

**SCR 152**

**SR104**

**EDT**

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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KAIHOLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
LAURA H. THIELEN  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2009  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 152/SENATE RESOLUTION 104 -  
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**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 152/Senate Resolution 104 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.





## IOLANI PALACE

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### TESTIMONY OF KIPPEN DE ALBA CHU

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

### SCR 152 and SR 104

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Baker, 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.

Also, we would like to request one amendment in the last "BE IT RESOLVED" clause. Please add "**Princess Abigail Kinoiki Kekaulike Kawananakoa**" as a recipient of certified copy of these resolutions.

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