

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND CULTURE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 3348

January 28, 2008

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

This bill seeks to earmark a portion of transient accommodations tax revenues to the Hawaii Preservation Fund, as administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in cooperation with the Historic Hawaii Foundation, to provide funding for preservation services in Hawaii.

We oppose this bill. This department does not support earmarking funds for private non-profit organizations. Monies provided to private organizations should follow provisions under Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

**NATIONAL
TRUST
FOR
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION**

VIA EMAIL: TACtestimony@Capitol.Hawaii.gov
Submit 5 copies

January 28, 2008

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Committee Chair
The Honorable Joey Manahan, Committee Vice-Chair
Committee on Tourism and Culture

RE: Support for HB3348, Relating to Historic Preservation

Dear Chairman Yamane and Vice Chairman Manahan,

On behalf of the more than 500 Hawai'i members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I am writing in support of HB3348, which would capitalize the Hawai'i Preservation Fund to support efforts to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage.

Since receiving our charter by Congress in 1949, the National Trust has worked with preservation advocates in communities across the country to save historic places and to revitalize older downtowns and neighborhoods. Currently, the National Trust administers the Hawai'i Preservation Fund to ensure that the state's unique history is preserved for the benefit of future generations – both local residents and visitors alike. Unfortunately, this fund, established through a gift from the Historic Hawai'i Foundation in 1998, is a "spend-down" fund and is anticipated to be depleted by the end of 2008.

In partnership with the Historic Hawai'i Foundation, we are seeking to establish a permanent endowment for the Hawai'i Preservation Fund. Leveraged by private contributions, including a \$100,000 lead gift, the endowed fund will be of lasting benefit to the heritage and peoples of Hawai'i. Preservation Fund grant awards are often the first dollars invested in a preservation project, helping local groups save the irreplaceable resources that help define a community. Preservation Fund grants also serve as a powerful and effective catalyst for fundraising and local involvement, leveraging, on average, an additional nine dollars of local investment for each dollar awarded.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of establishing a permanent endowment fund to preserve Hawai'i's unique heritage. Please support HB3348 to capitalize the Hawai'i Preservation Fund.

Sincerely,



Emily Wadhams
Vice President for Public Policy
National Trust for Historic Preservation

cc: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation
Mary M. Cooke, National Trust Trustee
Lani Ma'a Lapilio, National Trust Advisor
Anthea Hartig, National Trust Western Office
