

---

# 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

5  
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

11  
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

19  
20 WHEREAS, the Division is responsible for, among other  
21 things:

- 22  
23 (1) Maintaining an inventory of 38,000 historic  
24 properties;  
25  
26 (2) Preserving sites that are on the State Register of  
27 Historic Places;  
28  
29 (3) Managing burial sites that are over 50 years old, of  
30 which 98 percent relate to Hawaiian skeletal remains;



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

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

8  
9 (6) Offering archaeological services to help other  
10 governmental agencies fulfill their historic  
11 preservation responsibilities;

12  
13 and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the Division is also required to review numerous  
16 development project plans for compliance with the historic  
17 preservation laws relating to historic artifacts and burial  
18 sites; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that historic artifacts  
21 and boxes of iwi, or burial remains, from burial sites that are  
22 required to be reinterred or otherwise properly preserved, have  
23 been left in various locations not providing for the proper  
24 preservation of such items, such as shipping containers on  
25 development lots, bathroom closets, under parking lots, and in  
26 boxes stored in state or other facilities; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, since October 2004, 18 staff members have left the  
29 Division, including five staff members hired since then, and  
30 currently eight of the 24 Division positions remain unfilled  
31 despite ads seeking to fill the positions and placement of an  
32 employment specialist at the Human Resources office; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, the Division has immense responsibility without  
35 the necessary resources; and  
36

37 WHEREAS, the Auditor conducts management audits to examine  
38 the effectiveness of programs, the efficiency of agencies, or  
39 both, and operation audits to examine how well agencies are  
40 organized and managed and how efficiently they acquire and use  
41 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  
7

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  
12

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;  
19

20 (2) The organizational structure of the Division,  
21 including hiring practices, staffing coverage, and  
22 facilities; and  
23

24 (3) Internal budgeting and fiscal controls to ensure  
25 effective and appropriate expenditure of appropriated  
26 funds;  
27

28 and  
29

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  
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to  
38 interview former Division staff and candidates for positions in  
39 the Division to evaluate the recruitment, hiring, and employment  
40 practices of the Division and any other Division management  
41 issues; and



- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
- 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the
- 3 Administrator of the Historic Preservation Division of DLNR, and
- 4 the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

