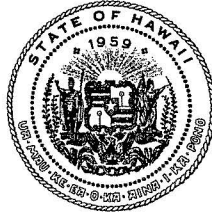
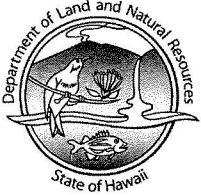


LINDA LINGLE
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Monday March 30, 2009
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 225/HOUSE RESOLUTION 193 -
URGING THE UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO PLACE
IOLANI PALACE ON THE NOMINATION LIST TO THE UNITED NATIONS
EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION FOR WORLD
HERITAGE SITE DESIGNATION**

House Concurrent Resolution 225/House Resolution 193 urges the Department of the Interior to take the procedural steps needed to place 'Iolani Palace on the World Heritage List which is sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. This list recognizes cultural and natural sites that are of such global importance that they should rightfully be considered a part of the World's heritage and not just that of a particular nation or region. It is the most prestigious world-wide designation a cultural, historic, or natural site can receive. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of these resolutions, but suggests that they be reworded to more clearly acknowledge the process by which sites are considered and nominated for World Heritage listing.

The Department has no objections to 'Iolani Palace being listed as a World Heritage site. This recognition does not impose any legal obligations or regulatory requirements. The palace is already afforded greater protection by being a National Historic Landmark and being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There would, however, be annual reporting requirements on the integrity and condition of the site and the effectiveness of any conservation efforts. World Heritage recognition may help secure funding for restoration and conservation work on the palace and provide access to important technical assistance for these efforts. It also

raises international awareness of the site which can, in turn, attract a greater number of international visitors to the palace and its educational programs.

These resolutions may be incorrect in suggesting that the nomination process is closed and needs to be opened. The Department believes the Office of International Affairs, Department of the Interior, will assist those wanting a particular site to be considered for listing as a World Heritage site. In January 2008, 14 sites were selected to be on the United States World Heritage Tentative List, a prerequisite to being nominated as a World Heritage site. Only 20 sites from the United States are currently on this list. In January 2009, two sites, President George Washington's Mount Vernon and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, were nominated to the World Heritage List. This was the first time in 15 years that the United States chose to nominate sites to the World Heritage List. Each nation can only nominate two sites per year. Instead of asking the Department of Interior to place 'Iolani Palace on the Tentative List and to nominate it to the World Heritage List, it might be more realistic to have the resolutions urge the Department of Interior to assist the Friends of 'Iolani Palace in preparing a nomination and to give this nomination its full consideration when selecting sites for the Tentative List.