
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AIR
STATION EWA AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM, AND RESTORED
PARK FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII.

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 resented what it perceived to be United
4 States interference in the affairs of the Far East; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Japan decided to destroy the United States Pacific
7 Fleet based in Pearl Harbor and all Army, Navy, and Marine air
8 forces on Oahu to ensure that the United States could not hinder
9 Japan's plans for conquest in Asia and the Pacific; and

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11 WHEREAS, in order to attain this objective, Japan sent a
12 powerful naval force of six aircraft carriers and supporting
13 ships across the Pacific Ocean to attack American forces based
14 on the island of Oahu; and

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16 WHEREAS, in the early stages of that attack, at
17 approximately 7:53 a.m. on the morning of December 7, 1941,
18 Lieutenant Kiyokuma Okajima led nine Mitsubishi Type 0 (Zero)
19 carrier fighters from the aircraft carrier Hiryu toward the Ewa
20 Mooring Mast Field (later re-designated Marine Corps Air Station
21 Ewa) on the island of Oahu, and coming from the north, the
22 fighters flew as low as 20 feet over the unsuspecting Marine
23 Corps airfield, and in subsequent firing passes, destroyed many
24 of the 49 aircraft there, damaging buildings and equipment; and

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26 WHEREAS, within minutes, fighters from the aircraft
27 carriers Akagi, Kaga, and Soryu arrived over the Ewa Mooring
28 Mast Field and caused further destruction at the base; and

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30 WHEREAS, the attack on Ewa Mooring Mast Field was so
31 precise and well-executed that it appeared as though the
32 Japanese fighters had previously selected their particular



1 targets with the purpose of riddling them, and setting fire to
2 the gas tanks so as to render them useless for pursuit and
3 interception; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field lay along the departure
6 route for many Japanese aircraft flying toward their rendezvous
7 point northwest of Kaena Point, those aircraft subjected the
8 field to additional strafing attacks and completed the
9 destruction of 33 aircraft and the damage to 16 others of the 49
10 present; and
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12 WHEREAS, within minutes, the Marines mounted a gallant
13 defense of their base, while the remainder of the Japanese
14 strike force attacked Pearl Harbor and other airfields on Oahu;
15 and
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17 WHEREAS, the bravery of the United States Marines at Ewa
18 showed itself in full force that morning, with the men fighting
19 gallantly in the face of a ruthless and determined enemy who
20 carried out their mission of neutralizing any American aircraft
21 that could intercept and counterattack the Japanese invaders;
22 and
23

24 WHEREAS, in one example of courage, Private William G.
25 Turner, who died of his wounds and received a posthumous Bronze
26 Star, assisted Master Technical Sergeant Emil S. Peters who
27 jumped into the rear cockpit of a SBD-2 dive bomber, with Peters
28 firing from the cockpit as Turner fed ammunition; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Japanese aircraft also inflicted other
31 casualties among the Marines at the Ewa Mooring Mast Field,
32 killing three men and wounding 13 others; and
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34 WHEREAS, Sergeant Carlo A. Micheletto, Private First Class
35 Edward S. Laurence, and Private William G. Turner, gave their
36 lives in defense of their country, and two civilian residents of
37 Ewa, Yaeko Lillian Oda and Francisco Tacderan, also lost their
38 lives as a result of the attack; and
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40 WHEREAS, Japanese Lieutenant Yoshio Shiga, leader of the
41 first wave fighter unit from the aircraft carrier Kaga, while
42 strafing the parked planes at Ewa Field with his 7.7 mm machine
43 guns, recorded for posterity the account of a lone Marine, who
44 stood amidst the gunfire striking the ground around him and



1 bravely emptied his sidearm at the aircraft attacking overhead,
2 a man in whom Lieutenant Shiga found the "spirit of dogged
3 tenacity that was the very embodiment of bravery and valor" that
4 he did not expect from an American, and commented that this
5 Marine was the bravest soldier he ever encountered; and
6

7 WHEREAS, two Army Air Force fighter pilots from Wheeler
8 Field, Second Lieutenants Kenneth M. Taylor and George S. Welch,
9 engaged Japanese dive bombers in the vicinity of the Ewa Mooring
10 Mast Field in one of the most famous dogfights of the war; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Ewa Mooring Mast Field constitutes one of the
13 very first points of the attack against the United States which
14 precipitated our nation's entry into World War II; and
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16 WHEREAS, during 1941, the Marine Corps developed the Ewa
17 Mooring Mast Field which later, as Marine Corps Air Station Ewa,
18 served through World War II; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Air Station Ewa was officially
21 closed on June 18, 1952, and its property assumed by Naval Air
22 Station Barbers Point; and
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24 WHEREAS, the designation and development of Ewa Field as a
25 National Monument, Museum, and Restored Park would preserve this
26 critical American historic site, allowing stories to be told of
27 the associated military conflicts, American sacrifices, and the
28 heroism and determination that became the foundation for victory
29 in the Pacific arena and eventually in World War II itself; and
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31 WHEREAS, a National Monument at the former Marine Corps Air
32 Station Ewa would further preserve documentation of Hawaii's
33 involvement in World War II, serving as a focal point for the
34 observation, remembrance, and expression of American patriotism,
35 honoring those who served within its gates; and
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37 WHEREAS, the preservation of Marine Corps Air Station Ewa
38 as a National Monument would create opportunities for
39 employment, education, and community pride for the people of
40 Hawaii; and
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42 WHEREAS, to designate Ewa Field as a National Monument,
43 Museum, and Restored Park it is necessary to identify an
44 appropriate boundary for nomination to the Hawaii State and



1 National Registers of Historic Places by conducting a
2 battlefield survey and historic research, and making an
3 inventory of contributing and noncontributing historic features;
4 now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the President of the United
9 States, the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Interior, and
10 United States Navy are respectfully urged to preserve Marine
11 Corps Air Station Ewa, or a portion of it, as a National
12 Monument; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Navy and its
15 private, public and non-profit partners are respectfully
16 requested to proceed with the research, battlefield analysis,
17 and other activities necessary to designate an appropriate
18 boundary for nomination of Ewa Field to the Hawaii State and
19 National Registers of Historic Places; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
22 Natural Resources submit a report no later than 20 days before
23 the convening of the 2010 Regular Session on the research,
24 battlefield analysis, and other activities necessary to
25 designate an appropriate boundary for nomination of Ewa Field to
26 the Hawaii State and National Registers of Historic Places; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
30 United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of
31 the Interior, Commander of Navy Region Hawaii, and to each
32 member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

