
HOUSE RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF
HAWAII TO IDENTIFY AND ACQUIRE FUNDING FOR THE RESTORATION
OF THE WAIKIKI WAR MEMORIAL NATATORIUM.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has no more historically significant
2 architectural icon than the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium, a
3 memorial that honors the sacrifices of those who paid the
4 ultimate price in World War I; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is what
7 Hawaiians can "wahipana", a sacred place of legendary beauty
8 where the spirit is uplifted; and
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10 WHEREAS, the artfully constructed interface between natural
11 and built environment has been hailed as a work of genius,
12 harmoniously joining land and sea in a magnificent, yet
13 sensitive statement, making the Natatorium worth preserving
14 based on artistic merit alone; and
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16 WHEREAS, the facade features a Beaux-Arts style ornamental
17 arched entryway measuring over twenty feet tall, designed by
18 famed architect Louis P. Hobart, easily being one of Hawaii's
19 most recognizable examples of creative architectural excellence;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, although the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium has
23 deteriorated since its initial construction, in 2001, over four
24 million dollars of repairs were completed on the site including
25 a façade restoration and the renovation of the bleachers and
26 public restrooms; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium is listed on
29 both the National and Hawaii Registers of Historic Places; and
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1 WHEREAS, allowing the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium to
2 fall into disrepair because of inaction and procrastination
3 would be irresponsible and would be disrespectful to all who
4 paid the ultimate price for our nation in World War I, and would
5 render an entire stretch of beach unsafe and incur large clean-
6 up costs; and

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8 WHEREAS, other options, such as moving the facade and
9 filling the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium for athletic
10 purposes, are not feasible due to the catastrophic damage that
11 would result from the movement and destabilization to the
12 bleachers, restrooms, and facade due to the increased load and
13 drag due to the fill, respectively; and

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15 WHEREAS, tourism is the main economic driver of Hawaii's
16 economy, providing numerous jobs and incomes to our residents;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has
19 proven that cultural heritage tourists are more affluent
20 overall, stay longer and spend more while contributing to global
21 understanding through cultural exchange and commerce; and

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23 WHEREAS, cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average,
24 \$623 per trip compared to \$457 for all U.S. travelers, excluding
25 the cost of transportation; and

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27 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of this State to
28 preserve Hawai'i's uniqueness, sense of place, and cultural
29 identity for the benefit of all its residents as well as its
30 visitors; and

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32 WHEREAS, restoration of the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium
33 is already fully permitted, but will require more funding to
34 move forward on the restoration; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
37 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
38 Session of 2008, that the Congressional Delegation of the State
39 of Hawaii is strongly urged to identify and acquire funding for
40 the restoration of the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium,



1 including the acquisition of federal funds and assistance in
2 raising private contributions; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's
6 Congressional Delegation.

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