



To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

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

Committee Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Subject: **HB 1972, HD2, SD1, Relating to Historic Preservation**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of HB 1972 HD2 SD1, Relating to Historic Preservation.

HB 1972 HD2 SD1 would allow the department of land and natural resources to set fees for its comprehensive historic preservation program limited to amounts sufficient to cover the annual operating costs of the program, taking into account all other sources of program income. It also would add enabling language to allow the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board to develop policies related to signage in historic districts.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF's 850 members and numerous additional supporters work to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believe that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

The State's historic preservation program is vitally important to ensure the perpetuation, appropriate use and rehabilitation, and celebration of the historic and cultural resources of Hawai'i. The historic preservation division is charged with planning, implementation and oversight of a comprehensive preservation program that includes research and inventory; review and compliance with regulations; keeping the state register of historic places; providing technical and financial assistance to the counties and other agencies; educating the public about preservation; and employing professional preservation staff to achieve the purpose and need of the program.

HHF strongly supports efforts to fully fund and staff the state historic preservation division through any appropriate methods, including the use of fees that are proportionate to the nature and complexity of the projects or services being provided. HHF also believes that a comprehensive policy related to signs in historic districts would be of benefit to protect the visual character, promote district integrity, and provide opportunities for education and celebration of Hawai'i's historic places.

Therefore, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports HB1972 HD2 SD1.

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.