
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HONOULIULI.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. In the decade following the September 11, 2001,
2 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City, racial
3 profiling, increases in hate crimes targeted toward specific
4 ethnic and religious groups, and the detention of individuals
5 without trial have resounded with past injustices.

6 Until September 11, 2001, the last place in the United
7 States that was attacked by foreign enemies was Pearl Harbor.
8 The Arizona Memorial became one of Hawaii's most popular tourist
9 attractions because of its significance in world history as the
10 site of the event that compelled the United States to enter
11 World War II. As part of our nation's World War II Valor in the
12 Pacific National Monument, approximately one million five
13 hundred thousand people view the Arizona Memorial each year.

14 Honouliuli is also the setting of other key World War II
15 sites. In Kapolei, Fort Barrette's cannons and road served as a
16 supply road and connector to the Kapolei Military Reservation,
17 and made Fort Barrette a target for neutralization on
18 December 7, 1941. In a pre-dawn, one-hour attack, air fighters



1 riddled Fort Barrette road with bullets. In the same hour,
2 Japanese planes launched a preemptive strike to disable military
3 aircraft on the Marine Corps Air Field in Ewa. Nearly three
4 years later, West Loch in Honouliuli was the base for Operation
5 Forager, commanded by Admiral Chester Nimitz. This victorious,
6 offensive attack in the Mariana Islands was a pivotal point in
7 World War II for Allied Forces.

8 As a result of the actions by Japan in World War II,
9 President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066,
10 which authorized the military to relocate those whom it deemed
11 to pose a threat to national security and to declare large
12 sections of the country as military areas and exclusion zones.
13 The order authorized the exclusion of persons of Japanese
14 ancestry from the entire Pacific coast. The federal Census
15 Bureau secretly provided confidential information on Japanese-
16 Americans to assist in the internment efforts. Citizens with as
17 little as one-sixteenth per cent of Japanese blood were placed
18 in the internment camps. Korean-Americans, mistakenly thought
19 to be Japanese, were also affected.

20 Without judicial process, one hundred ten thousand to one
21 hundred twenty thousand innocent Americans of Japanese ancestry
22 were unlawfully rounded up, sent to, and detained in war



1 relocation camps. Sixty-two per cent of the detainees were
2 citizens of the United States. Interrogators accused the
3 detainees of disloyalty, sabotage, and spying. These
4 accusations stung the hearts of the detainees who had committed
5 no crime. Entire families, with children born in the United
6 States, were taken out of their homes and placed in internment
7 camps with only basic belongings. Once removed, their lands
8 were seized and forfeited. The only basis for the deprivation
9 of liberty and property was that their ancestors came from
10 Japan.

11 In Hawaii, American authorities interned between one
12 thousand two hundred to one thousand eight hundred Japanese-
13 Americans. The already existing state of martial law lessened
14 the perceived need for wholesale internment. When five of the
15 relocation centers in Hawaii were closed, many of the Hawaii
16 internees were transferred to mainland internment sites. Three
17 hundred detainees remaining in Hawaii were housed in a newly
18 constructed camp in Honouliuli. While no persons were
19 officially charged, they remained in the detention centers for
20 the duration of the war. Sanji Abe, the first American of
21 Japanese ancestry to be elected to the territorial senate, and



1 Thomas Sakakihara, a member of the territorial house of
2 representatives, were among the Honouliuli internees.

3 In her landmark book, "Farewell to Manzanar," Jeanne
4 Wakatsuki Houston echoes what many survivors felt about their
5 experiences in the internment camps. Visiting the Manzanar
6 internment camp with her husband and three children decades
7 later, the author needed to remind herself that it actually
8 existed, because with time, she began to think that the
9 experiences in her young life were only a creation of her
10 imagination.

11 In Hawaii, the Alien Internment Camp in Honouliuli stands
12 as a reminder of a time when fear and prejudice overrode the
13 civil rights for which America is known. A report entitled
14 "Costs of War," written by a multi-national team of highly
15 respected scholars, shows that the actions taken in response to
16 September 11, 2001, echo the injustices experienced by innocent
17 Japanese-Americans during and following World War II.

18 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 19 (1) Provide state support toward preservation of the site
20 of the World War II internment and prisoner of war
21 camp in Honouliuli;



1 (2) Establish a mechanism to leverage county, state,
2 federal, and private funding of an educational
3 resource center at the site; and

4 (3) Memorialize the struggle for civil rights by Hawaii's
5 people.

6 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
7 resources shall establish a Honouliuli park site project
8 advisory group to develop recommendations to leverage county,
9 state, federal, and private funding for an educational resource
10 center at the Honouliuli site. The advisory group shall work
11 with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Japanese American
12 Citizens League, University of Hawaii at West-Oahu, historians,
13 and other interested stakeholders, including business, veteran,
14 community, legislative, and other organizations. The work of
15 the advisory group shall complement the Japanese Cultural Center
16 of Hawaii's goal of designating the Honouliuli internment-
17 prisoner of war camp site and associated sites within Hawaii as
18 part of the United States National Park Service.

19 (b) The advisory group shall elect a chairperson from
20 among its members. The advisory group shall be composed of:

21 (1) A member from the state historic preservation division
22 of the department of land and natural resources;



- 1 (2) A member from the University of Hawaii West Oahu;
- 2 (3) A member from the Japanese American Citizens League-
- 3 Honolulu Chapter;
- 4 (4) A member from the Historic Hawaii Foundation;
- 5 (5) A member from Monsanto;
- 6 (6) A member appointed by the speaker of the house of
- 7 representatives; and
- 8 (7) A member appointed by the president of the senate.

9 (c) The advisory group shall report to the legislature no
10 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
11 session of 2013 on:

- 12 (1) Recommendations to leverage county, state, federal,
- 13 and private funding for an educational resource center
- 14 at the Honouliuli site; and
- 15 (2) The status of designating the Honouliuli internment-
- 16 prisoner of war camp site and associated sites within
- 17 Hawaii as part of the United States National Park
- 18 Service.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the



1 activities of the advisory group pursuant to section 2 of this
2 Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act;
5 provided that no funds shall be expended unless matched on a
6 dollar-for-dollar basis by federal, private, or other external
7 funds.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



Report Title:

Honouliuli Camp Site; Advisory Group; Appropriation

Description:

Requires DLNR to establish a Honouliuli park site project advisory group to develop recommendations to leverage county, state, federal, and private funding for an educational resource center at the Honouliuli site; requires report to 2013 legislature; appropriates \$100,000 for the activities of the advisory group; requires that no funds shall be expended unless matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by federal, private, or other external funds. (CD1)

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