

# Subcommittee on Federal Lands

Tom McClintock, Chairman  
Hearing Memorandum

September 4, 2018

To: All Subcommittee on Federal Lands Members

From: Majority Committee Staff— Terry Camp and Holly Baker  
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x6-7736)

Hearing: Legislative hearing on **H.R. 5706 (Rep. Colleen Hanabusa)**, To establish the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in the State of Hawai'i and the Honouliuli National Historic Site in the State of Hawai'i, and for other purposes.  
**September 6, 2018, 10:00 AM; 1324 Longworth House Office Building**

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## **H.R. 5706, “World War II Pacific Sites Establishment Act”**

### **Summary of the Bill**

H.R. 5706, introduced by Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI-01), would establish the Pearl Harbor National Memorial as a distinct unit of the National Park System, separating it from World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. The bill would also redesignate Honouliuli National Monument as Honouliuli National Historic Site.

### **Cosponsors**

Rep. Madeleine Z. Borrallo [D-GU]  
Rep. Debbie Dingle [D-MI-12]  
Rep. Tulsi Gabbard [D-HI-02]  
Rep. Doris O. Matsui [D-CA-06]

### **Witnesses**

*The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa*  
Member of Congress, Hawaii's 1<sup>st</sup> district

### **Background**

#### Pearl Harbor Sites

On December 7, 1941, Japanese aircrafts attacked the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor and sunk or damaged 20 ships in the Pacific Fleet, killing over 2,300 sailors, soldiers, and civilians.<sup>1</sup> As President Roosevelt said, it is “a date that will live in infamy” and the attack brought America fully into the second World War. Many of the servicemembers who lost their lives that day were

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<sup>1</sup> “Significance of the Monument”. World War II Valor in the Pacific website. National Park Service.  
<https://www.nps.gov/valr/learn/park-significance.htm>

aboard the USS Arizona. The wreck of that battleship still lies at the bottom of Pearl Harbor and serves as the final resting place for more than 900 sailors and Marines.<sup>2</sup> The USS Oklahoma and USS Utah also remain where they sank on that fateful day. Their remnants also serve as places of reflection, remembrance, as well as tombs of honor for crew members who remain within.

The idea for a memorial at Pearl Harbor began in the midst of WWII and was finally realized in 1962. It was completed through the efforts of the territorial Pacific War Memorial Commission using both private funds and appropriated dollars.<sup>3</sup> In 1980, the National Park Service (NPS) took over operation of the memorial, and a visitor center was built nearby. In 2006, Public Law 109-163 established the USS Oklahoma Memorial and it was placed under the management of NPS.

The creation of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument in 2008 brought several WWII historic sites under one umbrella. That monument includes three sites in Alaska, one in California, and five locations in Hawaii: (1) the USS Arizona Memorial; (2) the USS Oklahoma Memorial; (3) the USS Utah Memorial; (4) Ford Island; and (5) Battleship Row.<sup>4</sup> Over 1.5 million people visit the USS Arizona Memorial each year, consistently ranking it among the top three most-visited destinations in Hawaii each year.<sup>5</sup>

H.R. 5706 would establish the Pearl Harbor National Memorial as a distinct unit of the National Park System, separating it from World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. This new designation would not affect the existing management of the area. Currently, the monument's sites in each state are managed separately. The NPS has jurisdiction of the Hawaii sites, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has jurisdiction of the Alaska sites, and both agencies share joint jurisdiction and management of the California site.

### Honouliuli

Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in the Hawaiian Islands.<sup>6</sup> Located in the southwest of Oahu Island, it also served as a prisoner-of-war camp. The majority of Honouliuli's civilian internees were American citizens, predominately of Japanese descent. Martial law was declared by President Roosevelt just hours after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, and US government officials began removing Hawaiian residents from their homes and imprisoning them in local jails and other facilities across the islands.

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<sup>2</sup> "Description of the Monument". World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument website. National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/valr/learn/description-of-the-park.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Slackman, Michael. 1982. "The USS Arizona Memorial and Visitor Center: An Administrative History." National Park Service. [https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/usar/adhi.pdf](https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/usar/adhi.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Presidential Proclamation 8327. "Establishment of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument". December 5, 2008. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2009-title3-vol1/pdf/CFR-2009-title3-vol1-proc8327.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> "Annual Park Recreation Visitation". Park Reports. National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics. <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/Reports/Park/VALR>

<sup>6</sup> "Historical Overview." Honouliuli National Monument website. National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/hono/learn/historical-overview.htm>

The federal government initially considered the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans in Hawaii as it had done on the US mainland. This was impractical however, because over one third of the territory's population were Japanese American citizens and other immigrants.<sup>7</sup> Without their participation in the labor force, the economy of the territory could not have been sustained and the war effort in the islands would have been crippled. Instead, the government selectively interred community, business, and religious leaders.<sup>8</sup> Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 for the purpose of confining internees for longer periods of time, and as an alternative to sending individuals to internment camps on the mainland. By war's end, over 2,000 people of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii were interned.<sup>9</sup> None were ever found guilty of sabotage, espionage, or overt acts against the United States.

Honouliuli was established as a National Monument on February 24, 2015.<sup>10</sup> H.R. 5706 would redesignate the monument as a National Historic Site. The boundaries and management of the site would not change. No funding is authorized by this bill.

### **Major Provisions of H.R. 5706**

- Establishes the Pearl Harbor National Memorial as a distinct unit of the National Park System, separating it from the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. This designation would not affect the existing management of the area.
- Redesignates Honouliuli Monument as Honouliuli National Historic Site. The boundaries and management of the site would not change.
- No funding is authorized by this bill.

### **Cost**

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

### **Administration Position**

The Administration's position is currently unknown.

### **Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)**

None.

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<sup>7</sup> Presidential Proclamation 9234. "Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument". February 24, 2015. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/DCPD-201500123/pdf/DCPD-201500123.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> "Historical Overview." Honouliuli National Monument website. National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/hono/learn/historical-overview.htm>

<sup>10</sup> Presidential Proclamation 9234. "Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument". February 24, 2015. <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/DCPD-201500123/pdf/DCPD-201500123.pdf>