HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2010
STATE OF HAWAII

H.R. NO. 49

HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE CITY OF HONOLULU TO HONOR ACT 15 OF THE 1921
TERRITORIAL LEGISLATURE BY PRESERVING THE WAIKIKI WAR
MEMORIAL NATATORIUM IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION ON THE WAIKIKI
SHORE.

WHEREAS, the Twenty-Fifth Legislature finds that in
upholding the legislation passed by our forefathers, this body
perpetuates the integrity of the Hawaii State Legislature and
further ensures that the laws passed today are protected and
upheld by those elected to precede this Legislature; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, the Territorial Legislature of Hawaii
passed Act 15 which approved the construction of the Waikiki War
Memorial Natatorium, a "Living Memorial" to honor the 102
servicemen from Hawaii who were killed during World War I; and

WHEREAS, completed in 1927, the Waikiki War Memorial
Natatorium located in close proximity to Diamond Head, across
from Kapiolani Park, and situated between San Souci Beach and
the Waikiki Aquarium; and

WHEREAS, designed by famed architect Louis P. Hobart, the
façade features a Beaux-Arts style ornamental arched entryway
featuring four stone eagles measuring over twenty feet tall; and

WHEREAS, the actual Memorial is a 100 by 40-meter tide fed
saltwater pool where Buster Crabbe and Johnny Weismuller trained
for the 1928 Olympics and has also been host to world-renowned
national and international swim competitions, featuring figures
such as Duke Kahanamoku, Bill Smith, Ford Konno, coach Soichi
Sakamoto and more; and

WHEREAS, although the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium has
deteriorated since its initial construction, in 2001, over four
million dollars of repairs were completed on the site including
a façade restoration and the renovation of the bleachers and
public restrooms; and

WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is listed on
both the National and Hawaii Registers of Historic Places, is
not only an architectural anchor for the Waikiki District, but
the repository of Hawaii's swimming, ocean sports and Olympic
history; and

WHEREAS, in September 2009 The Waikiki Natatorium Task
Force announced that by a 9-3 vote its recommendation to the
Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu was that the Natatorium
be demolished; and

WHEREAS, in November 2009 City and County of Honolulu Mayor
Mufi Hannemann announced that he had accepted The Waikiki
Natatorium Task Force's recommendation to demolish the
Natatorium; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this State to
preserve Hawaii's uniqueness and cultural identity for the
benefit of all its residents as well as its visitors; and

WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has
proven that Cultural Heritage Tourists are overall more
affluent, stay longer and spend more while contributing to
global understanding through cultural exchange and commerce; and

WHEREAS, cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average,
$623 per trip compared to $457 for all U.S. travelers, excluding
the cost of transportation; and

WHEREAS, heritage tourism and more broadly, historic
preservation and the efforts of the Heritage Caucus not only
benefits the State socially but economically as well; now,
therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
of 2010, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and
the City and County of Honolulu honor Act 15 of the 1921 Territorial Legislature by preserving the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium in its original location on the Waikiki shore; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and the Honolulu City Council.

OFFERED BY: