

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
MAY 7 – 8, 2014**

**Resolution No. 18: Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial  
Origin: Register Resolution No. 2700 (HI) Dept. Conv.  
Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, The American Legion was instrumental in the passing of initial legislation and funding for the Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial in 1921; and

WHEREAS, The Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial was constructed as a Living Memorial with its 100 X 40 meter saltwater swimming pool built to honor 101 who died and the nearly 10,000 others who served in WWI from Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, The Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial, owned by the State of Hawaii but operated under executive order by the City of Honolulu and the Natatorium was closed in 1979 due to thirty years of neglect and prior to its closure in 1979, the last recorded public investment in capital maintenance was \$100,000 in 1995; and

WHEREAS, The Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and was named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 11 Most Endangered list in 1995; and

WHEREAS, By 1998, an Environmental Impact Statement was accepted, all permits were in place, and full funding (\$11.5M) was provided by the City and County of Honolulu for complete restoration for the Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial and in 2001, locker rooms, the bleachers and facade were repaired before a small but vocal opposition group used the Honolulu Department of Health (DOH) to put the restoration on hold; and

WHEREAS, The DOH took three years to promulgate saltwater pool rules and by that time the construction team was demobilized, a new administration had taken over in Honolulu and the project was halted and, in 2005, the remaining appropriated funds (about \$6.4M) were released back to the general fund; and

WHEREAS, In 2013 the Mayor of Honolulu and the Governor of Hawaii have announced, "The pool will be demolished. A beach will be built that will match up with the Kaimana Beach and the memorial arches are going to be moved more inland"; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 7-8, 2014, That the National Organization support the Department of Hawaii in their effort to ensure full restoration of the Waikiki Natatorium War Memorial to its original condition and location to honor those servicemembers lost and injured during World War One without any financial obligation to the National Organization.**