,  
36 and the act also provided for restitution to those individuals  
37 of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated; and  
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39 WHEREAS, given recent national events, it is all the more  
40 important to learn from the mistakes of the past and to ensure  
41 that such an assault on freedom will never again happen to any  
42 community in the United States; and



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WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 76th anniversary of the Supreme Court of the United States' decisions in the Japanese American incarceration cases, and while the Supreme Court ordered Mitsuye Endo released from incarceration, it denied, in *Korematsu v. United States*, that EO9066 reflected racial prejudice and upheld EO9066 in light of the "strategic imperative" to keep the west coast secure from invasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature apologizes to all Americans of Japanese ancestry for its past actions in support of the unjust exclusion, removal, and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and for its failure to support and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of Japanese Americans during this period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

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Indeechijon

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MAR 06 2020

