
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF THE 1942 EWA FIELD AIRCRAFT
REVTMENTS AT FORMER MARINE CORPS AIR STATION EWA AS A
NATIONAL HISTORIC MONUMENT.

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 destroyed the United States Pacific
4 Fleet based in Pearl Harbor and all Army, Navy, and Marine air
5 forces on Oahu to ensure that the United States could not hinder
6 Japan's plans for conquest in Asia and the Pacific; and
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8 WHEREAS, in order to attain this objective, Japan sent a
9 powerful naval force of six aircraft carriers and supporting
10 ships across the Pacific Ocean to attack American forces based
11 on the island of Oahu; and
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13 WHEREAS, using the Ewa plain and Ewa shoreline as the main
14 avenue for the first wave of attack, fighters and bombers from
15 the aircraft carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu arrived over the
16 Ewa Mooring Mast Field at 7:53 a.m. on the morning of December
17 7, 1941, and destroyed many of the forty-nine aircrafts there
18 while on their way to bomb Pearl Harbor; and
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20 WHEREAS, the bravery of the United States Marines at Ewa
21 showed itself in full force that morning, with men fighting
22 gallantly in the face of a determined enemy who carried out
23 their mission of neutralizing any American aircraft that could
24 intercept and counterattack the imperial Japanese naval air
25 forces; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast field constitutes one of the
28 very first points of the attack against the United States, which
29 precipitated our nation's entry into World War II; and
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31 WHEREAS, it is far less known that in early 1942, Ewa field
32 became the phoenix rising from the ashes to become a major U.S.



1 Navy and U.S. Marine airfield responding to the defense of the
2 Hawaiian islands at a very crucial period when the aggressive
3 Japanese Empire was at the height of its naval power; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Legislature unanimously passed
6 House Concurrent Resolution No. 49, Regular Session of 2009,
7 advocating the designation and development of Ewa field as a
8 national monument, museum, and restored park, which would
9 preserve this critical American historic site, allowing stories
10 to be told of the associated military conflicts, American
11 sacrifices, and the heroism and determination that became the
12 foundation for victory in the Pacific arena and eventually in
13 World War II itself; and
14

15 WHEREAS, a national park service battlefield protection
16 grant in 2015 documented the December 7, 1941, airfield site
17 that was subsequently nominated to the Hawaii State Historic
18 Register and National Register of Historic Places in May 2016,
19 as the Ewa Plain Battlefield; and
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21 WHEREAS, new research done with a 2016 national park
22 service battlefield protection grant documenting the Ewa field
23 revetments has found that the major American response to the
24 attack of December 7, 1941, was mounted by the U.S. Navy and
25 U.S. Marines in June 1942, at the Battle of Midway from the then
26 nascent Ewa field as funds, manpower, and materiel were
27 redirected from the just beginning construction of the nearby
28 Naval Air Station Barbers Point meant to rapidly expand Ewa
29 field into a major Navy aircraft carrier support facility to
30 include construction of approximately one hundred seventy-five
31 air attack resistant aircraft revetments in preparation for a
32 future major naval battle; and
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34 WHEREAS, this major expansion of Ewa field runways,
35 taxiways, and base infrastructure in early 1942 also resulted in
36 the construction of seventy-five unique concrete half dome
37 "clamshell" aircraft revetments as the Navy commissioned Naval
38 Air Station Barbers Point in April 15, 1942, at Ewa field,
39 referring to the Ewa airfield as Naval Air Station Ewa, which
40 later became Marine Corps Air Station Ewa on September 1, 1942;
41 and
42



1 WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy at the time of the closure of Naval
2 Air Station Barbers Point in 1999 noted that the unique seventy-
3 five concrete half dome "clamshell" aircraft revetments
4 remaining are eligible for the National Register of Historic
5 Places as an "historic revetments district" and the U.S. Navy
6 has allowed Barbers Point stables to adaptively reuse thirty-
7 four of the historic aircraft revetments as horse stables since
8 at least 1958; and
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10 WHEREAS, further research for the National Register of
11 Historic Places nomination of the 1942 aircraft revetments has
12 determined that the aircraft flown in the June 1942, Battle of
13 Midway, a crucial turning point of the Pacific War and
14 considered as the U.S. Navy's most important battle in its
15 history with the sinking of four of the Imperial Japanese
16 aircraft carriers that bombed Pearl Harbor, can be traced
17 directly to the still existing 1942 Ewa field revetments sites;
18 and
19

20 WHEREAS, a national monument and national historic landmark
21 designation of the historic 1942 aircraft revetments at former
22 Marine Corps Air Station Ewa would further preserve and document
23 Hawaii's involvement in World War II, serving as a focal point
24 for the commemoration, remembrance, and honoring of the many
25 brave Navy and Marine pilots from those same Ewa Field aircraft
26 revetments who willingly sacrificed their lives for the
27 foundation of victory in the Pacific and in World War II; and
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29 WHEREAS, the announced plans for a major new Battle of
30 Midway motion picture creating new national awareness of this
31 incredible 1942 Pacific battle and the sacrifices made during
32 this battle will further public interest in the preservation and
33 site visitation of the Marine Corps Air Station Ewa revetments
34 as a national monument and national landmark; and
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36 WHEREAS, establishing the air station as the foundation for
37 victory in the Pacific and World War II will create
38 opportunities for employment, education, and community pride for
39 the people of Hawaii; now, therefore,
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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
42 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session



H.C.R. NO. 176

1 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United
2 States, United States Secretary of Defense, United States
3 Secretary of the Interior, and United States Navy are
4 respectfully urged to preserve the Marine Corps Air Station Ewa
5 aircraft revetments as a national monument and national historic
6 landmark; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
10 United States; United States Secretary of Defense; United States
11 Secretary of the Interior; Commander, Navy Region Hawaii; and
12 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.
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OFFERED BY:



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