

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 23

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 102

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 23—Relative to Japanese internment.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 30, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 23, Klehs. Japanese internment camps.

This measure would urge the United States Congress, including all members of the California delegation, to vote for passage of, and urge President Bush to sign into law legislation that would authorize \$38 million in federal funds to preserve camps where Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II.

WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, pursuant to which 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated in internment camps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The internment deferred the American dream for these Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry by inflicting a great human cost of abandoned homes, businesses, careers, and professional advancements, and disruption to family life; and

WHEREAS, During this regrettable era in our nation's history, Japanese-Americans were held at internment camps, including camps at Tule Lake and Manzanar in California, and a host of additional sites, including 17 assembly centers in such places as the old Tanforan racetrack in San Bruno, and at sites in Stockton, Salinas, and Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, United States Representative Bill Thomas of Bakersfield has introduced House Resolution No. 1492, a bill that would authorize \$38 million in federal funds to preserve the camps where Japanese-Americans were interned during World War II; and

WHEREAS, That bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to create a program within the National Park Service to work with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations "for the purpose of identifying, researching, evaluating, interpreting, protecting, restoring, repairing, and acquiring historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites and that these sites will demonstrate the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law"; and

WHEREAS, A preservation committee in Tule Lake, which already has reclaimed three wooden sheds that were camp barracks, would be among the entities eligible for funding under the legislation; and

WHEREAS, The Manzanar camp site on Highway 395 in the eastern Sierra, which the National Park Service already has designated a historic site, and which attracts more than 80,000 people a year, also would be eligible for funding under this bill; and

WHEREAS, Among the cosponsors of the legislation are United States Representative Doris Matsui of Sacramento, who was born in the Poston internment camp in Arizona, and Representative Mike Honda of San Jose, who spent his early childhood in a Colorado camp; and

WHEREAS, California, home to many Japanese-American citizens, has been resolute in its commitment to honor the contributions and leadership of these citizens and to not forget the dark period of our history when Japanese-Americans were sent to internment camps; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California urges Congress, including all members of the California delegation, to vote for passage of legislation that would accomplish the goals stated in this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges President Bush to support this legislation and to sign it into law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to Representative Thomas and every other member of the California delegation to the United States Congress and to the President of the United States.