

# HCR25 HD1

Measure Title: STRONGLY URGING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO KEEP, IN PERPETUITY, THE EHIME MARU MEMORIAL AT ITS PRESENT LOCATION AT KAKAAKO WATERFRONT PARK AND REQUESTING THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY NOT TO PERMIT ANY ALCOHOL-DISPENSING VENUE TO BE LOCATED ON THE MOUND ON WHICH THE EHIME MARU MEMORIAL IS LOCATED.

Report Title: Ehime Maru Memorial; Permanent Location

Description:

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: IAA

Introducer(s): ITO, CACHOLA, CHOY, HASHEM, OHNO, SAY, TAKAYAMA, TOKIOKA, YAMASHITA



I strongly support the HCR25 HD1 measure to urge the Hawaii Community Development Authority to keep the Ehime Maru Memorial at its present location at Kakaako Waterfront Park and not to permit any alcohol-dispensing venue to be located on the mound on which the Ehime Maru Memorial is located.

The Ehime Maru Memorial, erected in 2002 as a tribute to the innocent victims of an unfortunate accident between a surfacing U.S. Navy submarine and a Japanese fisheries high school training vessel, stands today overlooking the Oahu south shore as a lasting symbol of the strong relationship cultivated over the years between the United States and Japan.

Every year, hundreds of people from Japan visit the Ehime Maru Memorial to remember the nine students, teachers and crewmen who died in the tragedy. Families and friends of the victims have been gathering on the anniversary of the accident every year ever since the memorial was built. On important anniversaries, the governors of the Ehime and Hawaii sister states, mayors of the Uwajima and Honolulu sister cities and other officials visit the memorial to remember the victims. Japanese prime ministers, ambassadors and various high-level officials have paid their respects with wreath-laying ceremonies at the memorial. Several hundred members of the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force alone visit the memorial each year—another 190 newly commissioned JMSDF officers are scheduled to render honors on June 5, 2017—as is the tradition of the Japan Training Squadron during its Hawaii port visit.

I have coordinated weekly cleanings of the Ehime Maru Memorial by community volunteers since the memorial was unveiled in February 2002, at first with Masao Wakatake, until his untimely death in 2004. During the past 15 years, more than a hundred groups from Hawaii, the mainland and abroad—local community organizations, high school clubs, university study groups, companies, visiting units of Japan Self Defense Forces, churches, families, among others—have willingly volunteered to participate in the cleaning schedule each week. Most of the groups volunteering at the very beginning are still participating in the maintenance multiple times per year, involving hundreds of their members over the years. The volunteers understand and appreciate the memorial's true significance and are willing to give up their free time to ensure the Ehime Maru Memorial remains as a lasting remembrance of the victims of the unfortunate tragedy.

As a director of the Ehime Maru Memorial Association, I respectfully request and strongly urge the Hawaii Community Development Authority to support the House Concurrent Resolution to keep the Ehime Maru Memorial at its present location overlooking the vessel's point of departure, impact site and final resting place. I further urge that no alcohol-dispensing facility be permitted on the same mound or in the vicinity to detract from the integrity of the memorial. It must remain a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives in the tragedy and a perpetual symbol of friendship between the United States and Japan.

Kenneth Saiki, Director, Ehime Maru Memorial Association  
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# SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL

April 11, 2017

Re: HCR HD1

Saint Louis School's Japanese Club was one of the first organizations to come forward and volunteer to provide maintenance and cleaning of the Ehime Maru Memorial and adjacent grounds. Since then, the school has established a close relationship with the government and people of Ehime prefecture, hosting annual homestay programs, school visitations, and other exchange activities for youth on both sides. As a unifying physical symbol and site that exemplifies our mutual support and global stewardship, the Memorial deserves no less than a reflective and dignified environment befitting its purpose. To permit the establishment of an alcohol-vending establishment would detract from the solemnity of the Memorial and be tantamount to a selfish display of disrespect.

Tim Los Banos  
Director of International Programs  
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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**To:** IAA Testimony  
**Cc:** nagais004@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR25 on Apr 13, 2017 15:00PM

**HCR25**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for IAA on Apr 13, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seichi Nagai	Wahiawa-Waialua Hiroshima Kenjin Kai	Support	No

Comments: Our organization volunteers to maintain the cleanliness of the memorial twice a year. The memorial should not be disturbed in any way. Families of the victims from Japan have indicated acceptance of the memorial. Any more negative intrusions into their lives from the U.S. would impact relationships between our two countries.

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I am in strong support of HCR 25 which speaks of retaining the Ehimemaru Memorial at its current location in Kakaako and ensuring that the area immediately surrounding the Memorial including the Memorial itself is respected and dignity is maintained. As mentioned "since the tragedy, the two countries have worked to improve understanding, foster goodwill, and take steps necessary to avoid a similar tragedy in the future; WHEREAS, the people of Ehime Prefecture and the State of Hawaii...share a sister state relationship..." it is important to honor that relationship. In today's world, relationships play an increasingly important role in global affairs. While development and economic growth is also important as it ties in with the financial well-being of people who call Hawaii their home, but there are instances in which we cannot forget the dignity and respect to/for life. The Ehimemaru Memorial is such a case. Therefore, I urge you to please protect the Ehimemaru Memorial and its environs as it reflects the values and priorities of our Aloha State.

Respectfully,

Bishop Eric Matsumoto,  
Headquarters Office of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii  
April 12, 2017

I am strongly opposed to relocating the Ehime Maru Memorial currently located at Kakaako Waterfront Park. I was the assistant organizer of the Memorial Ceremony held annually on February 9. The Ceremony is always held at the same time of day the accident occurred and a moment of silence is observed at the exact time the collision happened. Over the years I have befriended many bereaved family members and supporters from Hawaii and Ehime through participating in these ceremonies. As we look out to the Pacific Ocean we solemnly recall the accident and are also calmed by the glittering waters of the ocean. For me one of the most special parts of the February 9 Ceremonies is what happens after the official Ceremony is over. Every year we walk down to the water and we toss flowers and chocolates into the water. The chocolates are for the one student whose body was never recovered. Moving the memorial would mean we wouldn't be able to have these special moments.

I am also opposed to an alcohol dispensing venue at the mound where the memorial is located. As the assistant Ceremony organizer for years, including large ceremonies where we erected tents for seating, we always made sure to clean up and take all of our rubbish with us. However we would walk into the park and on the steps and pathway leading to the memorial there would often be paper rubbish and promotion material from an event that had occurred in the park on the weekend or days before. These event promoters DO NOT CLEAN UP. If they are allowed to use the park and have the alcoholic dispensing venue I can only imagine the mess they will make around the memorial and also around the park. We have had instances where graffiti needed to be cleaned off of our memorial. We don't need more opportunities for vandalism because somebody sees the area as a way to make more money.

I have also visited the Ehime Maru Memorial at the Uwajima Fisheries High School in Ehime. That memorial is tall and has so much symbolism. It looks like the spirit of the deceased are being raised into heaven. The memorial there is a lot bigger than the one in Hawaii. I wish we could have built a replica in Hawaii but I know if we did it would have end up being vandalized too easily.

We need to keep permanence to the memorial so that the people affected by the incident have a place to go to where they can pay their respects and also come together to celebrate the friendships that have grown out of tragedy. Please don't move the memorial and please do not invite opportunities/venues for it to be disgraced.

Kristi M. Kang

Former Program Director Japan-America Society of Hawaii and Program Assistant Ehime Maru Memorial Association

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017 4:18 PM  
**To:** IAA Testimony  
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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR25 on Apr 13, 2017 15:00PM

**HCR25**

Submitted on: 4/11/2017

Testimony for IAA on Apr 13, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqueline Pactol	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: For several years, I and friends have helped to preserve the Ehime Maru Monument and find it fitting to remain where it is. I agree with the Resolution.

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The Ehime Maru was a tragic event by itself, but a greater tragedy began to unfold as the differing world views of the nations of Japan and America were revealed in how to respond and move forward from the painful incident. I can state this after being privileged to participate in the 17th anniversary of the tragedy held just this past February 9, 2017 at the Consulate General of Japan residence in Nu'uuanu. In particular, the decision to conduct a salvage operation was met with much resistance by the Americans due to the extreme cost and perceived futility of the operation. Instead, putting the money toward compensation for the victims' families was strongly advocated as the more practical way forward. Honestly, I was rather surprised to find out that from the Japanese perspective, attempting the salvage operation was not even a matter of cost or practicality. It was a matter of honor.

I was also surprised during the introduction of guests that one of the salvage divers was actually in the audience just a few feet away from me. My surprise was the heartfelt appreciation shown this diver, by a crowd of mostly Japanese nationals that would never know him personally, but wanted him to understand what the salvage operation meant to them.

I am a Hawaiian born into American citizenship of Japanese ancestry who has been fortunate to reclaim some of my heritage later in life. This has included a small act of volunteer service with the Takata Gunjinkai club I belong to — *my paternal Grandparents were some of the original club members from the 1930s.* The Takata Gunjinkai club tends to the Ehime Maru memorial with an annual clean-up effort. I specifically reflected on the 17th anniversary memorial evening, that this small act of volunteerism led to a revelation that I could have never imagined. Namely, a potential East meets West conflict in dealing with tragedy that fortunately turned out well.

In support of HCR 25, I hope our lawmakers will heed numerous warnings to AVOID tragedy and conflict. The Ehime Maru Memorial is SACRED and was specifically chosen to honor the victims and to remind us into perpetuity that there is a right way to respond to tragedy. Not only would the honor of the families be impacted directly by a grievous decision to remove and relocate the memorial, consider the impact on those who have tended to the maintenance of the memorial over the years and the multitudes who have come to pay their respects. This is not a matter of East and West perspective, the decision being contemplated to move the memorial to promote alcohol sales is simply wrong.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**To:** IAA Testimony  
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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR25 on Apr 13, 2017 15:00PM\*

**HCR25**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for IAA on Apr 13, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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**From:** [Eliot Honda](#)  
**To:** [IAA Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** HCR 25, HD1(HSCR1523) Ehime Maru Memorial Testimony  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 1:14:45 PM

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Hello,

I apologize, I attempted to send my testimony through the website, but it didn't work. So I hope this reaches the correct people.

In 2009, I had the privilege of being placed in Uwajima, Ehime thanks to the JET Program. I had no idea what to expect, and was a bit weary about how I would be accepted there because of the Ehime Maru Tragedy. Through a family friend I was introduced to the Mizuguchi Family. I had no idea who they were, but Mr. Mizuguchi worked in the same city hall building that the board of education is located in. They welcomed me with open arms, and helped me around the city. It wasn't till after our first meeting that I learned that Mr. Mizuguchi had lost his son in the tragedy, and that his son's body was never recovered.

I couldn't imagine losing a loved one like that, and now that I'm a father myself I can't imagine not harboring hate and anger toward the people involved in the tragedy. Yet, Mr. and Mrs. Mizuguchi welcomed me as a member of their family. The people of Uwajima welcomed me as a member of their community. There is no hate or anger toward Hawaii, these people embodied the Aloha Spirit like I've never seen before. The relationship built between Hawaii and Uwajima is so strong, and has grown stronger over the years.

I would invite you all to join the February Memorial Service held at The Ehime Maru Memorial. There should be a sense of sadness and grief, yet it's as if we're all gathering to see friends and family, there's love here. This is a special place, it holds a special meaning to everyone that participates. Losing this memorial, is more than losing a piece of land, it's losing a gathering place to say hello to those lost. It's not a mourning place, it's a place where these parents and family members can feel close to their children, their husbands, their fathers. Every year I hear them say they're thankful that this spot was chosen, not just because they can see the three points of the tragedy, but because there's a sense of peace at the park.

I know many factors are at play with this project, but the Ehime Maru is now apart of the history of Hawaii, and our communities are now tied together, our families are tied together.

Please reconsider relocating, and also placing a beer garden next to the memorial.

Thank you for your time,  
Eliot Honda

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**ELIOT HONDA**

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