

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of House Finance,

As a member of our Hawaii community, I am pleased to add my strong support to HB 1947, the 75th WWII Commemoration bill under review.

National legislation was passed creating the 75th WWII Commemoration, ensuring that as a nation, we remember and honor veterans and civilians, members of “Our Greatest Generation” who stepped forward to defend freedom. National Honorary Chairpersons, Senator Bob and Elizabeth Dole, and our State Honorary Chairmen, Gov. Ige and ADM Davidson, Commander, U.S. IndoPACOM, have committed their support to this effort.

Pearl Harbor holds the unique distinction of being the only place where people can experience the bookends of WWII – we often forget this historic impact. The Pearl Harbor National Monument stands in tribute to those who perished during the attack that launched our entry into this global conflict and the Battleship Missouri Memorial, now proudly moored in Pearl Harbor, reminds our nation of the end of conflict and the beginning of peace and global friendship that has changed our world.

The goals of the 75th WWII Commemoration here in Hawaii are straightforward and deliver impact beyond the commemoration events.

- **Create renewed / heightened awareness of our historic impact**
- **Develop programs, exhibits, events, experiences and curricula** that combine to engage communities throughout the State and beyond
- **Broadly communicate the significance** of the 75th WWII Commemoration, the Pearl Harbor historic sites, and the Battleship Missouri Memorial as an international symbol of global peace
- **Collaborate with the DoD, National WWII Memorial in Washington D.C., and the Arsenal of Democracy,**
to leverage exposure of both bookends of the 75th WWII Commemoration, the End of War in Europe, May 8th, 2020, and the End of War in the Pacific, September 2, 2020, promoting national and international engagement
- **Build a lasting impact** by promoting participation by local, national and international visitors,

We seek to educate and promote community engagement, throughout the State, bringing to the forefront oral histories, artifacts, and exhibits that showcase the role Hawaii played throughout the war years and beyond. Sharing history, the stories of our WWII veterans, the remembrances of neighborhoods, and thus inspiring young people in the core values of service, patriotism, and support of freedom.

It is envisioned that this educational programming will help fill in the gaps of recorded history, will help build community pride and engagement in commemoration activities and those that live on, celebrating our collective commitment to peace and global friendship. The Commemoration also provides a forum to explore the impact of emerging technologies, then and now, that provide a gateway to the future for our youth.

The programs, events, ceremonies, tributes, and exhibits planned will:

- Highlight the role of Hawaii communities during WWII, collecting stories, artifacts, and oral histories that can live on in museums, libraries and other sources of learning;
- Embrace Hawaii's diversity, honoring the role of groups whose impact and contributions to the war effort during the 1940's and after has been overlooked by history;
- Support community-based initiatives that promote local use of and participation in Hawaii's historic treasures;
- Ensure diverse activities/experiences throughout 2020 and beyond;
- Provide unique and authentic Hawai'i experiences that benefit local communities and strengthen the quality of the destination expectations;
- Create high level local engagement with visiting populations who also seek to remember, honor, and participate in the celebration of the end of a global conflict;
- Strengthen awareness for and the significance of the Pearl Harbor Historic sites as a learning destination for local, national and international visitors;
- Engage media through streaming to share the Hawaii events statewide, nationally, and globally.

We urge your support of this important effort.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii tourismauthority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, February 24, 2020
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1947 HD1
RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Finance: the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** House Bill 1947 HD1, which appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

HB1947 would help Hawai'i in its efforts to remember the sacrifices and honor the lives lost during World War II. The commemoration will bring together as many WWII veterans as possible to not only highlight the historic signing of the instrument of surrender, but also to engage and educate our community. To show our support, HTA has already committed \$500,000 to fund the 75th WWII Commemoration.

It is for these reasons that HTA **supports** HB1947 HD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.



FORD ISLAND, HAWAII

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
ADM Ronald J. Hays, USN (Ret.)

February 23, 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN
Clinton R. Churchill

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance Committee,

VICE CHAIRMAN
Peter Starn

As a member of our Hawaii community, and a resident of Hawaii Kai, I am pleased to add my strong support to HB 1974, the 75th WWII Commemoration bill under review.

VICE PRESIDENTS
Charles K. Cotton
RADM Alma M. Grocki, USN (Ret.)
Gen Raymond E. Johns, Jr. USAF (Ret.)
Lt Gen Daniel P. "Fig" Leaf, USAF (Ret.)
Maj Gen Edward V. Richardson, USAF (Ret.)
ADM R. J. "Zap" Zlatoper, USN (Ret.)

The passage of National Legislation, under the authority of the DOD established our nation's commitment to honor and recognize the patriotism and sacrifice of our WWII veterans and civilians who stepped forward to defend our freedom. The legislation provides the foundation for a national effort to conduct "bookend" ceremonies, tributes, events and educational programs that pass on the legacy of "Our Greatest Generation." These bookend ceremonies are scheduled for May 6-10 in Washington DC to remember the end of war in Europe and from August 29 – September in Hawaii, to remember the end of war in the Pacific. The Honorary Co-Chairmen for the national effort are Senator Bob and Elizabeth Dole. In Hawaii, our State honorary co-chairmen are Governor Ige and ADM Philip Davidson, Commander, Indo-Pacific command.

SECRETARY
Richard M. May, Jr.

TREASURER
Darrell G. Welch, Jr.

DIRECTORS
Kenneth R. Bailey
Brad Ball
Aileen B. Blanc
Rick Blangiardi
David P. Brostrom
Henry "Hank" P. Bruckner
Maria Carl
Dr. Song Choi
Gregory F. Coleman
Robert A. Dunn
Michael Fetyko
Alexander "Sandy" Gaston
Jim Hickerson
Shannon Holman
Walter K. Kaneakua
Ruth Limtiaco
Robert P. Moore
Maurice Myers
Donn Parent
Rick Price
James K. Schuler
Michael Shealy
Edward J. "Joe" Shoen
Dean Shults
Tammie Jo Shults
John T. Sterling
Ryan Yanagihara

Our active committee under the leadership of MajGen Darryll Wong, USAF (Ret) and CAPT Steve Colon, USN (Ret), represents all segments of our community and is working toward ensuring that take this opportunity to engage our communities in programs, events, and experiences that educate, inform, and inspire young and old alike. Of special consideration here in Hawaii, our goals are two-fold: to remind our communities of the strategic role of Hawaii, then in now, in support of freedom and, at the national level, to generate awareness for Pearl Harbor and its unique position as the only American WWII battlefield that welcomes millions of worldwide visitors annually who come specifically to stand on this hallowed ground.

To deliver on these goals, the committee will oversee efforts to:

- **Create renewed / heightened awareness of our historic impact**
- **Develop programs, exhibits, events, experiences and curricula** that combine to engage communities throughout the State and beyond
- **Communicate the significance** of the 75th WWII Commemoration, the Pearl Harbor historic sites, and the Battleship Missouri Memorial as an international symbol of global peace
- **Collaborate with the DoD, National WWII Memorial in Washington D.C., and the Arsenal of Democracy**, to leverage exposure of both bookends of the 75th WWII Commemoration,
- **Build a lasting impact** by promoting participation by local, national and international visitors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Elissa Lines

ADVISORY BOARD
ADM Stanley R. Arthur, USN (Ret.)
Superintendent Jacqueline Ashwell, NPS
VADM Michael Bowman, USN (Ret.)
Gerald Coffee
LtGen Thomas L. Conant, USMC (Ret.)
Gen John K. Davis, USMC (Ret.)
Anthony DeSanctis
Donald W. Fenton
RADM Ken Fisher, USN (Ret.)
BGen Jerome Hagen, USMC (Ret.)
ADM Thomas B. Hayward, USN (Ret.)
Gen. John Lorber, USAF (Ret.)
Gen. Merrill A. McPeak, USAF (Ret.)
Gen. Gary North, USAF (Ret.)
William C. Oberlin
LtGen Duane Thiessen, USMC (Ret.)
BrigGen Chuck Yeager, USAF (Ret.)

Locally, we will educate and promote community engagement, throughout the State, bringing to the forefront oral histories, artifacts, and exhibits that showcase the role Hawaii played throughout the war years and beyond. Sharing history, the stories of our WWII veterans, the remembrances of neighborhoods, and thus inspiring young people in the core values of service, patriotism, and support of freedom. We urge your support of this important effort.

Mahalo,

Elissa Lines
Executive Director



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday, February 24, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: HB 1947 HD1, RELATING TO WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 1947 HD1, which appropriates funds for programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council (MAC) was established in 1985 as part of the Chamber, and advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 resulted in the United States entering World War II. Hawaii played an integral role in the United States' efforts during the war as it served as the central location for the United States in the Pacific and many citizens from the islands served as troops. The most famous being the 442nd Regimental Combat Team comprised of Japanese Americans who went on to be the most decorated unit of its size in the history of the US Military.

In December 2019, Governor Ige announced the creation of a committee that would help to oversee this year's commemoration in Hawaii, and both the Chamber and MAC are honored to have a representative on this committee. While the federal government has allocated some funding for these celebrations, the committee is continuing to raise funds in order to support the number of events that are planned for August 29 to September 2, 2020 here in Hawaii. Support from the legislature, will help to ensure that we are able to honor one of the greatest generations in American history, as well as educate our youth about the impact that World War II left on the country and the world.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for HB 1947 HD1.

HB-1947-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 12:38:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why are we glorifying war? There's plenty of WWII reminders around our islands. In addition, Hawai'i was not a state during that time so why is our state providing money?



HONORARY FOUNDER
Senator Daniel K. Inouye

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CHAIRMAN
Tim Guard

**PRESIDENT &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Michael A. Carr

VICE CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY
CAPT Steve Colon,
USN (Ret.)

TREASURER
Carleton L. Williams

Vic Angoco
Michael J. Chun, PhD
Murray Clay
Bonnie Fong
RADM Alma Grocki,
USN (Ret.)
RADM Peter Gumataotao,
USN (Ret.)
CAPT Jeffrey James,
USN (Ret.)
Doug Johnstone
CAPT Jack Laufer,
USCGR (Ret.)
Judy Yuriko Lee
Revell K. Newton
Mark Polivka

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
VADM Robert K.U. Kihune,
USN (Ret.)

DIRECTORS EMERITUS
ADM Ronald J. Hays,
USN (Ret.)
ADM Thomas B. Hayward,
USN (Ret.)
VADM Robert K.U. Kihune,
USN (Ret.)
Norman F. Reeder
ADM R. J. "Zap" Zlatoper,
USN (Ret.)

LATE



To: Members of the House Finance Committee

RE: Support for HB1947, which will provide \$250,000 to support the 75th World War II Commemoration

My name is Michael Carr, and I am the President and CEO of the USS Missouri Memorial Association. I am testifying in support of HB1947.

This bill will provide financial support for the activities planned for August 29-Sept 2, 2020 to honor the 75th anniversary of the End of WWII in Hawaii and to recognize and honor the men and women of the Greatest Generation who fought in that war for the freedom of not just the United States but for all freedom loving peoples of the world. This will likely be the last time that we as a nation can do these veterans this honor because the youngest ones are in their 90's.

The USS Missouri, one the US Navy's most famous ships, is of course where WWII ended for all the nations of the world on Sept 2, 1945 in Tokyo Bay. Now permanently anchored at Pearl Harbor, just 500 yards from the Arizona Memorial where WWII began for the United States, they both represent the bookends of WWII for Americans. Although she was built for war, the Missouri, within 2 years of her launching, instead became an international symbol of peace and reconciliation- a message we impart to our visitors every day. In 2019, we welcome almost 600,000 visitors and have welcomed over 9 Million since we opened in 1999.

National legislation was passed last year to lend support of these remembrances both in Hawaii and in Washington DC, where the end of WWII in Europe will be recognized in May. The National Co-Chairs and Senators Bob and Elizabeth Dole and in Hawaii the Honorary Chairs are Gov David Ige and ADM Philip Davidson, the CO of INDO PACOM Command. The Dept of Defense is lending logistical and material support to all these activities and we expect many high-level leaders from all the countries who signed the peace document to attend as well.

The programs, events, ceremonies, tributes and exhibits planned will:

- Highlight the role of Hawaii communities during WWII, collecting stories, artifacts, and oral histories that can live on in museums, libraries and other sources of learning;
- Embrace Hawaii's diversity, honoring the role of groups whose impact and contributions to the war effort during the 1940's and after has been overlooked by history;
- Support community-based initiatives that promote local use of and participation in Hawaii's historic treasures;
- Ensure diverse activities/experiences throughout 2020 and beyond;
- Provide unique and authentic Hawai'i experiences that benefit local communities and strengthen the quality of the destination expectations;
- Create high level local engagement with visiting populations who also seek to remember, honor, and participate in the celebration of the end of a global conflict;
- Strengthen awareness for and the significance of the Battleship Missouri Memorial as a learning destination for local, national and international visitors;
- Engage media through streaming to share the Hawaii events statewide, nationally, and globally.

I urge, along with all the members of the 75th Commemoration Committee, your support of this important initiative.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Carr
President & Chief Executive Officer

LATE

HB-1947-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2020 10:09:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mufi Hannemann	Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann

President & CEO

Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Finance

House Bill 1947 HD1: Relating to World War II Commemoration

Chair Luke and members of the committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers —supports **House Bill 1947 HD1** which relates to the upcoming World War II Commemoration.

Hawai'i shares a unique place in the history of World War II; Pearl Harbor serves as the unofficial bookends of the United States' role in the war. The surprise attack by Japan and its eventual surrender upon the deck of the USS Missouri both occurred in O'ahu's waters and Hawai'i's role in the war will forever hold a place in the history books.

The planned 75th World War II commemoration is an extremely important occasion as many of the veterans of Pearl Harbor and World War II are well into their 90's, and this may very well be the final time to honor them, their sacrifices, and the sacrifices of their comrades on such an auspicious anniversary. Moreover, the occasion presents a significant educational opportunity for our community. HLTA is committed to providing educational opportunities of this nature for our members and the Hawai'i community as a whole, and we look forward to utilizing the 75th commemoration to bring together people of all generations in various community engagement activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.