

MAR 06 2020

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

APOLOGIZING FOR THE INTERNMENT OF PREDOMINATELY JAPANESE  
AMERICANS AT THE HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP DURING WORLD  
WAR II.

1           WHEREAS, early on December 7, 1941, as the Japanese  
2 military attacked Pearl Harbor, government officials began  
3 selectively rounding up Hawaii residents suspected of  
4 disloyalty; and  
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6           WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano  
7 Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066 (EO9066), under which  
8 more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated  
9 in ten concentration camps scattered throughout the western  
10 United States and the State of Arkansas during World War II; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, EO9066 inflicted upon more than 120,000 Americans  
13 and residents of Japanese ancestry a great human cost of  
14 abandoned homes, businesses, farms, careers, professional  
15 advancements, disruption to family life, and public humiliation;  
16 and  
17

18           WHEREAS, United States Army General John L. DeWitt, the  
19 head of the Western Defense Command, alleged that, while the  
20 majority of people of Japanese ancestry living in California  
21 were loyal to the United States, many were spies for the Empire  
22 of Japan, stating that "the Japanese in this country have more  
23 [arms and ammunition] in their possession than our own armed  
24 forces"; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, General DeWitt informed the Governor of California  
27 and the California Legislative Assembly before President  
28 Roosevelt signed EO9066, of the plan to intern all people of  
29 Japanese ancestry on the West Coast; and  
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31           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was a  
32 civilian internment camp and a prisoner of war camp with a  
33 population of approximately four hundred internees and four  
34 thousand prisoners of war over the course of its use; and  
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1           WHEREAS, roughly eight hundred people were interned and  
2 eventually transported to the United States Immigration Station  
3 and the Sand Island Detention Camp on Oahu before the Honouliuli  
4 Internment Camp was established, and of these internees, nearly  
5 all were of Japanese descent; they included influential leaders  
6 of the Japanese American community who were educated, were  
7 teachers or priests, or had access to means of communication  
8 with Japan or to transportation from Hawaii; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, while most civilians apprehended in the initial  
11 years of World War II would be sent to the mainland to live out  
12 the duration of the war in Department of Justice and War  
13 Relocation Authority camps, the opening of Honouliuli Internment  
14 Camp in March of 1943 provided an alternative to mainland  
15 transfer, as the camp was designed for the express purpose of  
16 confining internees and prisoners of war for longer periods of  
17 time; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, during this period, the United States Army issued  
20 hundreds of military orders, some of which were applicable only  
21 to persons of Japanese ancestry and enemy aliens, for example,  
22 people of Japanese ancestry were restricted from residing in  
23 certain areas of Oahu and were forcibly removed from their  
24 properties; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, by the end of World War II, over two thousand  
27 people of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii were interned, but  
28 despite the suspicion of disloyalty, none of the Japanese  
29 American internees from Hawaii were ever found to be guilty of  
30 sabotage, espionage, or overt acts against the United States;  
31 and  
32

33           WHEREAS, nearly forty years after the United States Supreme  
34 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu, Min  
35 Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of Civilian  
36 Exclusion Order No. 34 (in the case of Korematsu), and curfew  
37 (in the cases of Yasui and Hirabayashi), all authorized pursuant  
38 to EO9066, it was discovered that officials from the United  
39 States Department of War and the United States Department of  
40 Justice had altered, destroyed, and withheld information that  
41 evidenced the loyalty of the people of Japanese ancestry from  
42 the United States Supreme Court in those cases; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, on May 24, 2011, Acting Solicitor General Neal  
3 Katyal said World War II Solicitor General Charles Fahy, who  
4 represented the United States Department of Justice in the  
5 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi cases, "acted dishonorably" by  
6 withholding relevant information; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, many attorneys and interns contributed innumerable  
9 hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of  
10 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition  
11 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental  
12 errors and injustice occurred; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, in 1980, the United States Congress created the  
15 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to  
16 examine the actions and impact of EO9066. The Commission held  
17 twenty days of public hearings, conducted eighteen months of  
18 thorough investigation, and published its findings in 1983,  
19 which concluded that EO9066 was not justified by "military  
20 necessity" but was due to "racial prejudice, wartime hysteria,  
21 and a failure of political leadership"; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, on August 10, 1988, President Ronald Wilson Reagan  
24 signed into law the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finding  
25 that EO9066 was not justified by military necessity and,  
26 instead, was caused by "racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and  
27 a failure of political leadership"; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized  
30 on behalf of the people of the United States for the forced  
31 exclusion, mass removal, and incarceration of Americans and  
32 permanent residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II,  
33 and the act also provided for restitution to those individuals  
34 of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, given recent national events, it is all the more  
37 important to learn from the mistakes of the past and to ensure  
38 that such an assault on freedom will never again happen to any  
39 community in the United States; and  
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41 WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 76th anniversary of the  
42 Supreme Court of the United States' decisions in the Japanese



1 American incarceration cases, and while the Supreme Court  
 2 ordered Mitsuye Endo released from incarceration, it denied, in  
 3 *Korematsu v. United States*, that EO9066 reflected racial  
 4 prejudice and upheld EO9066 in light of the "strategic  
 5 imperative" to keep the west coast secure from invasion; now,  
 6 therefore,

7  
 8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 9 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the  
 10 Legislature apologizes to all Americans of Japanese ancestry for  
 11 its past actions in support of the unjust exclusion, removal,  
 12 and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and  
 13 for its failure to support and defend the civil rights and civil  
 14 liberties of Japanese Americans during this period; and

15  
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of  
 18 Hawaii.

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 21

OFFERED BY: Clarena K. Mochizuki

*Francine R. Iwano*  
*John F. ...*  
*Kal ...*  
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