

# HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

**VIA WEB:** [www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony)

**To:** Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair  
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

**From:** Kiersten Faulkner  
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

**Committee Date:** Friday, Feb. 11, 2011  
8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 325

**Subject:** **HB1622, Related to Historic Preservation**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in opposition to HB1622, which directs that a new memorial be constructed on the grounds of the state capitol.

The Hawai'i State Capitol is designated on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. In addition, the entire civic center area is recognized as a historic district. The significance of the capitol goes beyond its architecture and embraces the entire landscape, setting and context.

Because many groups and associations petition for a community memorial or other recognition on the capitol grounds, the impact on the overall setting could be immense should all of them be approved and built. Rather than respond case by case, HHF recommends that DLNR develop and adopt a comprehensive plan for the state capitol, including a policy for design and location related to new memorials, art, or permanent installations. This approach has been used on the National Mall in Washington D.C. to great effect. The result is a consistent and fair treatment for all those who wish to memorialize events or persons important to a community's history, but in a way that does not compromise the integrity of an important historic site through random or haphazard installations.

Any proposal to change or add to the capitol grounds should first begin with an understanding of the cultural landscape, including character-defining features that contribute to its historic significance. The state should undertake a master plan for the entire capitol compound, including the building, the landscape and existing memorials. The master plan should integrate the historic features with any proposals for changes or additions.

Therefore, HHF recommends that the bill be amended to delete the direction to construct a memorial, and instead direct the department of land and natural resources to develop a management plan for the state capitol to include a comprehensive policy about the design and construction of memorials.

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#### Historic Hawai'i Foundation

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Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.



# The Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation

Joan Gribbin-Aiu,  
Executive Director

Katherine Kealoha,  
Director

Debbie Luna,  
Director

Sidney Hayakawa,  
Director

Ku'uhaku Park,  
Director

Rick Omellas,  
Director

## COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Jerry L. Chang, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

RE: HB 1622

Dear Representative Chang:

Let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Thomas K. Aiu, JD, a retired Senior Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). I am also the primary Advisor for the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation ([www.hlemf.org](http://www.hlemf.org)).

I respectfully submit testimony today in support of HB 1622 which states that *“a state law enforcement memorial shall be constructed in the capitol district preferably on the diamond head side of the Kalanimoku building; provided that private funds shall be solicited and used for the construction of the memorial.”*

HB 1622 follows on the heels of House Concurrent Resolution 139 which was passed unanimously on April 23, 2010, without objection, by both houses of the Hawaii State Legislature.

HCR 139 recognized that Hawaii is the only state which does not have a Memorial honoring the supreme sacrifice of its Hawaii's law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. It also recognized the Foundation as the not-for-profit organization charged with raising private funds, which along with its law enforcement partners, would then design, construct, and maintain a Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial.

Finally, HCR 139 set aside land on the grounds of the Hawaii State Capitol for the Memorial.

When law enforcement officers, police, sheriff, and federal agents, take that oath of office and swear to uphold the Constitution, we do so in an unwavering manner. After months of training, we entertain lofty goals of protecting and serving with distinction and making a difference. We long to find that missing child, rush to a robbery in progress, or save the life of a victim. Many times, this exuberance comes at the expense of our families and loved ones. We forego birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays;

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all for the job. We live to catch the bad guy and even after our shift is over; we can't wait to go back to work the next day. We wear our badge with pride and although a few may fall by the wayside, for the most part, we never think to tarnish ourselves or our agency.

We also know, in the deep recess of our mind, that at some point, we will be called to search a dark alley, look for gang members in an abandoned building, stop a car on a lonely stretch of highway, pursue an armed drug dealer, or confront a dangerous fugitive. We rely on our training and our survival instincts. We hope and pray that the outcome is favorable for us, and the violator. Most times, that's the case. Our one compelling thought "Just get home so the wife won't have to see it on the news, or worse, experience the quiet approach of a commander's vehicle with somber news."

Sometimes, though, things go bad, really bad. We're taught to trust in our training. But even when we do everything by the book and following all the rules, when its least expected, some make the ultimate sacrifice. And, when that occurs, we do so selflessly, always protecting the life of a fellow officer, a citizen bystander, or simply ourselves.

As a federal agent, I was fortunate to work with law enforcement officers from Honolulu to Los Angeles, San Francisco to New York, Boston to San Diego, and Seattle to Miami. I have seen firsthand the professionalism of our country's police and federal agents. I have also witnessed the tragedy and heartbreak when an officer is killed in the line of duty. It's a grim reminder that it could have been me, since we've all faced those same dangers.

Those fallen are honored for paying the ultimate sacrifice while protecting their country, their city, their very neighborhood. But after the tears, the heartfelt speeches, the posthumous praise, and the conferred medals of valor; after s/he's laid to rest, the family, friends, and colleagues continue to grieve, many times alone.

States across the country have a memorial which stands in tribute to the sacrifice of their officers. Washington, D.C. is home of the National Law Enforcement Memorial where every Hawaii officer killed in the line of duty is honored and recognized. Hawaii, too, should maintain its own place of solitude, honor, and peace. A reminder of the sacrifice; a place where families, friends, and colleagues may go to remember.

Since the passage of HCR 139, the Foundation has been very active meeting its obligations as outlined in the Resolution. It has met with the past State Comptroller and working with our law enforcement partners, identified a parcel of land just diamond head of the Kalanimoku Building as the Memorial site.

The Foundation has also partnered with the University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Architecture to design the Memorial. In November 2010, the School assembled over 250 architectural students to compete in a contest to design the Memorial. Over a month's time period, 30 design renderings were presented. A jury of professors from the School of Architecture, as well as local design professionals, selected 5 semi-finalists. Later, the Foundation's Board of Directors met further narrowing the field to 3 finalists.

As its primary fundraising Event (in accordance with HCR 139 to raise private funds) the Foundation held its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gala Benefit on 12.11.10 at the Sheraton Waikiki Grand Ballroom. This Event was Co-Chaired by U.S. Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka. Over 900 guests attended to include law enforcement executives from federal, state, and local agencies, state legislators, county

officials, and business and civic leaders. That evening, the 900 guests, after scrutinizing the final design renderings, all in full 3D mock ups, voted for the final Memorial design.

The Foundation is well on its way to raise the necessary funds for the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial. I, therefore, urge your support of HB 1622 on behalf of those who have died in the line of duty.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas K. Aiu, JD  
Senior Special Agent, DEA (Ret.)