
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD WAR II HONOULIULI
INTERNMENT CAMP AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND
RESTORED MEMORIAL PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order
2 9066, issued on February 19, 1942, authorized the mass forced
3 removal and detention of all Japanese-Americans living on the
4 west coast of the United States, over 110,000 persons,
5 two-thirds of whom were American citizens; and
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7 WHEREAS, the congressionally appointed Commission on
8 Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) concluded
9 in its 1983 report that the internment of Japanese-Americans was
10 caused not by the stated rationale of "military necessity" but
11 by "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political
12 leadership"; and
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14 WHEREAS, most of the Japanese in Hawaii were spared the
15 draconian treatment meted out to those on the mainland because
16 martial law had already been declared in Hawaii, because the
17 Japanese comprised over thirty-five per cent of the population
18 making it logistically difficult to detain such large numbers of
19 people, and because Hawaii's productivity depended on the
20 resident Japanese; and
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22 WHEREAS, government authorities rounded up several hundred
23 of Hawaii's Japanese-Americans in the days following the attack
24 on Pearl Harbor, took away their homes and other property, and
25 herded them into internment camps scattered throughout the
26 islands, such as at Sand Island on Oahu, Kilauea on the Big
27 Island, Haiku on Maui, and Kalaheo and Wailua on Kauai; and
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29 WHEREAS, those who were initially arrested represented
30 various leadership positions of the local Japanese immigrant
31 community, such as religious and cultural leaders, Japanese
32 language school instructors, and leaders of Japanese immigrant

1 organizations such as newspapers, prefectural groups, and social
2 or cultural groups; and

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4 WHEREAS, after neighbor island internment camps closed, the
5 camp on Sand Island became the site for detainees from all the
6 islands, and when Sand Island camp closed on March 1, 1943, the
7 vast majority of internees were transferred to camps in the
8 continental United States; and

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10 WHEREAS, the three hundred or so remaining internees were
11 then transferred to the newly built camp at Honouliuli, where
12 most were imprisoned for the duration of the war, without ever
13 being charged with a crime, and having received only token
14 hearings; and

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16 WHEREAS, the wooden barracks and tents of the Alien
17 Internment Camp, later known as POW Compound Number 6, were set
18 up in an isolated gulch in Honouliuli, now beautiful with wild,
19 natural foliage; and

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21 WHEREAS, the concrete remnants of Honouliuli's internment
22 buildings--drainage catchment and pipes, floors, foundations,
23 and walls--remain as proof of the site's former purpose, when
24 armed guards patrolled the camp, which was ringed with double
25 barbed-wire fences and guard towers; and

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27 WHEREAS, Japanese-Americans from Hawaii served in World War
28 II in numbers disproportionate to their population, mostly in
29 the segregated 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental
30 Combat Team, described as the most decorated unit in American
31 military history for its size and length of service and
32 memorialized in the Hollywood film *Go for Broke*; and

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34 WHEREAS, Japanese-Americans also served in World War II in
35 the Military Intelligence Service as translators and
36 interpreters who played a key role in the Pacific War and in the
37 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion in Hawaii; and

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39 WHEREAS, while the United States fought in World War II to
40 combat the evil of genocide and to protect freedom and democracy
41 around the globe, on the home front, our country implemented an
42 era of tremendous suppression of civil liberties due to racial
43 discrimination; and

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1 WHEREAS, the shame of the World War II internment camps is
2 a mar on our country's reputation as the great protector of
3 freedom; and
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5 WHEREAS, the detention of Japanese-Americans during World
6 War II remains a largely untold story of the great injustice
7 suffered by these loyal Americans by the United States; and
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9 WHEREAS, many former internment camps throughout the
10 country have already or will soon disappear; and
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12 WHEREAS, preserving Honouliuli's history will remind all of
13 the need to guard against the injustice bred by fear and racism,
14 and honor the memories of those who were detained at Honouliuli;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, concerned groups are planning to build a memorial
18 to tell the tragic stories of these World War II internment
19 camps and their impact on the internees and their families, to
20 encourage the protection of civil rights, with the Japanese
21 Cultural Center of Hawaii and its Hawaii Confinement Sites
22 Committee lending historical and cultural expertise to ensure
23 that the significance of the site is preserved; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
27 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
28 support a national monument, museum, and memorial park to be
29 established at the former site of the Honouliuli internment
30 camp; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government, the
33 Hawaii state government, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii,
34 and other private stakeholders are urged to work together to
35 make this memorial site a reality; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Park Service is
38 requested to play a key role in this effort, and eventually take
39 over custody, ownership, and responsibility for the memorial
40 site; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
44 United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of

1 the Interior, the President of the Monsanto Company, the
2 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Cultural
3 Center of Hawaii, and to each member of Hawaii's congressional
4 delegation.