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From: Thomas Dye [sha@tsdye2.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 11:26 AM
To: TACtestimony
Cc: Society for Hawaiian Archaeology
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 3394

TO: Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair,
House Committee on Tourism and Culture

FROM: Thomas S. Dye, Ph.D., President
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HEARING: January 28, 2008, 10:00 AM, House Conference Room 325
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SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB 3394, Making an Appropriation for
a Graduate Maritime Archaeology and History Certificate Program at the University of
Hawai'i at Manoa

I am Dr. Thomas Dye, President of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA). We have over 200 members that include professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation in general. I am testifying in strong support of HB 3394, a bill that proposes to appropriate funding to establish a certificate program in maritime archaeology and history at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

SHA believes that the graduate marine archaeology and history certificate program enabled by the proposed appropriation is an important complement to existing programs at the University of Hawaii and would contribute greatly to the breadth of training opportunities currently offered in the inter-disciplinary fields of archaeology, history, and historic preservation. Maritime historic properties are an important component of Hawaii's heritage and their study and preservation require specialized technical knowledge and experience. Having faculty dedicated to and trained in this field of study at the University of Hawaii gives Hawaii's students an important opportunity to gain graduate and professional training in this specialized field locally.

The recent designation of Papahānaumokuākea as a Marine National Monument has greatly raised awareness of Hawaii's marine environment, including its rich marine archaeological resources and history. The long-term management of these resources will depend on our having dedicated individuals trained in this field. As mentioned in the proposed amendment, there is also a growing interest in marine archaeological sites as a component of heritage tourism in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific. Trained professionals in this field can help ensure that these commercial activities are conducted in a manner that does not jeopardize these resources.

SHA believes our members and the public will benefit from this effort to strengthen graduate and professional training opportunities at the University of Hawaii and from advances in our understanding of the State's marine heritage that are likely to be a result of this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above telephone number and email address.

Thomas S. Dye, Ph.D
President, Society for Hawaiian Archaeology