

FEB 02 2009

## SENATE RESOLUTION

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  
33 Japanese fighters had previously selected their particular  
34 targets with the purpose of riddling them, and setting fire to



1 the gas tanks so as to render them useless for pursuit and  
2 interception; and  
3

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 WHEREAS, Japanese Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga, leader of the  
40 first wave fighter unit from the aircraft carrier Kaga, while  
41 strafing the parked planes at Ewa Field with his 7.7 mm machine  
42 guns, recorded for posterity the account of a lone Marine, who  
43 stood amidst the gunfire striking the ground around him and  
44 bravely emptied his sidearm at the aircraft attacking overhead,



1 a man in whom Lieutenant Shiga found the "spirit of dogged  
2 tenacity that was the very embodiment of bravery and valor" that  
3 he did not expect from an American, and commented that this  
4 Marine was the bravest soldier he ever encountered; and  
5

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
39 that the President of the United States, the Secretary of  
40 Defense, and the Secretary of the Interior are respectfully  
41 encouraged to preserve Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, or a  
42 portion of it, as a National Monument; and  
43



S.R. NO. 19

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

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