



NIKKEI STUDENT UNION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES • 3230 CAMPBELL HALL, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90095

December 27, 2009

Councilman Bill Rosendahl
Los Angeles City Council District 11
200 North Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org

Dear Councilman Rosendahl:

The Board of the Nikkei Student Union at UCLA fully supports your motion to erect a commemorative marker at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. On April 25, 1942, hundreds of Japanese and Japanese Americans living in the Venice community reported to this corner to be placed on buses headed to temporary assembly centers. These innocent citizens were eventually sent to War Relocation Authority camps where they were unjustly incarcerated for the sole reason that they shared the ethnicity of the nation that attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

The Nikkei Student Union was founded in 1981 as an avenue for college students to address important issues in the Asian American community. The creation of NSU is closely linked to the beginning of the Redress Commission hearings in Los Angeles for incarcerated Japanese Americans. This initiative to place a commemorative marker is relevant to our organization, and we believe that it is a necessary milestone for the Nikkei community.

It is our hope that through the placement of this marker, people will not only be reminded of the injustices of the past but the need to act in the present to fight for the equal rights of all citizens. There is a need for all communities to become fluent in each other's histories. This marker will acknowledge the damage that discrimination and prejudice have had on history, and will be a positive step for our society today.

Sincerely,

Edward Kobayashi
President