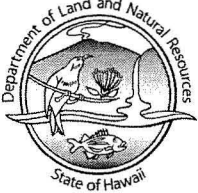


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

on House Bill 2955 – Relating To Archaeological Data

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 22, 2008

House Bill 2955 establishes and designates an archaeological data survey as an online data base program of the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports the intent of this bill but notes that it has previously been made aware, by federal partners, of concerns regarding making information on certain federal historic properties available. Additionally, there are concerns that information available to the public may pose a threat to the protection of valuable historic properties.



TO: Committee on Finance

FROM: Bishop Museum

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF H.B. 2955
Relating to Archaeological Data**

**HEARING: February 22, 2008
2:15 p.m.
Room 308**

Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife, Bernice Pauahi Bishop. The Museum is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "to study, preserve and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific." The Museum houses 24 million natural history and cultural collection items, making it the 4th largest museum collection in the country. In 1989, the Legislature designated Bishop Museum as the State's Museum of natural and cultural and history. The Museum currently maintains numerous internet-based natural history and cultural collections databases which provide people with virtual access to our collections-based resources.

Bishop Museum supports the creation of the Archaeological Data Survey. The goal is to create an on-line resource of Hawaiian archaeology information and improve access to these materials. The database will provide a tangible benefit to archaeologists, researchers, educators, and the public. Anyone with internet access will have unprecedented access to a rich body of archaeological information. The database will increase the awareness of traditional Hawaiian material cultures and will facilitate improved preservation of Hawaiian archaeological resources. The online resource could include the development of finding aids and the digitization of materials from Bishop Museum, other private collections, and publicly available materials. A similar bill passed the Legislature last year but was vetoed over concerns about safeguarding confidential and sensitive information. We believe that the bill at hand, HB 2955, addresses the concerns that the Attorney General's office raised.

Bishop Museum asks this Committee to support creating a Hawaii Archaeological Data Survey by approving the passage of HB 2955. Thank you for your consideration.