# **SCR 56**

# EDT/WLH

NEIL ABERCROMBIE





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

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CHAIRPERSON
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENPORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATEPARKS

# Testimony of WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson

# **Before the Senate Committees on** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY and WATER, LAND AND HOUSING

**Monday, March 19, 2012** 1:45P.M. State Capitol, Conference Room 016

# In consideration of **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56** REOUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASED FEES TO HELP SUPPORT A FULLY STAFFED STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION PROGRAM

Senate Concurrent Resolution 56 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to develop recommendations for increased fees to help support a fully staffed State Historic Preservation Division Program, in essence to make the Program less susceptible to budget cuts. The Department supports this concurrent resolution along with House Bill 1972, House Draft 2 (RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION), as vehicles to ensure adequate fees are collected for its State Historic Preservation Division.

# Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology and Committee on Water, Land, and Housing Monday, March 19, 2012 1:45 PM

**Conference Room 016** 

RE: SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASED FEES TO HELP SUPPORT A FULLY STAFFED STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION PROGRAM

Chairs Fukunaga and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Wakai and Solomon, and members of the committee.

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 56, Requesting the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop recommendations for increased fees to help support a fully staffed State Historic Preservation Division program.

The measure proposes to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to propose higher fees necessary to support a fully staffed historic preservation department.

One of the key sources of construction and development projects is the US military in Hawaii. This includes the US Army Corps of Engineers, Naval Facilities and Engineering Command, Installation Commands of the US Army and US Navy, and military contracting offices that process millions of dollars in projects annually.

The US Department of Defense and the military branches in the Pentagon have expressed concerns about encountering difficulties in processing military construction projects through the state historic preservation office. The excessive time lag in identifying and resolving discrepancies and gaining approvals were of particular concern. It came to a point where the Navy informed the Chamber's

Military Affairs Council delegation that it wouldn't consider processing Military Construction projects for Hawaii until the state granted historic preservation approvals, thus adding months of delay in funding projects.

We are hopeful that action to increase revenues will result in generating sufficient funds to hire the required number of qualified individuals to expedite the processing of construction and development projects. This would result in more military construction projects for Hawaii and jobs for residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.



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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Economic Development and Technology
and
Committee on Water, Land and Housing

Testimony by Hawaii Government Employees Association March 19, 2012

S.C.R. 56 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATONS FOR INCREASED FEES
TO HELP SUPPORT A FULLY STAFFED STATE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of S.C.R. 56. We agree that consideration should be given to reasonable increases in the fees charged by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in compliance with Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and that increased fees be used to support a fully staffed SHPD program.

Although additional fees charged by SHPD would help to support a fully staffed program, we also firmly believe that the employees within SHPD should be civil servants under Chapter 76, HRS, rather than exempt employees. The Department of Land and Natural Resources has the authority under Chapter 6E, HRS, to convert these exempt positions to civil service, which would bring greater stability and continuity to the program. Therefore, we suggest amending S.C.R. 56 by inserting language calling for the conversion of SHPD staff from exempt to civil service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.C.R. 56 with the suggested amendment.

Respectfullysubmitted

L'eiomalama E. Desha Deputy Executive Director



To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair Senator Mālama Solomon, Vice Chair Committee on Water, Land & Housing

From: Kiersten Faulkner

Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee Date: Monday, March 19, 2012

1:45 p.m.

Conference Room 016

Subject: SCR 56, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL

RESOURCES TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASED FEES TO HELP SUPPORT A FULLY STAFFED STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**DIVISION PROGRAM** 

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of SCR 56, to request the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop recommendations to support a fully staffed historic preservation division program.

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.

Therefore, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports SCR 56.

### 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.