

LATE TESTIMONY

February 8, 2010

Testimony submitted by
Pono Kealoha
1107 Acacia Road, Apt 113
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
808-454-3972

**HCR 50 Requesting the Audit to Conduct a Management WLO , LMG
Audit of the State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of
Land and Natural Resources.**

It is critical that Hawaiian cultural resources and our Kupuna Iwi are properly protected FIRST. Land development and speculation must always be second. It is the primary responsibility of the State Historical Preservation Department to make sure that the public interest, and NOT private and profit interests, are upheld.

It is also critical that SHPD be held to high standards of accountability. Things have gotten out of hand and Hawaiian cultural sites and iwi are NOT being properly protected. Some examples profit over the right thing to do are the Walmart desecration on Oahu, the Naue private development on Kauai and the Hokulia land development on Hawaii.

I thank our representatives for presenting this legislation. The State Historic Preservation Department and the Department of Land & Natural Resources **would not be objecting to this if they had nothing to hide.**

Signed By:

 Date: 2-8-10

LATE TESTIMONY

NAME: Terri L. Napeahi
HCR 50

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, February 8, 2010
TIME: 9:15 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Please accept this testimony in favor of requesting auditor Marian Higa to conduct a management audit of the State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I have had the opportunity to team with a surveying crew on the Big Island of Hawaii. The experience of viewing the ancient sites will never be forgotten. I am Native Hawaiian and it was a privilege to behold the paths that were once traveled by our ancestors. Priceless historic information could be preserved for great opportunities for education and economic opportunities for the State of Hawaii. We need a stream line process that could be helpful for all. The State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources need to be in a position where they could be the nucleus of resources and assistance for the people of our State.

Mahalo,
Terri L. Napeahi
Community Member

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony in Support of HCR 50

Regarding a Management Audit of the State Historic Preservation Division

Hearing Feb. 8th, 2010 Rm. 325

February 8th, 2010

Aloha Chair Ito and Committee Members,

I am writing to support HCR 50 which authorizes an audit of the State Historic Preservation Division. It is a great concern that SHPD has failed its core function to preserve Hawaii's historic sites.

In addition, SHPD mismanagement has contributed to the following:

- 1) Strains on the State Treasury as lawsuits are filed to force the Division to follow its own rules.
- 2) Wasted tax money by having two high salaried administrators run SHPD, due to the director's lack of qualifications in the field.
- 3) A mantra of "no significant impact" and "no further mitigation measures necessary".
- 4) A huge turnover of qualified staff.
- 5) Knowledgeable community members and cultural practitioners effectively pushed from the consultation process.

The recent probe of the Division by the National Park Service is a big step towards improvement and the State should assist with this effort. Desecration of sites at Kawaiha'o Church, Hāwea Heiau Complex and Nau'e Burial Sites could have been avoided if the division had implemented proper oversight. Qualified leadership trained in Hawaiian Archaeology and Cultural Practices is desperately needed.

We all know that poor funding and the lack of qualified staff is challenging. However, many other states face similar economic challenges while still performing due diligence. A poor economy does not excuse the division to abdicate its preservation duties in favor of archaeologists handpicked and paid by developers.

We can't afford to have more cases like the Hāwea Heiau Complex. At Hāwea, the Department approved a Preservation Plan prepared without consulting a single group, despite the Native Hawaiian and East Honolulu communities expressing their concern for years to the department. It is time the leadership managing the Division is held accountable to the law and start preserving Hawaii's historic sites.

Mahalo,

Chris Cramer

East Honolulu Historian