
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, Article IX, sections 7 and 9 of the Hawaii State
2 Constitution and chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS),
3 demonstrate the importance of cultural and historic properties
4 to the State; and
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6 WHEREAS, chapter 6E, HRS, authorizes the creation of a
7 comprehensive historic preservation program within the
8 Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to promote the
9 conservation and use of historic and cultural properties in
10 Hawaii; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Division (Division) of
13 DLNR is comprised of three branches, the History and Culture,
14 Archaeology, and Architecture branches, which work to preserve
15 and sustain reminders of earlier times that link the past to the
16 present and implement the Natural Historic Preservation Act of
17 1966, as amended, and the state historic preservation law,
18 pursuant to chapter 6E, HRS; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Division is responsible for, among other
21 things:
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- 23 (1) Maintaining an inventory of 38,000 historic
24 properties;
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- 26 (2) Preserving sites that are on the State Register of
27 Historic Places;
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- 29 (3) Managing burial sites that are over 50 years old, of
30 which 98 percent relate to Hawaiian skeletal remains;



(4) Preserving and protecting of historic sites on public lands designated as historic preserves and perpetuating cultural traditions associated with the sites;

(5) Informing and educating members of the public on historic preservation programs and processes; and

(6) Offering archaeological services to help other governmental agencies fulfill their historic preservation responsibilities;

and

WHEREAS, the Division is also required to review numerous development project plans for compliance with the historic preservation laws relating to historic artifacts and burial sites; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that historic artifacts and boxes of iwi, or burial remains, from burial sites that are required to be reinterred or otherwise properly preserved, have been left in various locations not providing for the proper preservation of such items, such as shipping containers on development lots, bathroom closets, under parking lots, and in boxes stored in state or other facilities; and

WHEREAS, eight of the 24 Division positions are currently unfilled due to high qualification requirements and competition with private sector jobs, despite ads seeking to fill the positions and placement of an employment specialist at the Human Resources office; and

WHEREAS, the Division has immense responsibility without the necessary resources; and

WHEREAS, the Auditor conducts management audits to examine the effectiveness of programs, the efficiency of agencies, or both, and operation audits to examine how well agencies are organized and managed and how efficiently they acquire and use resources; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is
4 requested to perform a management audit of the Historic
5 Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural
6 Resources; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
9 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
10 legislation, to the Legislature not later than 20 days prior to
11 the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
14 include in its findings:

- 15
16 (1) The reasons for the failure of the Division to
17 properly document, reinter, and preserve historic
18 artifacts and boxes of iwi;
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20 (2) The organizational structure of the Division,
21 including hiring practices, staffing coverage, and
22 facilities; and
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24 (3) Internal budgeting and fiscal controls to ensure
25 effective and appropriate expenditure of appropriated
26 funds;

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28 and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
31 gather and consider information provided by historic
32 preservation consultants, government agency staff, island burial
33 councils, native Hawaiians, landowners, businesses, and
34 community members that are most directly impacted by and depend
35 on the Division's mandated services; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the
39 Administrator of the Historic Preservation Division of DLNR, and
40 the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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43 OFFERED BY:

Maile Canoll
Cindy Evans
Raymond



Jeffrey
John A. Olin

Michael J. McGowan
John M. McGowan
Tony White
Tom Brown

David

John

Paul Gray

COHEN

Paul

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