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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 875
RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

House Bill 875 proposes to establish and fund 5 temporary Student Intern II positions within the State Historic Preservation Division (Division) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). **The Department strongly supports this measure as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget.**

The Division administers the historic preservation review processes established by the Legislature in Chapter 6E-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. These reviews are essential to protection and management of Hawai'i's unique cultural and historic heritage. Timely reviews of projects by the Division are also critical to ensuring the timely development of badly needed housing, critical infrastructure, and other economic development initiatives. The Division's backlog of project reviews is slowing down projects. This backlog is a result of a tight market for qualified applicants and an exceptionally heavy project review workload. Although nearly all of the Division's vacancies have recently been filled, the Division has had substantial difficulty filling vacancies in the necessary technical disciplines.

The Division's recruitment challenges arise from substantial salary differentials between what it can offer when compared with other employers, the very healthy state of Hawai'i's economy, and the limited size of the pool of qualified professionals in Hawai'i. When the Division began its most recent efforts to recruit archaeologists, for example, six (6) other organizations in Hawai'i were also recruiting archaeologists. All three of the Division's most recent hires have been from the mainland United States.

The Department believes that establishing, funding and filling the proposed Student Intern positions can help address these issues. Working under the direct guidance of senior professional staff, Student Interns can be trained to conduct project reviews, helping reduce the backlog. At the same, the Student Interns would gain in important practical knowledge and skills in historic preservation and leave the internship program much better prepared for their careers. The Department also believes that this internship program will increase the size of the pool of qualified applicants for historic preservation technical positions, both for the Division, for other agencies, and private consulting firms who require qualified professionals in historic preservation disciplines.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Testimony for
Committee on Water & Land
Wednesday, February 08, 2017, 9:00 a.m. Room 325

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

HB875 Relating to Historic Preservation

Dear Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

This testimony is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB875 that appropriates funds for 5 full-time equivalent temporary student intern II positions for the State Historic Preservation Division during the fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

I am Lynn McCrory, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for Pulama Lanai. I served on the Board of Land & Natural Resources for eight years representing the island of Kauaʻi, and have worked with the divisions within DLNR for many years. Pulama Lānaʻi, the company I now represent, is the entity that was set up by Larry Ellison to work with the community and government as we move the island of Lanai toward sustainability.

It is very important to have our history and culture preserved and documented. The State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) is seeing many more permits, plans, and studies come to them for review with the continued healthy Hawaiʻi economy. SHPD is the expert to ensure that we have recorded and preserved our history and culture for the education of future generations. This bill will provide SHPD with additional support for their responsibilities. And, we hope, inspire the interns to go forward with historic preservation as their careers at school. We know there will be employment at home for them in Hawaiʻi.

We humbly ask for your support of HB875. Mahalo!

Me ke aloha pumehana
With warm aloha,

Lynn P. McCrory
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

TO: Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director
Historic Hawaii Foundation

Committee: Wednesday, February 8, 2017
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 325

RE: **HB 875, Relating to Historic Preservation**

On behalf of Historic Hawaii Foundation, I am writing **in support for HB 875**. The bill would establish five full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) temporary student intern II positions within the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Both state and federal laws are designed to take into account the effect of a project on historic properties, and to avoid, minimize or mitigate for adverse effects. These laws are designed to strike a balance between providing for the current needs of a community and preservation of the historical and cultural foundations that are a living part of our community life.

The consultation process is highly standardized and methodical in its framework, but allows for professional judgment, community input and creative solutions that respond to the specific needs and circumstances of each case.

The review procedures can only work with adequate professional staff to participate in the process and ensure its timely completion. Enhancing the capacity of SHPD for timely and well-qualified participation serves both to support our historic properties and ensure the timely completion of projects.

While HHF prefers to see these professional positions filled with full-time, regular employees, we understand the department's challenges and concerns in filling vacancies. The proposal to provide an internship program both to mentor and support the next generation of preservationists, and to provide enhancement of the workforce to address the work flow demands, is a practical way forward.

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

Therefore, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports HB 875.