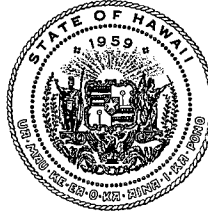
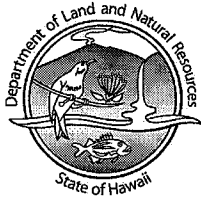


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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 Senate Bill 2868 – Relating To Archaeological Data

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TAXATION
AND
AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Senate Bill 2868 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 (Department) supports the intent of this bill but recommends amendments to focus on curation and repositories of archaeological collections obtained through archaeological work in Hawaii and on the Bernice Pauhi Bishop Museum's own material collections, and on a definition of archaeological data survey. The Department is willing to work with effected partners to develop the aforementioned amendments.

Additionally, the Department notes that it has previously been made aware, by federal partners, of concerns regarding making information on certain federal historic properties available. There is also a concern that information available to the public may pose a threat to the protection of valuable historic properties.

testimony

From: Thomas Dye [sha@tsdye2.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2008 11:44 AM
To: testimony
Cc: Society for Hawaiian Archaeology
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 2868, Relating to Archaeological Data

TO: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation and

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Thomas S. Dye, Ph.D., President
Society for Hawaiian Archaeology
Telephone: 808-529-0866, FAX: 808-529-0884
Email: sha@TSDYE2.com

HEARING: February 7, 2008, 3:45 PM, House Conference Room 224
COPIES: 5
SUBJECT: Testimony in Opposition to SB 2868, Relating to
Archaeological Data

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 opposition to SB 2868, a bill that proposes to amend Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) in order to create a Hawaii archaeological data survey as a program of Bishop Museum, the Hawaii State Museum of Culture and Natural History.

The survey is meant to be an online database of existing documentation of archaeological work from the Hawaiian archipelago. The bill further proposes to expand the use and knowledge of Hawaii's archaeological artifacts by conducting the archaeological survey in consultation with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and other appropriate organizations. In 1992, a Hawaii biological survey was established under §6E-61, HRS, at the Bishop Museum as the State of Hawaii museum of natural and cultural history. The proposed amendment may be intended to establish a cultural counterpart to this biological survey designation.

We testified in opposition to prior versions of this bill during the regular session of the 2007 Legislature. We support the intent of the current bill but still have serious questions over how it will be implemented as it is currently worded; some of these questions are as follows:

- The establishment of such a database would have significant costs, both in materials and personnel; SB 2868 sheds no light on how these costs would be met, or who would pay them. SHA members familiar with successful and functional data bases elsewhere stress the need for significant and sustained funding, a long-term commitment to developing the system, and on-going coordination with all interested parties.
- It is not clear who would participate in or contribute to the building of the archaeological database. Will participation be voluntary or required? Will it be limited to professional archaeologists? Will traditional cultural properties be included?
- SB 2868 appears to propose some duplication of functions currently fulfilled by DLNR. Archaeological activities are already regulated by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) as seen in §6E-3 (13), while archaeological survey, site inventory, and data collection programs are among the duties of DLNR outlined in existing §6E-3(1) and (3). In particular, §6E-3(3) contains the following mandate for DLNR: "Development of statewide survey and inventory to identify and document historic properties, aviation artifacts, and burial sites, including all those owned by the State and the counties;" Under Federal law, the State Historic Preservation Offices are also

mandated to maintain such an inventory.

In view of the above, we have thus suggested to Bishop Museum that the focus of the subject bill be changed to develop a survey of archaeological collections - including recovered materials as well as associated documents - held by public and private agencies in the state. The long-term fate of curated archaeological collections is a looming crisis that will require the expertise of Bishop Museum and the cooperation of public institutions, state agencies, and private archaeological contractors to resolve. To that end, we propose that the following language replace the current language in Paragraph (a):

"§6 Archaeological Collections Survey; designation. (a) There is established a Hawaii archaeological collections survey designated as a program of the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The survey shall compile and maintain a listing of all collections of archaeological materials and associated documents that are held by known repositories in the state. The survey shall:

Include an enumeration of the types and amounts of materials and associated documentation in each collection; List the owner(s) of all materials and associated documentation in each collection; Provide an assessment of the condition of all components of each collection; Include any additional information pertaining to each collection that is deemed relevant to purpose of the survey; Publish the results of the archaeological collections survey in the form of an online database that shall be accessible to the public, and that shall be updated regularly to reflect any changes in the listed collections."

Paragraphs (b) and (c) of the subject bill would remain the same.

We believe that if this proposed survey of archaeological collections is carried out, the Bishop Museum will, by its leadership in this matter, render a great public service to the State of Hawaii and to the historic preservation community. The "curation crisis," as it is named by the National Park Service, will require expertise, cooperation, and commitment to resolve. We hope that an amended version of SB 2968, such as we have proposed, will bring about a successful resolution.

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



BISHOP MUSEUM

TESTIMONY
SB 2868 - RELATING TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

February 7, 2008
3:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice-Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

Bishop Museum **supports** Senate Bill 2868 which establishes an Archaeological Data Survey as a program at the state's Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

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. Last year the Legislature passed a different bill that also created an archeological data survey. That bill was vetoed primarily over questions of protecting confidential and sensitive information. We believe that we have addressed those concerns in S.B. 2868.

Since this bill's introduction, we have been made aware of certain concerns raised by the Department of Land & Natural Resources, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology. Bishop Museum is willing to meet with these organizations to ascertain if we can address the issues they raised.