



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.  
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### SB 1317 SD1 – RELATING TO THE JAPANESE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN HAWAII

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

***UH West O'ahu supports the intent of SB 1317 SD1*** as locating a 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 Guigni film collection.

SB 1317 appropriates an unspecified sum for the planning, design, and construction of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and a Honouliuli Park Site Project Advisory Group with release of the appropriation subject to matching funds. Although the bill calls for the University to be the expending agency for appropriations made to support the Honouliuli Park Site Advisory Group, we believe funding should be appropriated directly to the Advisory Group via grant funds.

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.

**UH West O'ahu supports the SB 1317 SD1 provided its passage does not compete with other priorities in the University's budget.**