

MAR 14 2007

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUING TO SERVE  
HAWAII'S VISITORS WHO COME TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO  
THE VARIOUS MEMORIALS AT PEARL HARBOR.

1           WHEREAS, for more that thirty years, over 1.6 million  
2 visitors annually come to one of Oahu's historic memorials, the  
3 USS ARIZONA, only to be subjected to excessively long lines for  
4 entry, lack of shelter from the sun and rain, and insufficient  
5 amenities, such as; refreshments, restroom facilities and  
6 comfortable seating; and  
7

8           WHEREAS, to rectify this blight that has for so many years  
9 reflected negatively on our great State, in December 2004, the  
10 Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, as a public service, was opened to  
11 provide those comforts needed and desired by our visitors; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the livelihood of our local vendors and their  
14 trained staff is now at risk if these services are to be  
15 discontinued as is now being planned; and  
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17           WHEREAS, these hard working people have served over 900,000  
18 hot meals, provided low cost visitor transportation to Pearl  
19 Harbor, and created a first ever marketing program for all five  
20 attractions, resulting in vastly improved visitor counts and  
21 revenues, while offering their services at fair prices; and  
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23           WHEREAS, all of the neighboring memorials were engaged and  
24 challenged by the U.S. Navy to correct this disservice and to  
25 provide these amenities identified in a study conducted and  
26 published in 1999, for reasons either of discontent, lack of  
27 funding or minimal desire to cooperate with each other, out of  
28 visitor necessity the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center was conceived  
29 and dutifully assumed responsibility to service our local,  
30 regional and foreign guests; and  
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32           WHEREAS, none of the non-profit neighboring memorials (USS  
33 ARIZONA MARINE REMEMBRANCE, USS BOWFIN, USS MISSOURI and the  
34 Pacific Aviation Museum) could find common ground to cooperate  
35 with each other to provide a comprehensive "Pearl Harbor Day"



1 experience for visitors during which all of the memorials could  
2 be visited; the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center led the drive for  
3 consolidated ticketing to enhance the attendance of the entire  
4 area; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, in the spring of 2007, the National Park Service  
7 is scheduled to be in receivership of the entire Pearl Harbor  
8 Visitor Center at the Halawa Landing area; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, it is a moral imperative that the National Park  
11 Service make accommodating visitors their top priority in all  
12 decisions; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the services now provided by the Pearl Harbor  
15 Visitor Center will no longer exist for over a year, should the  
16 current plan be executed; a new comprehensive plan, which will  
17 enhance visitors' experience, rather than inconveniencing them,  
18 must be drafted, accepted and executed; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the local Pearl Harbor Visitor Center  
21 concessionaires, who have mortgaged their homes and taken large  
22 loans to open their own businesses, be grandfathered into the  
23 future plan; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, any commercial service plan be reviewed, validated  
26 and accepted by the U.S. Navy, the common landlord, prior to  
27 execution; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the comprehensive concession plan take into  
30 account the importance of shared revenues received with all  
31 other memorials of Pearl Harbor; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,  
35 that all decisions made by the National Park Service regarding  
36 the future of Pearl Harbor be reviewed and accepted by a common  
37 broker, the U.S. Navy; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the local businesses and  
40 employees of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center should remain open  
41 as a service to the public until the National Park Service plan  
42 can provide comparable services; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when drafted and executed, the  
2 National Park Service plan give first right of refusal to the  
3 current local vendors to be a part of the concessionaire plan;  
4 and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the National Park  
8 Service, the USS Bowfin, the USS Missouri and the Pacific  
9 Aviation Museum.  
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