WHEREAS, our way of life, and the freedoms and opportunities that we as a democracy enjoy, have been forged with the blood of patriots willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country; and

WHEREAS, the courage and dedication of the servicemen in our armed forces were instrumental in defending our country and our allies during World War II and ultimately defeating the Axis Powers in 1945; and

WHEREAS, throughout the war, our soldiers fought with distinction in countless battlefields across the world, from the shores of Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941, to the invasion of Normandy on D-Day in June 1944, and on through the hard-fought campaigns in Europe and Asia in 1944 and 1945; and

WHEREAS, the year 2010 marks the 65th Anniversary of the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the historical legacy of our armed forces is preserved through various monuments and historical sites throughout the world that are dedicated to carrying out this work; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is blessed to house one such network of sites, the Pearl Harbor Historic Sites, which is comprised of the USS Arizona Memorial, Battleship Missouri Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park, Pacific Aviation Museum, and Pearl Harbor Historic Trail; and
WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial, built over the actual wreck of the battleship, is the final resting place for many of the ship's 1,177 crewmen who lost their lives during the Pearl Harbor attack; and

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona Memorial has for many decades served as both a poignant reminder of the heroism and valor demonstrated by our soldiers in their efforts to respond to and repel the Pearl Harbor attack, as well as the critically important historical event which catapulted the U.S. into World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Battleship Missouri Memorial is home to the USS Missouri, a battleship with a rich and unusual history, highlighted by its distinction as the site for the formal surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945, the event that ended the war; and

WHEREAS, the USS Missouri continued on for over five decades after World War II, engaging enemy forces in the Korean War as well as Operation Desert Storm while also participating in training cruises during peacetime, until the ship was decommissioned for the last time and made its final voyage to Pearl Harbor where it now rests, serving as a testament to the valor and might of our armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park is home to the historic USS Bowfin, a World War II-era submarine launched a year after the Pearl Harbor attack and nicknamed the "Pearl Harbor Avenger"; and

WHEREAS, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and Park serves a dual function, providing visitors with a wealth of information on the inner workings of a submarine as well as the history of the submarine, while also serving as a tribute to the 52 U.S. submarines and approximately 3,500 crewmen lost during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Aviation Museum is located in World War II-era hangars on historic Ford Island, providing visitors with the opportunity to learn about aviation particularly during
the World War II- and Korean War-eras, with plans to expand the
museum to include more modern exhibits; and

WHEREAS, the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail was the site of
the OR&L railroad, which was established in 1889 by Benjamin F.
Dillingham to serve the transportation needs of developing sugar
plantations on Oahu, with the Hawaiian Pineapple Company (now
known as Dole) increasing the train's freight traffic by more
than 30 percent after the turn of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, during the railroad's development, the United
States Navy began converting Pearl Harbor Lagoon into a major
naval base, and the United States Army established the largest
army base in the Pacific at Schofield Barracks, both of which
were eventually linked to Honolulu Harbor and each other by
OR&L, which transported troops and munitions to these locations
during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, the Hawaiian Railway Society was formed
to restore portions of the old railroad system as an educational
and historic community resource and in 1975, tracks in the OR&L
right-of-way from 'Ewa to Nanakuli were placed on both the
Hawaii Register of Historic places and the National Register of
Historic Places; 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 this body hereby commemorates the 65th Anniversary
of the end of World War II and acknowledges and commends the
Pearl Harbor Historic Sites Partners for their contributions to
preserving our nation's military legacy.

OFFERED BY:

[Signature]