



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF PRESERVING AND PROVIDING PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE HISTORIC BATTERY ARIZONA AT KAHE POINT MILITARY RESERVATION.

WHEREAS, the USS Arizona was a Pennsylvania-class battleship built for and by the United States Navy in the mid-1910s. Named in honor of the 48th state's recent admission into the union, the ship was the second and last of the Pennsylvania class of "super-dreadnought" battleships. Commissioned in 1916, the USS Arizona, which carried twelve 45-caliber 14-inch guns in triple gun turrets with a maximum range of 21,000 yards, remained stateside during World War I; and

WHEREAS, during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the USS Arizona was bombed, exploded and sank, killing 1,177 officers and crewmen. Many acts of heroism were performed by the USS Arizona's officers and men during the attack. Lieutenant Commander Samuel G. Fuqua, the ship's damage control officer, earned the Medal of Honor while quelling fires and getting survivors off the ship. Posthumous awards of the Medal of Honor went to Rear Admiral Isaac C. Kidd, the first flag officer killed in the Pacific war, and to Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh, who reached the bridge and was attempting to defend his ship when the bomb that hit the ammunition magazines destroyed her; and

WHEREAS, unlike many of the other ships sunk or damaged that day, the USS Arizona could not be fully salvaged, though the Navy removed parts of the ship for reuse. A site determination study was initiated in June 1942 for the emplacement of the two salvaged rear 14-inch turrets of the sunken USS Arizona; and

WHEREAS, in 1942 the Hawaiian Coast Artillery Command was informed that the Navy would provide two salvageable 14-inch gun turrets from the USS Arizona, with three guns each, for two batteries that would become known as Battery Arizona and Battery Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, approval was received from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Headquarters in Washington D.C. in October 1942 to proceed with the turret emplacements. In December 1942, the proposed location of Battery Arizona was shifted to a location southward at Kahe Point, from which its three 14-inch guns could command the entire west and south coasts from Kaena Point to Diamond Head; and

WHEREAS, construction of Battery Arizona began in 1943. The rear turrets were removed from the USS Arizona by cranes, barged to the beaches near the site, and moved up to the site on rollers. Incomplete at the end of the Pacific war, the site



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was placed on caretaker status from 1945 through 1946, managed by the 83rd Coast Artillery Gun Battery; and

WHEREAS, Oahu was once known worldwide as the 'Gibraltar of the Pacific' and at the end of World War II, was probably the most heavily armored island in the world; and

WHEREAS, a massive underground support facility was built to support the guns and provide a complete command center. Had there ever been an invasion of Oahu, Kahe Point would have been one of the key command bunkers and a "last stand" of resistance; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 1946, according to the Declaration of Taking, Civil No. 715, the United States of America acquired land of 165.050 acres by condemnation from the Estate of James Campbell. The object and purpose of acquiring by condemnation was for sea coast artillery defenses and related military purposes incident thereto. However, in April 26, 1954, the United States of America disposed of 160.400 acres of land by quitclaim deed; and

WHEREAS, the 160.400 acre study site is located to the north of Farrington Highway (Route 93) on Oahu's southwestern coast approximately 25 miles west of Pearl Harbor. The study site boundaries are delineated on Tax Map Key (TMK) Number (No.) 9-1-15: Parcel 4, and TMK No. 9-2-03: Parcels 3, 13, 14, 15, 27 and 72; and

WHEREAS, it is the Council's desire to determine the feasibility of preserving and providing public access to the Battery Arizona at Kahe Point Military Reservation due to its historic significance; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it supports the preservation of the historic Arizona Battery at Kahe Point Military Reservation, and requests the City Administration to determine the feasibility of preservation, public access, and dedication of the historic site as a public and visitor attraction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration include in its feasibility study the possibility of utilizing a public/private partnership to fund, develop, and administer the site, including using the resources of the private sector, non-profit organizations, and other governmental jurisdictions that are potential stakeholders in this historic venue; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to report its findings and recommendations to the Council no later than 120 days following the adoption of this resolution, including any proposed legislation needed to implement the preservation and dedication of the historic Arizona Battery at Kahe Point Military Reservation for use as a public and visitor attraction; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor; the Managing Director; the Governor; the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, U.S. Pacific Command, Box 64028, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii 96861-4028; and the President of the United States of America, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20500.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tom Ikehara

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

DEC 28 2012
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers