



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 3, 2009
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49
URGING FULL PRESERVATION OF UNITED STATE MARINE CORPS AIR
STATION EWA AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT, MUSEUM AND RESTORED PARK
FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII

House Concurrent Resolution 49 resolves to encourage the President, Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Interior to preserve Marine Corp Air Station Ewa, or a portion of it, as a National Monument. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this concurrent resolution.

As the concurrent resolution details, Marine Corp Air Station Ewa played a significant role in World War II as it was attacked before Japanese aircraft targeted Pearl Harbor. Three marines lost their lives in the initial attack on Hawaii, yet this part of the America's entry into World War II is overshadowed by the attack on Pearl Harbor. The Department believes that the Marine Corp Air Station Ewa represents a significant period in the history of Hawaii and the Nation and at the very least, parts of the Air Station should be incorporated into the Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

The Department is working with a group of interested individuals to nominate a portion of Marine Corp Air Station Ewa to the National Register of Historic Places. A National Monument designation would be an even more fitting tribute to the valor and sacrifices of all Marines.