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# 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 1,500,000 people view  
13 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 Fort Barrette  
16 road's role as a supply road and connector to the Kapolei  
17 Military Reservation made it 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, 110,000 to 120,000 innocent  
21 Americans of Japanese ancestry were unlawfully rounded up and  
22 sent to and detained in war relocation camps. Sixty-two per



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

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



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

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

16           The purpose of this Act is to:

- 17           (1) Provide state support towards preservation of the site  
18               of the World War II internment and prisoner of war  
19               camp in Honouliuli;
- 20           (2) Establish a mechanism to leverage county, state,  
21               federal, and private funding of an educational  
22               resource center at the site; and



1 (3) Memorialize the struggle for civil rights by Hawaii's  
2 people.

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

16 (b) Members of the advisory group shall be appointed by  
17 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of  
18 the senate.

19 (c) The advisory group shall report to the legislature no  
20 later than twenty days prior to the regular session of 2013 on:



1 (1) Recommendations to leverage county, state, federal,  
2 and private funding for an educational resource center  
3 at the Honouliuli site; and

4 (2) The status of designating the Honouliuli internment-  
5 prisoner of war camp site and associated sites within  
6 Hawaii as part of the United States National Park  
7 Service.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for  
11 deposit into the Hawaii historic preservation special fund  
12 established under section 6E-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii  
14 historic preservation special fund the sum of \$100,000 or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to  
16 accelerate the collection, preservation, and organization of  
17 resources related to the World War II internment experience in  
18 Hawaii.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
20 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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**Report Title:**

Honouliuli Camp Site; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of land and natural resources 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 deposit into the Hawaii historic preservation special fund; requires moneys to be expended to accelerate the collection, preservation, and organization of resources related to the World War II internment experience in Hawaii. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

