

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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INOUE, AKAKA CO-SPONSOR HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP SPECIAL RESOURCES STUDY ACT OF 2009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – US Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka introduced legislation today to have a Special Resources Study conducted by the Secretary of Interior to determine if WWII internment camp sites in Hawaii are eligible for listing as units of the National Park System.

“The internment of innocent Americans at Honouliuli and elsewhere is a tragic chapter of our country’s history that we must never forget,” said Senator Akaka.

“Building on existing National Park Service initiatives, this new study will further efforts to share this difficult history in a way that appropriately honors the experience and memory of those interned.”

Following is Senator Inouye’s statement introducing the bill:

“During World War II, over 1,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in at least eight locations on Hawaii. In a report completed in 2007, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii documented these sites that include Honouliuli Gulch, Sand Island, and the U.S. Immigration Station on Oahu, the Kilauea Military Camp on the Big Island, Haiku Camp and Wailuku County Jail on Maui, and the Kalaheo Stockade and Waialua County Jail on Kauai. These camps also held approximately 100 local residents of German and Italian ancestry.”

“Those detained included the leaders of the Japanese immigrant community in Hawaii, many of whom were taken from their homes and families in the hours after

the attack on Pearl Harbor. The forced removal of these individuals began a nearly four year odyssey to a series of camps in Hawaii and on the continental United States. Over 1,000 immediate family members of these men joined their husbands, fathers and relatives in mainland camps. The detainees were never formally charged and granted only token hearings. Many of the detainees' sons served with distinction in the U.S armed forces, including the legendary 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service."

"This report found that both the Kilauea Military Camp and the Honouliuli sites feature historic resources and recommended that the sites be nominated for listing on the National Register for Historic Places. In 2008, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii published a more detailed archeological reconnaissance of the Honouliuli site. This report found that there were numerous historic features that would qualify the site for National Historic Register and further recommended that the site be conserved. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii is currently working with Monsanto, the landowner, to nominate the Honouliuli Gulch site to be listed on the National Historic Register."

"So far I have received letters in support of this legislation from a range of local, regional and national organizations, including the Japanese American National Museum, Hawaiian Historical Society, Go For Broke National Education Center, Japan America Society of Hawaii, Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese Citizens League, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii, the United Japanese Society of Hawaii, Japanese American Citizens League, The Conservation Fund, Densho, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Japanese American National Heritage Coalition and the Friends of Minidoka."

"This legislation will enable the National Park Service to study these important sites in my state and make recommendations to Congress regarding the best approach to conserve and manage these sites to tell this chapter in our nation's history to current and future generations. "

"Mr. President I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation."

