

Submitter: Lesley Tamura

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Measure: SB1509

I support SB 1509. My great-grandfather immigrated to America from Japan in the early 1900s and worked to build a home and life here in Hood River for his family. Despite being the owner of multiple orchards and working hard to make sure his family was seen as "good Americans", he, his wife and their 4 children (along with so many other Japanese-Americans) were imprisoned in internment camps after Pearl Harbor. While my grandfather and great-uncle served in the U.S. military and were deployed to Europe, the rest of the family remained imprisoned. After being released from the camps, they chose to return to Hood River, despite the intense anti-Japanese sentiments permeating the entire valley. They were more fortunate than many other Japanese-Americans because my family still had their orchards to return to, unlike so many whose property, homes and belongings were stolen while they were imprisoned. There is no way to make up for the pain that was caused during this era of our history, but the one thing we can do is find ways to continue to honor that experience and to keep that history alive for generations to come. Please support SB 1509, and honor our history.