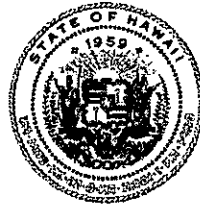
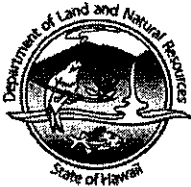


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 244/HOUSE RESOLUTION 172 --
REQUESTING THAT A LO'I BE ESTABLISHED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE
STATE CAPITOL**

House Concurrent Resolution 244/House Resolution 172 requests that lo'i be established on the grounds of the State Capitol. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) has reservations with these resolutions as establishing on the grounds of the State Capitol would affect the *integrity of setting and feeling* on which the State Capitol's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is based. Further, the Department notes that its general fund has been cut 32% over the past 3 years, special fund revenues have declined 35% over the past 3 years, and the Department has lost 80 positions in the recent Reduction-in-Force this past year. Any further cuts or additions of new unfunded mandates will likely result in loss of staff and maintenance and operations of core departmental.

The Hawaii State Capitol and accompanying grounds are on the National Register of Historic Places in two places: (1) As part of the Capitol District (80-14-1321, dated 12/1/78); and (2) As State Capitol and Grounds (same number, dated 6/19/73). The National Register nomination for the State Capitol notes that the building was designed to incorporate symbolism that Hawaii had entered a new and robust era of Statehood that was more inclusive than the Monarchy or the Republic that had used Iolani Palace as their Capitol. The pools surrounding and enclosing the building represents the ocean surrounding the Islands and the 40 columns originating from the pond and terminating and supporting the 4th floor of the building represent coconut palms and their importance to the early Native Hawaiian economy and culture. The conical shaped ceramic tile legislative chambers signify the volcanic origin of the Islands. Lastly, the interior lobby open to the sky represents an open society and influence to the acceptance of all aspects of the natural environment.

LAURA H. THIELEN
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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Treatment of the open space around the State Capitol is also important because the 1973 nomination is for both the State Capitol building and its grounds. The importance of the grounds can be noted in the effort the new state made to ensure the ample open space around the State Capitol was large enough to signifying the new building's importance. Two blocks of downtown were consolidated and Beretania Street was moved mauka. In addition, the State bought out a developer on the Beretania-Punchbowl corner, demolished the historic shell of the old Central Union church, demolished the historic Drill Shed/Armory complex above Hotel Street and dismantled and moved the historic Iolani Barracks to its present location.

The City and County of Honolulu then cooperated with the State of Hawaii to create a special design area known as the Capitol District. The centerpiece of this program was the idea of government buildings in a "great park" central to the city. The City and County of Honolulu (City) and the State then closed Hotel Street makai of the State Capitol and the Kapiolani Boulevard Extension from South King to Beretania Street. The State replaced the pavement on Hotel Street between Richards and Punchbowl Street with grass and the City also planted grass across Hotel Street as far as Alapai Street and also on Kapiolani Boulevard from South King Street to Beretania Street. The desired result was that the State Capitol is on a rise that can be seen as one approaches it from along Beretania Street. The building is located in a field of grass so that it stands out both vertically and horizontally.

If lo'i is established on the Capitol grounds, they should be established in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the original design of the grounds in relation to the building. The Department notes that the introduction of lo'i onto the Capitol grounds has the potential to exacerbate existing flooding problems in the basement meeting rooms, parking areas and chambers.

In closing, the Department reiterates that it does not have sufficient personnel or funding to implement growing kalo on the Capitol grounds as envisioned by these resolutions.