

JAN 30 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE WAIKIKI WAR MEMORIAL COMPLEX.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Waikiki war
2 memorial natatorium was constructed in 1927 to serve as a
3 "living memorial" to the approximately ten thousand residents of
4 Hawaii who served in the first world war. As a site listed on
5 the national register of historic places, the natatorium is a
6 landmark of cultural and historical significance.

7 The legislature further finds that, since its closure to
8 the public in 1979 due to safety concerns, the natatorium has
9 undergone significant structural degradation. However, the
10 legacy of those who served, and the community's desire to
11 maintain a space dedicated to the dual themes of military
12 sacrifice and the pursuit of global peace, remains steadfast.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to preserve the
14 history of Hawaii's participation in the first world war and
15 promote understanding of war and peace by providing funding to
16 assist with the rehabilitation of the Waikiki war memorial



1 complex, including the Waikiki war memorial natatorium, and to
2 develop a war memorial center.

3 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
4 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$30,000,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
6 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2026-2027
7 for the purpose of assisting War Memorials of Hawaii Inc., a
8 Hawaii nonprofit corporation, with:

9 (1) The acquisition of land;
10 (2) The rehabilitation of the Waikiki war memorial
11 natatorium and Waikiki war memorial complex; and
12 (3) The planning, design, and construction of a war
13 memorial center within the Waikiki war memorial
14 complex on parcels identified by tax map key numbers
15 (1) 3-1-31-3, -9, and -10;

16 provided that the following conditions are met:

17 (A) The Hawaii community development authority shall
18 assist War Memorials of Hawaii Inc., in:
19 (i) Developing a conceptual master plan;



1 (ii) Negotiating a master lease with the board of
2 land and natural resources and the city and
3 county of Honolulu; and

4 (iii) Financing and developing the war memorial
5 center;

6 (B) War Memorials of Hawaii Inc., shall solicit the
7 participation of business, community, government,
8 and military organizations in the rehabilitation
9 of the Waikiki war memorial natatorium and
10 Waikiki war memorial complex and the planning,
11 design, financing, and construction of the war
12 memorial center; and

13 (C) The Waikiki war memorial natatorium, Waikiki war
14 memorial complex, and war memorial center shall
15 be designed for use by business, community,
16 government, and military organizations and the
17 general public to foster a better understanding
18 of wars and peace.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
20 community development authority for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. The appropriation made for the capital
2 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
3 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
4 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
5 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 3291

Report Title:

HCDA; Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium; Waikiki War Memorial Complex; War Memorial Center; General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds); CIP

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for capital improvement projects to rehabilitate the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium and develop a Waikiki war memorial complex and War memorial center.

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