Report to the Hawai`i State Legislature

Act 275, SLH 2013
Report on the Status of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center

House Bill 1396, HD1, SD2, CD1 was signed into law as Act 275, SLH 2013 on July 9, 2013. The purpose of Act 275 was to make an appropriation for the planning and design of a center in West O`ahu that would incorporate a Nisei Veterans Legacy Center. $150,000 was appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for fiscal year 2013-2014, "provided that no moneys shall be expended unless matched by grants of donations from public or private sources." Act 275 further directed that the appropriated funds be expended by the University of Hawai`i at West O`ahu (UHWO).

During this past year, UHWO administrators and faculty have met numerous times with the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center (NVLC) planning group. While discussions regarding academic programs that would benefit UHWO and complement the vision of the NVLC have been productive, fund raising efforts have not been successful. A fundraising consultant engaged by the NVLC, concluded that there was not a lot of interest in establishing a NVLC Center on a UHWO site. The primary objection was that the site was too far away from the Honolulu central core and too inconvenient to reach.

Since no matching funds have been received, to date, for the planning and design of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, UHWO has neither requested an allocation of the funds nor expended any funds from the appropriated general fund amount.