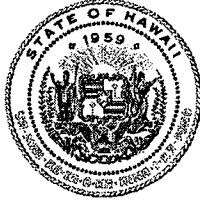


SB 333

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 24, 2011
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 333, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Senate Bill 333, Senate Draft 2 proposes to designate one per cent (1%) of all state capitol improvement funds to fund the Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund (Fund) specifically for the operations of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) State Historic Preservation Division and the routine maintenance of Iolani Palace, Washington Place, and the Bishop Museum. The Department supports this measure.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
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WILLIAM M. TAM
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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

VIA WEB: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony>

To: Sen. David Y. Ige, Chair
Sen. Michaelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

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

Committee Date: Thursday, February 24, 2011
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Subject: SB333 SD2, Relating to Historic Preservation

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of SB333 SD2, Relating to Historic Preservation. The bill would require that one percent of state fund appropriations from construction and renovation of state buildings be deposited in the historic preservation special fund; and the purpose of the fund would be expanded to include site modifications, display, interpretive work and specific renovations and repairs for the Bishop Museum, 'Iolani Palace and Washington Place.

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 historic, cultural and natural resources of Hawai'i are a great legacy and irreplaceable treasures. HHF strongly supports measures that lead to investments in Hawaii's historic places and that help keep their stories alive for present and future generations.

All three of the historic sites in the bill are designated as significant historic resources. Bishop Museum is on the historic register; Washington Place and 'Iolani Palace are both National Historic Landmarks, the highest level of historic significance and integrity. Each of these sites is an important icon for Hawai'i residents and visitors, adding to the enjoyment, education, and understanding of Hawaii's history and inspiration for the future. We support the effort to identify additional funding sources to help preserve, restore, enhance and celebrate these resources.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Tel: 808-523-2900 • FAX: 808-523-0800 • www.historichawaii.org

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.

HHF also supports the bill as a mechanism for enhancing the historic preservation special fund for the other purposes of the fund, including support for the state's overall historic preservation program.

The State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has been decimated over the past several years, with fewer than half of its approved positions filled, as well laboring under a severe reduction in the number of approved positions. The result has been a crisis for both protection of Hawaii's historic and cultural properties, and a severe slow-down in processing of private and public undertakings.

As a result of SHPD being unable to meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the federal government has placed the State on "high risk" status. If SHPD does not meet the terms of the corrective action plan by September 2012, the State's approval to act as a State Historic Preservation Office will be revoked. If that occurs, the State will no longer have the authority to provide review and approval of federal undertakings in Hawai'i—including construction projects on federal land (e.g. Pearl Harbor, Schofield Barracks, National Parks); funding provided by a federal agency (e.g. Honolulu High Capacity Transit; Department of Transportation projects for highways, bridges, airports and harbors); or federal permits (e.g. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency).

HHF strongly urges the legislature to support any and all mechanisms by which the SHPD can be restored to full functionality, to operate with professionalism, predictability and effectiveness.

Therefore, HHF recommends that SB333 SD2 be approved.

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 24, 2011
9:00 a.m. – Conference Room 211

SB333, SD2: Relating to Historic Preservation

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB333, SD2 Relating to Historic Preservation, which requires one per cent of all state fund appropriations designated for the construction and renovation of state buildings to be deposited into the Hawaii historic preservation special fund; adds the costs related to site modifications, display, and interpretive work necessary to enhance the visitor experience for the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Iolani Palace, and Washington Place to the uses of the fund; and requires reports to the governor and legislature.

Bishop Museum strongly supports SB333, SD2. Enactment of SB333, SD2 will allow Bishop Museum to make Hawai'i a better, more competitive destination, consistent with the strategic initiatives adopted by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

As the preamble to SB333, SD2 observes, a largely untapped advantage Hawai'i possesses in economic competition within the Pacific Basin is its own unique historic heritage. Ultimately, this bill is an investment in Hawai'i's economy and its future by preserving its past while instilling pride in residents and educating visitors in the present. Mary Kawena Pukui, Bishop Museum's sage of Hawaiian culture, taught, "*A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi – Not all knowledge is learned in school alone.*" As one of Hawai'i's premier institutions of art, culture and heritage, Bishop Museum exemplifies this adage. The edification afforded to visitors by Bishop Museum extends beyond the four corners of a classroom, reaching into the very past of Hawai'i and the Pacific. The funding allocated by SB333, SD2 will help perpetuate Bishop Museum's vital role in educating visitors about Hawai'i's unique and rich cultural makeup and storied past, while providing a sense of place, identity, and unity for residents.

Currently, the efficacy with which Bishop Museum fulfills its charge as the State of Hawai'i's Museum of Natural and Cultural History is under siege by the economic challenges of our times. The anticipated eradication of federal earmarks by Congress has severely compounded an already grave situation. This bill will not only provide the resources necessary for Bishop Museum to fulfill its charge; it will also provide work for Hawai'i's industries. In 2010, the Hawai'i State Legislature allocated to the Museum funds for a slate of capital improvement measures. Upon release by the prior Administration in the latter half of 2010, those funds were immediately put to use by Bishop Museum to improve its aging infrastructure, providing work for a number of local contractors and ancillary professionals.

SB333, SD2 exemplifies the State of Hawai'i's recognition of the fact that its history and culture becomes an even greater asset as its economic presence in the Pacific Basin continues to expand. The Bishop Museum, along with Iolani Palace and Washington Place

are entrusted with caring for that asset for the benefit of all of Hawai'i. Bishop Museum believes the proposed amendments on page 5, lines 15 through 19 (the comptroller and institutions deciding on what projects to pursue at their respective facilities) reflect *kokua* among the institutions, of working alongside each other, collaborating and supporting each other to achieve each institution's shared goals of preserving and portraying Hawai'i's storied past and rich culture.

This bill benefits Hawai'i's economy in the short-term by providing jobs. It benefits Hawai'i's economy in the long term by making Hawai'i a better, more competitive destination for business, relaxation, and especially cultural enrichment. And it benefits Hawai'i overall by reinforcing cultural connections and preserving elements of the past that are a source of pride and identity for our people.

Bishop Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in honor of his late wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last descendent of the royal Kamehameha family. Bishop Museum is designated the State Museum of Cultural and Natural History and is a non-profit corporation with the mission to study, preserve and tell the stories of the cultures and natural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific.