



IOLANI PALACE

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TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Representative Joey Manahan, Chair
Representative James K. Tokioka, Vice Chair

Monday, April 6, 2009

HCR 225 HD1 and HR 193 HD1

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of these resolutions.

Without reiterating the information already contained in the body of the resolutions, The Friends believes that the designation of Iolani Palace as a World Heritage Site will greatly enhance its visibility in the international community while at the same time raising the profile of the entire State of Hawaii. In addition, sites already on the World Heritage list are a magnet for international cooperation and many do receive financial assistance for heritage conservation projects from a variety of sources.

There is also a corresponding increase in public awareness of such sites and their outstanding cultural and economic values to the local community. Polynesia is woefully underrepresented on the current World Heritage list, with Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and three national parks in New Zealand (Te Wahipounamu, Tongariro, and the Sub-Antarctic Islands) being the only examples presently designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify in strong support of these resolutions.

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