


LATE

March 31, 2008

Testimony

To: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee Members

From: Sarah Richards 
President
Hawaii Theatre Center

Re: HB 3348 – Relating to Historic Preservation

On behalf of the Hawaii Theatre Center, I am pleased to testify in support of HB 3348. This innovative legislation will help to preserve Hawaii's important cultural and historic landmarks and contribute to Hawaii's uniqueness as a tourist destination.

What draws visitors, and particularly repeat visitors, to a destination is the quality and depth of the cultural experience and ability to learn about the history of that destination. Research has shown that 'heritage' visitors also spend more dollars and stay longer.

The restoration and renovation of the beautiful historic Hawaii Theatre is a perfect case in point of the value of saving a cherished landmark for new generations to enjoy as well as serving the local non-profit performing arts community.

Even more significant is the catalyst role which the restored Theatre played to sparking the revival of Chinatown and creating a unique Hawaii tourist destination. Since the Theater re-opened, the number of tourists drawn to the area has grown tremendously.

This legislation would also form a partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A win-win for everyone!

I strongly urge your support of HB 3348.