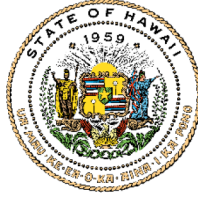


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



DEPT. COMM. NO. 94

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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

December 9, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
33rd State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
33rd State Legislature
State Capitol Room, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Report on the State Historic Preservation Program as required by section 6E-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with Section 93-13 Hawaii Revised Statutes, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and may be viewed electronically at <https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2025/HP25-Historic-Preservation-Program-Report-FY24.pdf>

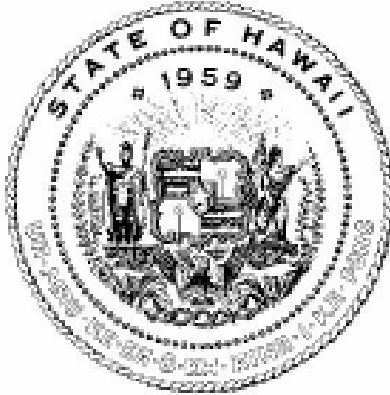
Sincerely,



DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson

Enclosure

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2025 REGULAR SESSION
ON
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



PREPARED BY:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
IN RESPONSE TO
SECTION 6E-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

HONOLULU, HAWAII
DECEMBER 2024

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

BACKGROUND

Section 6E-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to submit to the Governor and the Legislature an annual report detailing the accomplishments of the year, recommendations for changes in the state plan or future programs relating to historic preservation, and an accounting of all income, expenditures, and the fund balance of the Hawai‘i Historic Preservation Special Fund.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department’s State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) continues to work on upgrades with the Hawai‘i Cultural Resource Information System (HICRIS), to improve its functionality for SHPD staff and make it more user friendly for external users. SHPD continues the multi-year effort to incorporate legacy data from hardcopy files, stand-alone databases, as well as various applications, enabling SHPD to better leverage its substantial historic preservation inventory.

The Hawai‘i Certified Local Government (CLG) program, in partnership with the National Park Service, certified the City and County of Honolulu as a Certified Local Government. The City and County of Honolulu now has its own historic preservation program and is eligible to apply for the CLG Historic Preservation Fund grant program. The City and County of Honolulu became the last eligible local government in Hawai‘i to become a CLG and finish the certification process through the National Park Service. Hawai‘i is the first state in the country to have 100% local government participation in the CLG program.

Although SHPD has maintained 34 staffed positions, it continues to work on filling 19 vacant positions, of which 10 were newly authorized by the 2022 Legislature. Within Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, the State Historic Preservation Administrator and the History and Culture Branch Chief retired from their positions. SHPD also lost three archaeologists, one in FY 2024 and two within the last month (during FY 2025). However, within FY 2024, SHPD filled three of the 2022 Legislature authorized positions (two architectural historians and one ethnographer). SHPD also filled the vacated State Historic Preservation Administrator position. The Administrator position was filled by the former SHPD Architecture Branch Chief. SHPD is in the process of posting the vacated History and Culture Branch Chief and Architecture Branch Chief positions as well as the vacated archaeologist positions on Maui and Oahu. All eight positions are planned to be posted by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

As reported last year, the salary increases for professional program staff that were authorized by the 2022 Legislature were approved in the first quarter of FY 2024 by the Department’s Administrative Services and Human Resources Office. However, the increase were fully reflected within staff paychecks during the first quarter of FY 2025. Because of these competitive pay increases, SHPD has had success in filling vacant positions and retaining professional staff with compensation levels that are more competitive with private companies and federal agencies.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025, SHPD will continue to work at filling vacant positions until all funded positions are filled. There are two federally funded Architecture Branch positions that cannot be filled until federal funding is received or unless the positions are reclassified as “General Funded”.

Due to the approval of funding by the 2018 Legislature, SHPD is able to contract a legal fellow through the University of Hawaii (Law School) to assist in revising its Administrative Rules. SHPD plans to issue a revised fee schedule by September 2025 to more accurately reflect the true costs incurred in the review process and to offset a larger portion of those costs. It is estimated that this will increase revenue to Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund three-fold.

HAWAII HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIAL FUND

The Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund (Fund) was established in Section 6E-16, HRS, by way of Act 388, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1989, to enhance and preserve elements of our past that should be integrated into our daily living. Allowable deposits into the Fund include:

- (1) Appropriations by the Legislature to the special fund;
- (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and private persons;
- (3) All proceeds collected by the Department derived from historic preserve user fees, historic preserve leases or concession fees, fees charged to carry out the purposes of Chapter 6E, HRS, or the sale of goods; and
- (4) Civil, criminal, and administrative penalties, fines, and other charges collected under Chapter 6E, HRS, or any rule adopted pursuant to Chapter 6E, HRS.

All interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited in the Fund shall become part of the Fund. The Fund shall be administered by the Department; provided that the Department may contract with a public or private agency to provide the day-to-day management of the Fund.

Subject to legislative authorization, the Department may expend moneys from the Fund:

- (1) For permanent and temporary staff positions;
- (2) To replenish goods;
- (3) To produce public information materials;
- (4) To provide financial assistance to public agencies and private agencies in accordance with Chapter 42F, HRS, involved in historic preservation activities other than those covered by Section 6E-9, HRS; and
- (5) To cover administrative and operational costs of SHPD.

Appropriation Account Number: S-321-C

Beginning Cash Balance	(7/01/23)	\$ 0
Revenues		\$51,196.88
Cash Transfers		\$18,282.75
Expenditures		(\$19,442.59)
Ending Cash Balance	(6/30/2024)	\$50,039.04
Ending Encumbrances	(6/30/2024)	\$0
Net Cash Balance		\$50,039.04

The revenues were derived from user fees, professional fees, and interest income. The Fund is also used to pay for utilities, office supplies, rental of electronic data processing equipment and multi-purpose copiers, as well as travel related expenditures for staff to attend meetings and site visits on neighbor islands, subject to the availability of funds.