

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY  
and  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Monday, May 4, 2009  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATE MARINE CORPS AIR  
STATION EWA AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM AND RESTORED PARK  
FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 49, House Draft 1 resolves to encourage the President, Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior to preserve Marine Corp Air Station Ewa, or a portion of it, as a National Monument. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the substance of this concurrent resolution, the Department asks that the Legislature understand that given the budgetary cuts the Department has had to absorb this fiscal year and further cuts proposed in the Executive Biennium Budget request, the Department's personnel and fiscal resources are being spread thin, and already impacting departmental priorities. As such, the Department does not support the reporting requirement imposed in the House Draft 1.

As the concurrent resolution details, Marine Corp Air Station Ewa played a significant role in World War II as it was attacked before Japanese aircraft targeted Pearl Harbor. Three marines lost their lives in the initial attack on Hawaii, yet this part of the America's entry into World War II is overshadowed by the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Department believes that the Marine Corp Air Station Ewa represents a significant period in the history of Hawaii and the Nation and at the very least, parts of the Air Station should be incorporated into the Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

The Department is working with a group of interested individuals to nominate a portion of Marine Corp Air Station Ewa to the National Register of Historic Places. A National Monument designation would be an even more fitting tribute to the valor and sacrifices of all Marines.

LAURA H. THIELEN  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**fukunaga4 - Michelle**

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**From:** Chuck Prentiss [prentissc001@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2009 3:15 PM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Favor, HCR 49, HD1, (HSCR 1408)

April 28, 2009

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

HCR 49, HD1 (HSCR 1408)

URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EWA AS A  
NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII

Committee Chairs Senators Fukunaga and Espero;

At the January 8, 2009 the Kailua Neighborhood Board adopted the following motion by a vote of 13 in support and 1 abstention.

**The Kailua Neighborhood Board supports the preservation of historic portions of the area known as Ewa Field, which was a former Marine Base located at Kalaeloa.**

In adopting this motion the Kailua Neighborhood Board recognizes the importance of preserving Hawaii's historical sites, buildings and structures especially this area that played such a significant role in World War II.

The Board found it extremely significant that Ewa field was the first placed attacked on December 7, 1941 and that the first civilians of World War II were killed at this site.

Charles A. Prentiss, Ph.D.  
Chair, Kailua Neighborhood Board

**fukunaga4 - Michelle**

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**From:** todd@hawaiiivacationmagazine.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2009 12:44 AM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Subject:** Bill HCR49-Full Preservation of Ewa Field MCAS and the Fort Barrette area

Dear Sirs,

My name is Todd Wilson. I am a former member of the United States Marine Corps. I am also a part-time resident in Kapolei and the Barbers Point area.

I am writing to you today because this Bill HCR49 will effect my children's future. You see, my children(Ages 5 and 3) will be starting school in Ewa Beach this fall. I would hope that they will learn the history of Hawaii as it actually happen and not what a few individuals with questionable intentions wants the children to learn incorrectly. We can not change the past as you can not change your own past. That's all part of our own history.

The history of the attacks of Pearl Harbor,Ewa Field MCAS and Fort Barrette on Dec. 7,1941 can not be changed or altered to reflect someone else's personal feelings,hatred and /or racism. Many lives were lost on that fateful day. Soldiers and Sailors,off-duty military personnel and civilians alike were killed. We can not change that and say that it never happen. Not only preserve this area in the name history but also request that the keys to this area be returned to the military until full preservation is completed. There is no reason for any civilians to have the keys to the gates,tunnels and buildings to do who knows what and try to alter American history and to honor those brave souls gave their lives to defend our country,the Hawaiian Islands and it's people.

Please let my children learn about American history as it really happen,the truth,correct time line and the sacrifices that were made.

Sincerely with honor,  
Mahalo- Todd Wilson

**fukunaga4 - Michelle**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2009 4:09 PM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Cc:** garrypsmith@juno.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR49 on 5/4/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for EDT/PSM 5/4/2009 9:00:00 AM HCR49

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: CDR Garry P. Smith, USN  
Organization: Individual  
Address: 91-321 pupu place ewa beach, Hi 96706  
Phone: 808.392.5559  
E-mail: [garrypsmith@juno.com](mailto:garrypsmith@juno.com)  
Submitted on: 4/27/2009

**Comments:**

I strongly support this bill. It is vitally important that we, as a community, remember the past, particularly what happened at Ewa Airfield. Ft. Barrette and Ewa Airfield were the only defenders for the entire Ewa plain during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Without their action and the courage of the men at these stations we would have been more severely wounded. As it were, with these brave men we were able to prevent a second wave of attack by the Japanese and were able to recover and win the war. Keep Ewa Airfield a memorial.