



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
March 21, 2013 at 1:15 p.m.  
By Gene I. Awakuni  
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### **HB 1396 HD1 – RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII**

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Solomon, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Shimabukuro and members of the committees:

***UH West O'ahu supports HB 1396 HD1 provided its passage does not compete with other priorities in the University's budget.*** Locating the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center in West O'ahu near the University of Hawai'i at 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 Giugni film collection.

This bill appropriates an unspecified sum of monies, subject to matching funds, for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Internment Camp Educational Center.

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 the history and share the legacy of Americans of Japanese ancestry who were detained in these internment camps during World War II.