

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
11:00A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 875, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION

House Bill 875, House Draft 1 proposes to establish and fund five (5) temporary Student Intern II positions within the State Historic Preservation Division (Division) in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department). **The Department opposes this measure as amended.**

The Department initially supported this measure when it proposed funding using general funds. House Draft 1 changed the source of funding from general funds to special funds. Due to the limited nature of the special fund accounts and the fact that the majority of funding is used to cover operational expenses, there is no guarantee that funding will be available to support these positions.

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 Hawaii'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 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.

The Department believes that general funding of the five proposed Student Intern positions will require an appropriation of \$204,000.00 in each year of the biennium. **The Department respectfully requests this measure be amended to provide for general funding for these positions.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Testimony for
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 01, 2017, 11:00 a.m. Room 308

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

HB875 Relating to Historic Preservation

Dear Chair Luke 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

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