
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO
MAINTAIN ALL REFERENCES TO THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM
ON ITS WEBSITES FOR THE PUBLIC.

1 WHEREAS, during the second world war, the United States
2 government incarcerated more than one hundred twenty thousand
3 residents of Japanese ancestry in internment camps throughout
4 the continental United States; and

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6 WHEREAS, more than half of the people of Japanese ancestry
7 who were forcibly detained without charges or the right to an
8 appeal were American citizens; and

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10 WHEREAS, thousands of Japanese Americans lost their homes,
11 rights, and freedom during this time as a direct result of
12 systemic anti-Asian racism in the United States; and

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14 WHEREAS, second-generation Japanese American men who were
15 born and raised in the United States were still encouraged to
16 join and were even drafted into the United States military to
17 fight for their country that classified them as "enemy aliens"
18 on the basis of their race; and

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20 WHEREAS, altogether, more than thirty thousand Japanese
21 Americans served with distinction in the United States military
22 in segregated units during the second world war; and

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24 WHEREAS, the most renowned group of Japanese Americans to
25 fight for the United States in this war was the 442nd Regimental
26 Combat Team; and

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28 WHEREAS, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was the most
29 decorated unit for its size and length of service during the
30 entire history of the United States military; and



1 WHEREAS, in total, approximately fourteen thousand men
2 served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the vast majority of
3 whom were Nisei, or children of Japanese immigrants born in the
4 continental United States or the Territory of Hawaii; and
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6 WHEREAS, two-thirds of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were
7 Hawaii-born Nisei, including Medal of Honor recipient and late
8 United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye; and
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10 WHEREAS; Hawaii historically played a crucial role in the
11 Indo-Pacific theater and continues to provide critical resources
12 to the United States military; and
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14 WHEREAS, recognizing the history of the 442nd Regimental
15 Combat Team is of vital importance to acknowledging the
16 contributions of the people of Hawaii to securing the freedoms
17 enjoyed by Americans today; and
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19 WHEREAS, recognizing the history of the 442nd Regimental
20 Combat Team is fundamental to sustaining the memory and honoring
21 the sacrifices of the brave Japanese-Americans who substantially
22 contributed to the war efforts of the United States while many
23 of their families were incarcerated by the American government
24 on the basis of their race; and
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26 WHEREAS, on or about March 5th, 2025, the Pentagon removed
27 information pertaining to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from
28 the United States Army's official website amid a federal purge
29 of content identified as being related to diversity, equity, and
30 inclusion (DEI); and
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32 WHEREAS, Hawaii is a state composed of an extremely diverse
33 population that celebrates and respects cultural diversity,
34 equity, and inclusion; and
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36 WHEREAS, the Legislature does not support the removal of
37 historical references to intersectional minorities and holds
38 that the selective erasure of history is a dangerous act that
39 facilitates the repetition of horrific injustices of the past;
40 now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
4 Department of Defense is strongly urged to maintain all
5 references to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team on its websites
6 for the public; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Department of
9 Defense is strongly urged to maintain all references to
10 intersectional minorities in its media as the recording of
11 history involving those individuals who happen to be
12 characterized as minorities is not an act of elevating
13 minorities above non-minorities; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Senate, with
16 the House of Representatives concurring, remain vigilant in
17 support of social justice, civil rights, equal protection, and
18 upholding the rule of law; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
22 Secretary of Defense; Chief of Staff of the United States Army;
23 Chief of the National Guard Bureau; Lieutenant Governor; each
24 member of Hawaii's congressional delegation; Governor; Adjutant
25 General; Chair of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission; Executive
26 Director of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women;
27 President of the Japanese American Citizens League of Honolulu;
28 Office Administrator of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans
29 Club; President of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Veterans
30 Club; Director of ACLU of Hawai'i; President of the National
31 Asian Pacific American Bar Association, Hawaii Chapter;
32 Executive Director of The Legal Clinic; and President of Hawaii
33 Women Lawyers.

