



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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PRESS RELEASE

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February 17, 2010
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CAMP PRESERVATION PROJECTS INCLUDED IN 2011 BUDGET

Washington, D.C. -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, has been advocating for camp preservation projects which would help to teach the public about the incarceration of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II. These projects are intended to inform the population of that horrendous period in history when the Constitution was threatened as 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, mostly United States citizens, were ordered to leave their west coast homes and were incarcerated in hastily constructed camps in desolate areas. The JACL understands that education is important to ensure that this act is not repeated against any people.

In addition to the \$3 million for camp grants funding, the President's FY 2011 budget includes a number of other funding initiatives which are of particular interest to the JACL and the Japanese American community. All of these funding requests are subject to Congressional appropriation.

The budget request for Tule Lake planning funding includes funds to continue the development of a general management plan for the Valor in the Pacific National Monument/Tule Lake unit in California, a monument program which was established by President Bush.

The budget request includes funding to start the planning process for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial at the Eagledale Ferry Dock site. Congress added the site to the Minidoka National Historic Site as a satellite unit.

The budget request also includes funding to enable the National Parks Service to study the Honouliuli Site on Oahu and other camp sites on Hawaii as potential additions to the National Park System. The funds would carry out a Congressionally-authorized special resource study.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, stated: "The JACL met with Secretary of the Interior Salazar and National Parks Service Director, Jon Jarvis, to request this funding. We will continue to work with Senators Inouye and Feinstein as well as Congressman Honda to assure these items remain in the Budget as it moves through Congress. Collaboration with other groups, particularly Dan Sakura and the Conversation Fund, has been essential in maintaining focus on these funding issues which are important to the JACL."

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