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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a Nisei veterans  
2 legacy center would preserve, perpetuate, and share the legacy  
3 of the Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in the United  
4 States armed forces in World War II. Such a center would  
5 provide research and educational programs, outreach efforts, and  
6 displays for residents and visitors. The establishment of a  
7 Nisei veterans legacy center would create a facility dedicated  
8 to researching, preserving, and interpreting the history of the  
9 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military  
10 Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion  
11 to develop deeper understandings of their unique place in  
12 Hawaiian, American, and global history.

13           A Nisei veterans legacy center would curate materials and  
14 artifacts to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of the Nisei  
15 soldiers of World War II who fought loyally and valiantly  
16 against the Axis powers on the European and Pacific  
17 battlefields, while having to combat distrust, racial prejudice,  
18 and discrimination at home. A Nisei veterans legacy center



1 would examine race, loyalty, citizenship, and "Americanism"  
2 against the backdrop of martial law, internment, and the  
3 fragility of civil liberties and civil rights during that era,  
4 and demonstrate how the Nisei soldiers' battlefield experiences  
5 and sacrifices contributed to political leadership, social  
6 movements, and social transformation in Hawaii and the United  
7 States.

8       Locating a Nisei veterans legacy center in West Oahu would  
9 complement academic and research programs offered at the  
10 University of Hawaii, such as the center for labor education and  
11 research's archives and the Henry Giugni film collection.

12       The Honouliuli internment camp is a major historical site  
13 located on property currently owned by Monsanto in West Oahu.  
14 The United States National Park Service, Japanese Cultural  
15 Center of Hawaii, University of Hawaii-West Oahu, the State of  
16 Hawaii, Monsanto, and other stakeholders are working to preserve  
17 and share the existing remnants of the internment camp, with a  
18 planned educational center and memorial. In 2012, the  
19 legislature established a Honouliuli advisory group to develop  
20 recommendations to help develop this site with government and  
21 private resources, and the group will continue to meet through  
22 January 1, 2014.



1           The purpose of this Act is to make appropriations for the  
2 planning, design, and construction of a center in West Oahu that  
3 would incorporate a Nisei veterans legacy center and a  
4 Honouliuli internment camp educational center. The legislature  
5 intends for a matching source of private or public funds to be  
6 secured prior to the release of the appropriation.

7           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2014-2015 for the planning, design, and construction of a  
12 Nisei veterans legacy center.

13           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
14 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act;  
15 provided that no moneys appropriated under this Act shall be  
16 expended unless matched by grants or donations from public or  
17 private sources.

18           For the purposes of this Act, the value of in-kind  
19 donations from private sources may be included for the purpose  
20 of calculating the amount of matching funds; provided that the  
21 director of finance shall first verify the value of any such  
22 donation.



1 SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources  
2 shall report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
3 to the convening of the regular session of 2014 on the status of  
4 the Nisei veterans legacy center, including funding.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2014-2015 to continue the work of the Honouliuli Park Site  
10 Project Advisory Group created by Act 235, Session Laws of  
11 Hawaii, 2012.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
13 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act; provided that no moneys  
14 appropriated under this Act shall be expended unless matched by  
15 grants or donations from public or private sources.

16 For the purposes of this Act, the value of in-kind  
17 donations from private sources may be included for the purpose  
18 of calculating the amount of matching funds; provided that the  
19 director of finance shall first verify the value of any such  
20 donation.



1 SECTION 5. The advisory group shall report to the  
2 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
3 the regular session of 2014 on:

4 (1) Recommendations to leverage county, state, federal,  
5 and private funding for an educational resource center  
6 related to the Honouliuli Internment site; and

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

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Japanese American Experience in Hawaii; Nisei Veterans Legacy Center; Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center; Appropriation; Matching Funds

**Description:**

Appropriates a blank amount of funds for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group. Appropriation is subject to matching funds. Allows the value of in-kind donations to be calculated in the matching amount, subject to verification by the director of finance. Effective 07/01/2050. (SD2)

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