

# 'EWA BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CHARTERED 1960 - 53 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

December 2, 2013

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Keeper of the Register  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C.

Subject: In Support of Nomination to the National Historic Register, the 'Ewa Battlefield, Kalaeloa, 'Ewa, Hawaii'

Aloha, ano'ai, Sir,

The 'Ewa Beach Community Association (EBCA) has a long history of advocating for the preservation and protection of recorded significant historical sites on the 'Ewa plains as well as throughout the state of Hawaii'. 'Ewa Beach, a coastal community and the neighboring 'Ewa Villages are both contiguous landmass with Kalaeloa, the old Barbers Point, a thirty-six-hundred acre parcel under military control for almost a century had little to no historical assessments done on the property. However, based on recent studies and available written documents, many people in the community have strongly acknowledged that Kalaeloa is an historically *sensitive* area.

The EBCA is concerned about all the historical properties and assets that affect the 'Ewa Battlefield and had provided valuable information and important community perspective as a Section 106 consulting party; therefore, the community strongly supports the nomination of the 'Ewa Battlefield to the National Historic Register.

The December 7, 1941 Japanese main aerial assault on Pearl Harbor was a direct route through the communities of 'Ewa and 'Ewa Beach and the actions that ensued drastically altered and reshaped the areas' physical and social landscape forever. Old-time residents, military veterans and oral historians have corroborated and documented those local combat action, those stories of death and injuries sustained to civilians, military soldiers, marines, in which the community believe are all significant and relevant incidents in the Battle of Pearl Harbor, and worthy of preservation in the written annals of great American wars. By including the 'Ewa Battlefield to the National Historic Registry, it will join other recognized and honored National Historic Battlefield Landmarks located in Hawaii': Pearl Harbor, Hickam Air Force Base and Wheeler military base.

Many citizens in the community have reacted to the idea that recognition of the 'Ewa Battlefield will also serve as an important economic engine to the nearby State Historic 'Ewa Villages – Renton, Tenney, Varona, the old plantation manager's mansion, the grave yard and the Historic OR & L Railway. In 1990 after a century of sugar production, 'Ewa's entire sugar plantation operation grinded down to a halt; the ethnically diverse community of elders and retirees made up the greater portion of the population, and since the closing, these three historic 'Ewa sugar plantation Villages had become a bedroom community. The Historic OR & L Railway presently is the only one in operation, but, as the 'Ewa Battlefield comes on board, many believe and envision, both can provide economic benefits, serve as economic drivers and partners to local commercial business providing the local area with job and training programs that will co-ops and revitalizes a Village community of former sugar plantation labors, young family members, newcomers, and even the older retirees. Presently, the 'Ewa Villages are located in a designated land boundary on the State of Hawaii' Historic Registry, agreement among leaders in the community is to eventually extend the boundary to include the nearby, 'Ewa Battlefield, the Historic OR & L Railway, into a Special Historical Preservation District.

Mahalo, 'io 'oe,

Glenn J Oamilda, President

