
HOUSE 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;



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
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9 (6) Offering archaeological services to help other
10 governmental agencies fulfill their historic
11 preservation responsibilities;
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13 and
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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
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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
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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
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34 WHEREAS, the Division has immense responsibility without
35 the necessary resources; and
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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, that the Auditor is requested to perform a
4 management audit of the Historic Preservation Division of the
5 Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
8 submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
9 legislation, to the Legislature not later than 20 days prior to
10 the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
13 include in its findings:
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- 15 (1) The reasons for the failure of the Division to
16 properly document, reinter, and preserve historic
17 artifacts and boxes of iwi;
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- 19 (2) The organizational structure of the Division,
20 including hiring practices, staffing coverage, and
21 facilities; and
22
- 23 (3) Internal budgeting and fiscal controls to ensure
24 effective and appropriate expenditure of appropriated
25 funds;
26

27 and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
30 gather and consider information provided by historic
31 preservation consultants, government agency staff, island burial
32 councils, native Hawaiians, landowners, businesses, and
33 community members that are most directly impacted by and depend
34 on the Division's mandated services; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
37 interview former Division staff and candidates for positions in
38 the Division to evaluate the recruitment, hiring, and employment
39 practices of the Division and any other Division management
40 issues; and



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

