

MAR 0 6 2020

SENATE 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

5
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

11
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

17
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

25
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

30
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
28

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
35

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
25

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
38

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



1
 2 WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 76th anniversary of the
 3 Supreme Court of the United States' decisions in the Japanese
 4 American incarceration cases, and while the Supreme Court
 5 ordered Mitsuye Endo released from incarceration, it denied, in
 6 *Korematsu v. United States*, that EO9066 reflected racial
 7 prejudice and upheld EO9066 in light of the "strategic
 8 imperative" to keep the west coast secure from invasion; now,
 9 therefore,

10
 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 12 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
 13 Representatives concurring, that the Legislature apologizes to
 14 all Americans of Japanese ancestry for its past actions in
 15 support of the unjust exclusion, removal, and incarceration of
 16 Japanese Americans during World War II, and for its failure to
 17 support and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of
 18 Japanese Americans during this period; and

19
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the
 22 State of Hawaii.
 23
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 25

OFFERED BY: Clarence K. Kishimoto

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