

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

VIA WEB: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony

TO: Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Rep. Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director
Historic Hawaii Foundation

Committee: Wednesday, March 24, 2010
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 329

RE: **HCR336/HR254**
Requesting SHPD to complete a Statewide Survey and Inventory to Identify and Document Historic Properties, Artifacts and Burial Sites

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of HCR336/HR254, which requests that the State Historic Preservation Division complete a statewide survey and inventory to identify and document historic properties, artifacts, burial goods and sites, and human skeletal remains that are held by or under the control of the State.

HHF strongly supports all efforts to identify and protect significant historic properties. Updating the state's inventory of historic sites, structures, artifacts, burials and other historic properties is necessary in order to improve the process of identifying and disclosing the presence of potentially significant historic and cultural sites in a timely way, which in turn will better allow the planning and development processes to provide for their protection, and will further provide for consumer protection by ensuring that property owners are informed about historic preservation responsibilities and restrictions. The discovery, documentation, evaluation and preservation of significant historic properties is in the best interest of all stakeholders, including property owners, developers, and the greater community.

The state historic preservation division (SHPD) has a mandate to conduct historic surveys and inventories; the county governments should also be including that level of analysis in their general plans and community development plans. The basic step of completing the identification of properties that meet the criteria of eligibility for historic designation would allow for up-front analysis and protection, rather than simply reacting to proposals in an *ad hoc* manner.

Therefore, HHF recommends approval of HCR336/HR254.

TO: Representative Mele Carroll, Chair
House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
and
Representative Ken Ito, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

FROM: Sara L. Collins, Ph.D., Chair, Legislative Committee
Society for Hawaiian Archaeology
Email: sara.l.collins.sha@gmail.com

HEARING: March 24, 2010, 10:30 AM, House Conference Room 329

SUBJECT: Testimony Providing Comments on HCR 336 and HR 254,
Requesting the State Historic Preservation Division of the
Department of Land and Natural Resources to Complete a
Statewide Survey and Inventory to Identify and Document Historic
Properties, Aviation Artifacts, and Burial Sites, With an Emphasis
on Historic Preservation Relating to the Culture and History of
Hawaiians and Native Hawaiians

I am Dr. Sara Collins, Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA). We have over 200 members that include professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation in general. We wish to provide comments on HCR 336 and HR 254, resolutions that request the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to complete a statewide survey and inventory to identify and document historic properties, aviation artifacts, and burials sites. The survey and inventory are to emphasize historic preservation relating to the culture and history of Hawaiians and Native Hawaiians. We provide the following comments.

We believe that the subject resolutions are very well intended but unrealistic. Maintaining an inventory of historic places in Hawai'i is one of the program's state and federally mandated responsibilities (§6E-3, HRS; §101(b)(3)(A), National Historic Preservation Act). However, expecting SHPD to complete a survey and inventory of all historic properties in the state by December 31, 2010 as well as produce reports on the survey findings prior to the 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions is unrealistic for the following primary reasons:

- The SHPD has neither the staff to conduct such surveys nor does it or DLNR have the funds to contract for such work. The number of potentially undocumented historic properties in the state is immense despite 40 years of effort.

- Without additional funds, staff would be diverted from other critical responsibilities such as reviewing agency and private-sector development projects and maintaining information generated by this process.
- Maintaining the inventory of historic places is actually an ongoing process and not a finite action, as the subject resolutions imply. As new historic properties are documented, generally through the review and compliance process or by other means, SHPD staff record them in the Statewide Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) by assigning a site number. Also, historic properties are continually becoming eligible each year as they become more than 50 years old and therefore "historic."

In view of these facts, we would recommend that the SHPD instead be requested to do the following:

- Provide a report on the status of the GIS system including any timetable for complete reinstatement and its availability for all SHPD offices on and off O`ahu and on office procedures for continually updating these databases. Starting in the early 1990s, SHPD began the process for maintaining the Statewide Inventory as part of the division's Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Sites were linked to map layers through their individual site numbers. Unfortunately, in the past several years, the GIS database fell into disuse and efforts to revive it have been only partially successful. We know that staff at SHPD work diligently to keep minimum records on new sites and the locations of known historic properties so it is possible to revive the process.
- Provide a status update on progress made in populating the document management system (DocuShare) recently acquired to establish a digital archives for SHPD and other participating DLNR divisions. The report should include a summary of document types (e.g., inventory reports, preservation plans, division correspondence, building recordation) entered for the major geographic areas of the state (by island or county).
- Provide an update on current contents of the Statewide Inventory, including a general breakdown of the types of historic sites represented (Native Hawaiian archaeological and burial sites, architectural and aviation properties, traditional cultural properties)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above email address.