



To: Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair
Committee on Water & Land

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

Committee Date: Monday, March 25, 2013
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Subject: **HCR 160, Requesting SHPD to Convene a Historic Places Task Force**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in support of HCR 160, Requesting the State Historic Preservation Division to Convene a Historic Places Task Force, and proposing several amendments.

The purpose of the task force would be to identify historic properties to be entered into the State Register of Historic Places, and to conduct an economic analysis of the costs and benefits of historic designation.

The goals of the proposed task force are aligned with key goals from the State Historic Preservation Plan, namely:

Goal 1.2: support for historic preservation by documenting and educating key entities about the economic benefits that historic preservation provides.

Action 1.2.1 Develop and share a white paper on the economic benefits of historic preservation for the State and Counties in Hawai'i. (2013)

Goal 2.2: Continue to add sites to the [State's] inventory of [of historic properties]

Action 2.2.1 Develop and implement a survey inventory plan that includes a prioritization of both archaeological and architectural sites (2013)

Goal 3.4: Build awareness of the benefits of adding historic sites to the State Inventory and Register...

HHF notes that SHPD has taken steps to develop standardized procedures and conventions to populate the state inventory of historic places, beginning with previously identified properties and then advancing to document additional historic and cultural sites on the inventory. A task force may not be needed to outline these steps.

Rather, additional funding and human resources would assist with the task of implementing this goal. The State Preservation Plan also recommends that a working group be convened to identify potential Traditional Cultural Properties to be nominated to the State and National Register of Historic Places (see Action 3.3.1), beginning in 2014 and under the leadership of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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.

HCR 160 also proposes to conduct an economic analysis of the effects of historic designation for districts. HHF is aware of similar reports from other jurisdiction, which looked at such impacts as job creation in construction, design, engineering and similar fields; urban and main street revitalization; heritage tourism and visitation; property values; film and television industry; and similar economic activity. The most useful and reliable studies were conducted by qualified economic analysts and included both primary and secondary data sets.

HHF believes that such an economic study would provide valuable information that could inform future decisions and bolster the understanding that heritage protection provides economic benefits as well as environmental, educational, societal and cultural value.

However, an intermittent and volunteer task force may not be the most effective means to develop this study. HHF recommends that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism be tasked with developing with the study, with the assistance of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Taxation, and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, as needed, and that the study include not only districts, but all types of historic properties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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.

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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, March 25, 2013
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 160
REQUESTING THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
TO CONVENE A HISTORIC PLACES TASK FORCE**

House Concurrent Resolution 160 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (Department) State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) to convene a historic places task force to examine the feasibility of requiring SHPD and the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board to more actively identify historic properties and facilitate the entering of those properties into the Hawaii Register of Historic Places (Register). The Department does not support this concurrent resolution as written.

The Department's main concern with the resolution is that there are federal requirements for doing survey and inventory of historic properties. A task force naming areas that it would like on the Register does not fulfill the Federal requirements. SHPD is initiating several surveys, and hopes that the Legislature will annually fund SHPD's survey efforts, both to meet the stated goals in this resolution and to meet our requirements under the Historic Preservation Grant.

In general, the lack of inventory is due to a lack of funding to do surveys as well as a lack of staff to do outreach. One of the benefits of being under direct National Park Service oversight is that there has been a renewed focus on the survey and inventory requirements under the Historic Preservation Grant guidelines. Due to this focus, SHPD has revised its survey guidelines and is putting renewed efforts into doing comprehensive surveys of different neighborhoods across the State. However, SHPD still suffers from a lack of funding for this effort. A secondary concern is the amount of work generated by Section 6E-42, Hawaii Revised Statutes which requires that SHPD review all permits affecting any property over 50 years old. This takes up an increasing amount of staff time, with mixed results.

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

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

In addition, the task force is requested “to conduct an economic benefit analysis that examines the costs and benefits of entering a historic property or geographic region, such as Honokaa into the Register of Historic Places.” It is unlikely that the task force itself will conduct such an analysis and more likely that they will set a scope of work for SHPD to complete the analysis. SHPD has no funding for such a study and no additional staff time to do this task. If the Legislature desires such a study, it would be more effective to provide SHPD with funding to accomplish the study. SHPD would welcome an economic benefit analysis if funding is available.

Overall, the Department believes that the issues in the resolution would be better solved by funding SHPD to do the many tasks asked of it, rather than through the creation of a task force. One of the things the Legislature can do through a resolution is to encourage the counties to extend the historic property tax credit to districts.

The Department looks forward to working with the Legislature to address putting more sites, including districts on the federal register, and to creating a more robust historic preservation culture around architecture in the State.