



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaiitourismauthority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

Tuesday, February 11, 2020
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 3073
RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** Senate Bill 3073, which appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

SB3073 would help Hawai'i in its efforts to remember the sacrifices and honor the lives lost during World War II. The commemoration will bring together as many WWII veterans as possible to not only highlight the historic signing of the instrument of surrender, but also to engage and educate our community. To show our support, HTA has already committed \$500,000 to fund the 75th WWII Commemoration.

It is for these reasons that HTA **supports** SB3073. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol**

RE: SB 3073 RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 3073, which appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 as part of the Chamber, and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 resulted in the United States entering World War II. Hawaii played an integral role in the United States' efforts during the war as it served as the central location for the United States in the Pacific and many citizens from the islands served as troops. The most famous being the 442nd Regimental Combat Team comprised of Japanese Americans who went on to be the most decorated unit of its size in the history of the US Military.

In December 2019, Governor Ige announced the creation of a committee that would help to oversee this year's commemoration in Hawaii, and both the Chamber and MAC are honored to have a representative on this committee. While the federal government has allocated some funding for these celebrations, the committee is continuing to raise funds in order to support the number of events that are planned for August 29 to September 2, 2020 here in Hawaii. Support from the legislature, will help to ensure that we are able to honor one of the greatest generations in American history, as well as educate our youth about the impact that World War II left on the country and the world.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for SB 3073.