HB1396 – RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

Aloha Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

The establishment of a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center would create a facility dedicated to researching, preserving, and interpreting the history of 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion to develop deeper understandings of their unique place in history.

Additionally, the Honouliuli Internment Camp is a major historical site located on property currently owned by Monsanto in West O'ahu. The United States National Park Service, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu, the State of Hawai'i, Monsanto, and other stakeholders are working to preserve and share the existing remnants of the internment camp, with a planned educational center and memorial.

HB1396 appropriates monies for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center.

**UH West O'ahu supports HB 1396** as locating a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center in West O'ahu near the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu would complement academic and research programs offered at the university such as the Center for Labor Education and Research’s Labor Archives and the Henry Guigni film collection.