

**EDT**

**SB786**



## IOLANI PALACE

PH (808) 522-0822 FAX (808) 532-1051

### TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

---

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Monday, February 16, 2009

### **SB 786**

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Senate Bill 786.

Since 2006, Iolani Palace has suffered three takeover attempts, with two of those involving the Palace itself. These acts of protest, all involving different Hawaiian sovereignty groups, have placed the Palace, the grounds, and the artifacts at extreme risk for damage and destruction.

The Friends of Iolani Palace welcomes the Legislature's proposal to identify criminal trespass and vandalism of historic properties as more serious than those taking place at other properties. We believe that historic sites designated on the Hawaii Register belong to all the people of Hawaii, and that the intentional takeover and subsequent unauthorized entry into such places is an affront to our indigenous culture.

Thank you again for allowing us to testify in strong support of this measure.