



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR  
JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016  
Monday, February 1, 2016  
10:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1840, RELATING TO SUNSET MEMORIAL  
PARK.**

TO THE HONORABLE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1840, Relating to Sunset Memorial Park. My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, offering comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1840 provides that the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, in consultation with the State's Comptroller, develop strategies for the upkeep, repair, and maintenance of Sunset Memorial Park in Pearl City, and submit a report of findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017.

As the Committee may be aware, the Department has been grappling with issues

relating to this cemetery for a number of years, and has been exploring a variety of options to ensure that the cemetery is maintained appropriately and is safe for and accessible to families and loved ones. The Department is aware, for example, that family members have expressed interest in assisting with the upkeep on a volunteer basis provided they have clear authority to perform these services. The Department is amenable to exploring this and all other options, including consulting with the State's Comptroller.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1840. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

# Nanette N. Napoleon

131-A Hauoli St. / Kailua, HI 96734  
Ph. (808) 261-0705 / Email: nanetten@hawaii.rr.com

**LATE**

January 31, 2016

Rep. Ryan Yamane,  
Chairman  
House Water and Land Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420  
Honolulu, HI 96813

## **In Support of HB1840**

Dear Mr. Yamane and members of the Water and Land Committee,

In my professional capacity as the director of the Hawaii Cemetery Research Project for the past 30 years, I have documented and studied more than 300 historic cemeteries in Hawaii. In addition, I have more than 15 years experience as a cemetery director and have extensive knowledge of standard cemetery practices.

Over the years I have received dozens of calls about Sunset Memorial Park from people who have ancestors buried there who have had various concerns about the poor physical conditions and mismanagement of the cemetery. Many of these issues have been covered by the media.

Last year, the physical conditions of the cemetery reached an all-time low when subterranean water flows during a prolonged rainy period resulted in more than 50 gravesites sinking into the ground. In addition, standard maintenance of the site has been greatly reduced, resulting in grass and weed growth that is way below standard cemetery maintenance practices. The cemetery, in my estimation, is now a serious safety hazard for all visitors to the site.

I strongly feel that HB1840's directive that DCCA, in consultation with the comptroller, to conduct a formal and thorough study of the cemetery is long, long overdue and will result in a much needed assessment of the cemetery's viability to operate as a licensed business entity.

I strongly urge you to pass HB1840.

Sincerely,

Nanette Napoleon  
Director  
Hawaii Cemetery Research Project