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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

**LATE**

**on Senate Bill 2285 – Relating to Historic Preservation**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Friday, February 1, 2008**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes Senate Bill 2285. Senate Bill 2285 amends Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), so that each County agency that issues building, construction or development related permits, establish a procedure to withhold 4% of all fees collected from such permits to be deposited to the Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund, under 6E-16, as administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD).

Currently the Department's Historic Preservation Division reviews all county projects as required by Section 6E-42, HRS and does not collect any reviewing fees from County agencies. The Department believes that charging the Counties is unnecessary.

SHPD currently has authority to and does charge fees for all non-governmental applicants seeking review. The Department also has the ability to set these fees and the Department intends to review its current fee structure this year. If after this review, fees are determined to be insufficient, the Department will look into initiating a new fee structure, which will help the Department maintain sufficient staff to conduct development reviews.

The Department would ask the committee to support the Department's Supplemental Budget request, which allocates funds to the Department's Historic Preservation Division, to strengthen the State's oversight and support of historic preservation across the State.

Position requests include two Compliance Specialists, which will provide accurate project intake and classification, consistent data base maintenance and help ensure timely responses to public inquiries, as well as, a Librarian to maintain SHPD libraries on all islands and provide a consistent filing system for reports.

Additional money is requested for reinternment of iwi in the State Inventory on all islands. The funding will allow the department to purchase burial vaults and to pay for labor to reinter the iwi. The Department is also requesting lease rent monies for Hawaii island staff which lost its Kona office space and is in need of a permanent office.