



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONSIDER LESS COSTLY MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS REGARDING THE WAIKIKI WAR MEMORIAL AND NATATORIUM.

WHEREAS, the Waikiki War Memorial and Natatorium ("the Natatorium") was built in 1927 as a municipal swimming pool open to the public as a monument to the 101 members of the United States Armed Services from Hawaii who were killed in World War I; and

WHEREAS, the Natatorium pool has been closed to the public since 1979 due to a lack of maintenance and its general state of disrepair and has been fenced and locked as a safety hazard since 1980; and

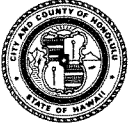
WHEREAS, in 1998, the City appropriated \$11 million for the full restoration of the natatorium, but only the façade was restored and new bathrooms were built before the Circuit Court of the First Circuit ruled that the Natatorium's swimming pool required regulation by the State Department of Health (DOH); and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2002, DOH adopted new rules for public swimming pools, among which are requirements that "[a]ll plans and specification for public saltwater specialty swimming pools must incorporate a mechanical pumping system" and that "[s]urfaces in the ... swimming pool walls, bottom and deck must be easy to clean and scrubbed to remove bacterial films" (Title 11, Chapter 10, Hawaii Administrative Rules); and

WHEREAS, compliance with the new DOH rules would require substantial changes to the Natatorium pool, including the design and installation of a mechanical pumping and circulation system, as well as the installation of hard, easy-to-clean surfaces for the pool walls, bottom and deck; and

WHEREAS, in May 2004, the City closed the bathrooms at the Natatorium after a section on the pool deck collapsed, leaving a crater at the edge of the bleachers on the mauka wall; and

WHEREAS, in August 2004, the City received engineering reports (Departmental Communication 785 (2004)) indicating that the Natatorium swim basin structure, consisting of the concrete pool deck, concrete perimeter sea walls and support elements, is at risk of collapsing and should remain closed to the public until measures are taken to stabilize and/or repair the structure; and



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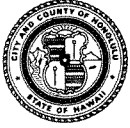
WHEREAS, the engineering reports acknowledge, however, that the recommended stabilization/repair measures do not take into consideration any long-term implications, such as the maintenance of the structure, the continuing corrosion and erosion of the original structure, the capability of the structure to withstand storm level ocean forces and any effects on the surrounding beach and ocean areas; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration has stated that it would encumber or expend the remaining 1998 appropriation balance of \$6.1 million to repair the Natatorium; and

WHEREAS, the Council is concerned by the expenditure of monies for what are apparently temporary measures to repair the Natatorium, particularly in view of questions regarding the long-term structural integrity of the Natatorium and the design changes required for full restoration of the Natatorium in compliance with the new Department of Health rules; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City Administration to consider less costly measures to address the health and safety concerns regarding the Waikiki War Memorial and Natatorium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such less costly measures may include improved fencing, additional security or other alternatives to protect the public around the Natatorium; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Design and Construction, the Director of Planning and Permitting, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Managing Director, the Mayor, the Director of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Director of the State Department of Health.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

(OCS/090204/mg)