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

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
&
WATER AND LAND
Friday, March 28, 2025
3:15 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE RESOLUTION 58
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 75
REQUESTING THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO EMPLOY AN ARCHAEOLOGIST FOR THE
PURPOSE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN REBUILDING LAHAINA

Senate Resolution 58 (SR) and companion Senate Concurrent Resolution 75 (SCR) requests the County of Maui employ an archaeologist to assist in rebuilding the historic town of Lahaina. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers comments.**

The Department recognizes that the County of Maui currently employs a county archaeologist, who works within the county's Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. However, due to the high sensitivity and likelihood of encountering sub-surface historic properties and iwi during the reconstruction process, many of the recovery projects will require archaeological monitoring and archaeological inventory surveys. This will significantly increase the potential work-load of existing county staff and the county archaeologist, which would be mitigated if additional technical support is provided in the form of a dedicated archaeologist for Lahaina.

The Department recognizes that there are ongoing challenges in the protection of burial sites and sub-surface historic properties impacted by the 2023 wild-fires and is committed to working collaboratively with the County of Maui and all stakeholders, including the Maui and Lanai Island Burial Council, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as well as the community to support the recovery process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on these measures.

SCR-75

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 1:27:09 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/28/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet	Testifying for Department of `Oiwī Resources County of Maui	Comments	In Person

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am the Principal Archaeologist for the County of Maui. I have been employed by the County since June 2020. I am listed as the Principal Investigator under the County of Maui’s Yearly SHPD permit to conduct archaeological activities in the State of Hawai`i.

I was initially with the Department of Management under then-Managing Director Sandy Baz and subsequently worked under now-Deputy Managing Director Erin Wade. Since July 2024, I have worked for the newly founded Department of `Oiwī Resources under Director Kaponoiā`i Molitau and Deputy Director Kekai Robinson.

I have been actively working with County, State and Federal agencies, as well as private contractors, on the Lahaina Fire from day one when Bishop Museum reached out to me as to the deposition of artifacts on loan to the COM that were housed at the Lahaina Courthouse.

I have conducted numerous site visits on behalf of the County of Maui – including a site visit with SHPD and FEMA to the temporary ash dump site in Olowalu. I have attended hundreds of meeting and have advised: The Department of Water Supply; Public Works; DSA; Planning; Parks; Environmental Management; USACE; FEMA; SHPD; MECO; etc.

Please feel free to contact me at (808) 344-0566 if you have any questions as to my work on Historic Lahaina – pre- and post-fire.

Malama pono,

Janet Six, PhD

Principial Archaeologist for the County of Maui

SCR-75

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 9:09:04 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/28/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trisha Kehaulani Watson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

The County of Maui has an excellent archaeologist, Dr. Janet Six, who has been an incredible help in Lahaina. She has developed important mapping tools and other resources to ensure the protection of cultural resources.

I'm unclear about the statement in the reso: "...no archaeologist is currently involved in preserving the history and culture of the community and the State during the rebuilding of Lahaina." This is not my understanding of the situation. Nearly every archaeologist in the state mobilized to help following the fires and many remain actively involved in the recovery efforts.

More resources are always welcome, but I would urge revising this resolution to acknowledge Dr. Six, her work, and the many others who have been and remain involved in restoring Lahaina.

Mahalo.

SCR-75

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 11:30:54 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/28/2025 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Khalil	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Good afternoon,

My name is Sarah Khalil, and I am a student of former Representative Matthew LoPresti at Hawaii Pacific University. I am speaking in support of hiring an archaeologist for the rebuilding of Lahaina.

The wildfires in August 2023 devastated Lahaina, but as the town is being rebuilt, it's crucial that we protect both the environment and the cultural heritage that is tied to it. An archaeologist can ensure that we respect the land and preserve the historical sites that are key to Lahaina's identity. This will help guarantee that the rebuilding process honors both the natural environment and the irreplaceable cultural resources.

This step will also aid in the emotional healing of Lahaina's community and ensure that all federal and state preservation laws are followed. It is a smart investment in the future of Lahaina.