

FEB 02 2009

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AIR  
STATION EWA AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED  
PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, as international tensions intensified and military  
2 conflicts broke out in Europe and Asia prior to America's entry  
3 into World War II, Japan resented what they perceived to be U.S.  
4 interference in the affairs of the Far East; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, Japan decided to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet  
7 based in Pearl Harbor and all Army, Navy, and Marine air forces  
8 on Oahu to ensure that the United States could not hinder  
9 Japan's plans for conquest in Asia and the Pacific; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, in order to attain this objective, Japan sent a  
12 powerful naval force of six aircraft carriers and supporting  
13 ships across the Pacific Ocean to attack American forces based  
14 on the island of Oahu; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, in the early stages of that attack, at  
17 approximately 7:53 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941,  
18 Lieutenant Kiyokuma Okajima led nine Mitsubishi Type 0 (Zero)  
19 carrier fighters from the aircraft carrier Hiryu toward the Ewa  
20 Mooring Mast Field (later re-designated Marine Corps Air Station  
21 Ewa) on the island of Oahu, and coming from the north, the  
22 fighters flew as low as twenty feet over the unsuspecting Marine  
23 Corps airfield, and in subsequent firing passes, destroyed many  
24 of the forty-nine aircraft there, damaging buildings and  
25 equipment; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, within minutes, fighters from the aircraft  
28 carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu arrived over the Ewa Mooring  
29 Mast Field and caused further destruction at the base; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the attack on Ewa Mooring Mast Field was so  
32 precise and well-executed that it appeared as though the



1 Japanese fighters had previously selected their particular  
2 targets with the purpose of riddling them, and setting fire to  
3 the gas tanks so as to render them useless for pursuit and  
4 interception; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field lay along the departure  
7 route for many Japanese aircraft flying toward their rendezvous  
8 point northwest of Kaena Point, those aircraft subjected the  
9 field to additional strafing attacks and completed the  
10 destruction of thirty-three aircraft and the damage to sixteen  
11 others of the forty-nine present; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, within minutes, the Marines mounted a gallant  
14 defense of their base, while the remainder of the Japanese  
15 strike force attacked Pearl Harbor and other airfields on Oahu;  
16 and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the bravery of the United States Marines at Ewa  
19 showed itself in full force that morning, with the men fighting  
20 gallantly in the face of a ruthless and determined enemy who  
21 carried out their mission of neutralizing any American aircraft  
22 that could intercept and counterattack the Japanese invaders;  
23 and  
24

25 WHEREAS, in one example of courage, Private William G.  
26 Turner, who died of his wounds and received a posthumous Bronze  
27 Star, assisted Master Technical Sergeant Emil S. Peters who  
28 jumped into the rear cockpit of a SBD-2 dive bomber, with Peters  
29 firing from the cockpit as Turner fed ammunition; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, the Japanese aircraft also inflicted other  
32 casualties among the Marines at the Ewa Mooring Mast Field,  
33 killing three men and wounding thirteen others; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, Sergeant Carlo A. Micheletto, Private First Class  
36 Edward S. Laurence, and Private William G. Turner, gave their  
37 lives in defense of their country, and two civilian residents of  
38 Ewa, Yaeko Lillian Oda and Francisco Tacderan, also lost their  
39 lives as a result of the attack; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, Japanese Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga, leader of the  
42 first wave fighter unit from the aircraft carrier Kaga, while  
43 strafing the parked planes at Ewa Field with his 7.7 mm machine  
44 guns, recorded for posterity the account of a lone Marine, who



1 stood amidst the gunfire striking the ground around him and  
2 bravely emptied his sidearm at the aircraft attacking overhead,  
3 a man in whom Lieutenant Shiga found the "spirit of dogged  
4 tenacity that was the very embodiment of bravery and valor" that  
5 he did not expect from an American, and commented that this  
6 Marine was the bravest soldier he ever encountered; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, two Army Air Force fighter pilots from Wheeler  
9 Field, Second Lieutenants Kenneth M. Taylor and George S. Welch,  
10 engaged Japanese dive bombers in the vicinity of the Ewa Mooring  
11 Mast Field in one of the most famous dogfights of the war; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field constitutes one of the  
14 very first points of the attack against the United States which  
15 precipitated our nation's entry into World War II; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, during 1941, the Marine Corps developed the Ewa  
18 Mooring Mast Field which later, as Marine Corps Air Station Ewa,  
19 served through World War II; and  
20

21 WHEREAS, the designation and development of Ewa Field as a  
22 National Monument, Museum, and Restored Park would preserve this  
23 critical American historic site, allowing stories to be told of  
24 the associated military conflicts, American sacrifices, and the  
25 heroism and determination that became the foundation for victory  
26 in the Pacific arena and eventually in World War II itself; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, a National Monument at the former Marine Corps Air  
29 Station Ewa would further preserve documentation of Hawaii's  
30 involvement in World War II, serving as a focal point for the  
31 observation, remembrance, and expression of American patriotism,  
32 honoring those who served within its gates; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, the preservation of Marine Corps Air Station Ewa  
35 as a National Monument would create opportunities for  
36 employment, education, and community pride for the people of  
37 Hawaii; now, therefore,  
38

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the President of the  
42 United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of  
43 the Interior are respectfully encouraged to preserve Marine



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1 Corps Air Station Ewa, or a portion of it, as a National  
2 Monument; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
6 United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of  
7 the Interior, and to each member of Hawaii's congressional  
8 delegation.  
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OFFERED BY:

*Will Eyo*  
*Ross B...*  
*Mike H...*  
*J. K. G...*  
*Chris Zuk...*

