

Findings and Purposes

The Congress, having authorized the final written report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, Public Law 96-317, now makes the following specific findings:

1. No justification exists in law, equity, military expediency, or morality for the evacuation, relocation, and internment of more than 120,000 Nikkei and Aleut civilians during World War Two pursuant to Executive Order 9066 and related actions of the federal government;

2. The United States of America has a legal and moral obligation to provide compensation for persons who sustained loss by virtue of Executive Order 9066 and related actions of the federal government;

3. Congress has power under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution to take all reasonable and necessary measures and actions to satisfy the aforementioned legal and moral obligation.

The Congress further finds that Executive Order 9066 and related actions of the federal government, and the resultant

evacuation of the Nikkei community from the western United States caused injuries to the social, economic, political, cultural, and spiritual well-being of the community and its individual members which can never be compensated solely in individual monetary payments to those so affected.

The Congress further finds that the Nikkei community cannot recover its social, political, economic, cultural, and spiritual well-being unless it is granted such financial assistance and political autonomy as will enable it to determine for itself its own destiny in the United States.

It is the purpose of this Act to grant to the Nikkei community, in a manner not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, the rights and the means to establish a community fund by which such self-determination can be accomplished.

Definitions

As used in this act,

"Act" refers to this Act.

"Actions of the Federal Government", as used herein, refers to any Executive Order, Presidential Proclamation, Public Laws, directives of the Armed Forces of the United States, rules and regulations of administrative agencies, and any other action having the force of law made by or on behalf of the United States, its agents, representatives, officers, and employees during World War Two causing the losses described below in Section of this Act. Said actions of the Federal Government, for purposes of this Act, shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Executive Order 9066
2. Public Law 503
3. Presidential Proclamation 2525
4. directives of the Western Defense Command
5. Orders of the Commanding Officer of the Hawaii Department and Military Governor of Hawaii
6. Orders of the War Manpower Commission
7. Decisions of the Leupp Hearing Board Committee

8. actions of the War Relocation Authority
9. actions of the Selective Service System
10. all federal actions resulting in the compulsory evacuation of peoples of the Aleut tribe from their native homes in the Territory of Alaska
11. all persons of Japanese descent residing in Central or South America prior to December 7, 1941, who were later detained in the United States of America by force of law

"Evacuee" refers to every Nikkei, Aleut, or other persons who suffered any of the losses described below in section (Categories of Losses) by virtue of Executive Order 9066 or actions of the federal government. "Evacuee" shall include all persons who were detained in relocation camps, or other places of incarceration administered by the War Relocation Authority, or the Armed Forces of the United States, or the Justice Department of the United States.

"Evacuee" shall also include all persons who were forced to evacuate from the West Coast of the United States by Order of the Western Defense Command, although such persons were not detained in relocation camps, or other places of incarceration.