

SCR010S01 compared with SCR010

~~deleted text~~ shows text that was in SCR010 but was deleted in SCR010S01.

Inserted text shows text that was not in SCR010 but was inserted into SCR010S01.

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Senator Jani Iwamoto proposes the following substitute bill:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE TOPAZ INTERNMENT {

} CAMP

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto

House Sponsor: { } Merrill F. Nelson

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution recognizes the achievement of establishing the Topaz Museum and Education Center to preserve the Topaz Relocation Center site and educate the public about Japanese American internment history.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the achievements of Jane Beckwith, founder and current president of the Topaz Museum Board, the past and present members of the Topaz Museum Board, and other groups and individuals in bringing the vision of the Topaz Museum and Education Center to reality and providing a place where residents of and visitors to

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the state can learn valuable lessons regarding civil rights.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, during World War II, as described in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership" led to over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, being forced from their homes in west coast states and incarcerated in camps such as the Topaz Relocation Center near Delta, Utah;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum Board, a 501(c)(3) organization, was established in 1996 after raising money to restore a portion of an original Topaz recreation hall that had been used as the Boy Scouts meeting place during the period of incarceration;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum Board, under the direction of its founder and current president, Jane Beckwith, consists of people committed to a mission of: preserving the Topaz site; telling the history of incarceration during World War II; honoring the internees; interpreting the impact of the experience on the internees, their families, and the residents of Millard County; and educating the public in order to prevent a similar denial of American civil rights from recurring;

WHEREAS, since its founding, the Topaz Museum Board has purchased 633 acres of the original site of the Topaz Relocation Center, conducted teacher workshops, held pilgrimages, and raised awareness of the history of Topaz;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior designated the Topaz site as a National Historic Landmark in 2007;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, has recently completed an ambitious campaign that raised approximately \$3,000,000 to create the long-awaited and much-needed Topaz Museum and Education Center to tell the story of Topaz;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum and Education Center is the crowning jewel of a preservation program that began in 1991 to ensure the story of Japanese American internment during World War II is remembered and the site of the Topaz camp is preserved;

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WHEREAS, the museum received many donations, including \$300,000 from the state of Utah and \$1,200,000 from the National Park Service through the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program, allowing the Topaz Museum Board to complete this project;

WHEREAS, the Friends of Topaz, an organization created to support the Topaz Museum Foundation by engaging with communities, constituents, and individuals, has played an important role in promoting the mission, vitality, and success of the museum;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum Foundation has maintained a strong relationship with over 3,000 people, including many former internees, who have financially supported the foundation's programs and whose help was essential in the completion of each of the foundation's projects;

WHEREAS, the exhibits for the Topaz Museum and Education Center highlight the personal sacrifices and contributions of more than 11,000 people incarcerated at the desolate Topaz camp;

WHEREAS, the exhibits include a collection of 1,000 artifacts, including 110 original pieces of artwork created by internees during their incarceration, over 35 video interviews, and a restored recreation hall;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum and Education Center has become the official repository for teaching, exploring, and interpreting the history of this troubled period of America's past and the impact that still resonates today;

WHEREAS, the museum stands as a memorial to the resilient internees who tried to make camp life as normal as possible and as a witness for the history of the incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II;

WHEREAS, the installations and exhibits use cutting-edge technology combined with historic perspectives to engage and educate the public about the United States Constitution and civil rights;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum and Education Center will continue to collect and safeguard artifacts, artwork, and video interviews, making them accessible to future generations, and ensuring this period in American history will never be forgotten;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum Foundation also protects 633 acres of the original Topaz site, which is replete with evidence of gardens, walkways, concrete foundations, and artifacts, giving evidence of Japanese Americans who lived there from September 11, 1942,

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until October 31, 1945;

WHEREAS, visitors can learn this complex history, including information about the four Supreme Court test ~~cases from Topaz internees Min~~ case appellants—Min Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Topaz internees Fred Korematsu ~~(,)~~ and Mitsuye ~~Endo,~~ by Endo—by reading exhibit panels, by seeing artifacts and an original recreation hall, and then by visiting the actual camp site;

WHEREAS, this total experience produces an understanding of the stark reality of what happened in America to people of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were American citizens;

WHEREAS, the completion of the Topaz Museum and Education Center allows students, families, educators, historians, former internees, and their families to learn from the artwork, artifacts, oral histories, diaries, and interpretive exhibits, and then travel 16 miles to where the history occurred;

WHEREAS, museum docents greet visitors and answer questions beyond the scope of the exhibits allowing visitors to question and contemplate poignant and significant aspects of civil rights and race relations;

WHEREAS, in 2007, Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. spoke at the dedication of the Topaz site as a National Historic Landmark;

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Utah State Legislature passed a resolution supporting the construction of the Topaz Museum and Education Center;

WHEREAS, on January 18, 2013, Governor Gary Herbert proclaimed January 30, 2013, "Fred Korematsu Day" in Utah, honoring Mr. Korematsu on what would have been his 94th birthday for his lifelong efforts to assure civil liberties for all Americans, following his imprisonment at Topaz and landmark Supreme Court case;

WHEREAS, Topaz art has been shown in five major galleries in California and Utah, and in 2018 the Utah Museum of Fine Arts will host a retrospective show of the art of Chiura Obata, who started the art school at Topaz;

WHEREAS, over 250 teachers have learned about Topaz in the Summer Field School hosted by the Topaz Museum Foundation and the Utah State Office of Education and countless students have visited the Topaz Museum;

WHEREAS, the Topaz Museum website and social media accounts confirm that 5,000

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people per month are reading about Topaz and downloading information about visiting the site; and

WHEREAS, the grand opening of the Topaz Museum and Education Center took place on July 7 and 8, 2017, and featured speeches by Senator Orrin Hatch, Representative Rob Bishop, Jill Remington Love, executive director, Utah Department of Heritage and Arts, and Don Tamaki, whose parents were in Topaz, a koto performance by Shirley Muramoto, a flag presentation by the Latinos in Action, a presentation by Kimi Kodani Hill, a book signing by Willie Ito, who was in Topaz, taiko drumming by the Ogden Buddhist Taiko Group, the puppet show "E.O. 9066" by the San Francisco troupe, Lunatique Fantastique, a ribbon cutting, and tours of the museum and site:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, recognizes the achievements of Jane Beckwith and the Topaz Museum Board in bringing the vision of the Topaz Museum and Education Center to reality and providing a place where residents of and visitors to the state can learn valuable lessons regarding civil rights and the nation's commitment to equal justice under the law by championing the resilience of the internees who remained steadfast when their government wavered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor laud the efforts of all those who contributed to this effort and encourage the residents of and visitors to the state to take advantage of the important educational opportunities available at the Topaz Museum, 55 West Main, Delta, Utah.

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Legislative Review Note

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel