LINDA LINGLE





STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony Of LAURA H. THIELEN Chairperson

Before The House Committees On HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS and WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES

> Wednesday, March 24, 2010 10:30 AM Conference Room 329

In Consideration Of HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 336/ HOUSE RESOLUTION 254 REQUESTING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO COMPLETE A STATEWIDE SURVEY AND INVENTORY TO IDENTIFY AND DOCUMENT HISTORIC PROPERTIES, AVIATION ARTIFACTS, AND BURIAL SITES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION RELTATING TO THE CULTURE AND HISTORY OF HAWAIIANS AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS

House Concurrent Resolution 336/House Resolution 254 requests the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to complete a statewide survey and inventory of historic resources in the State. The Department does not support these resolutions due to limited resources.

The Department notes that what is possible, with funding, is to upgrade our Geographic Information System (GIS) maps to show what areas have been surveyed, what areas have not been surveyed, and what has been found in those areas that were surveyed.

The GIS has not been updated since 2004, when the staff person who managed the program resigned. To date, SHPD has not had funds to rehire a GIS staff person to maintain the program. In the interim, the Pacific Disaster Center has audited our records and developed a work plan for us, so that SHPD can address discrete parts of the problem in a systematic way. SHPD also reassigned an archaeologist with GIS background to work on organizing the information and getting the program back up. SHPD is using existing programs and staff to do this work. SHPD has prioritized Federal 106 reviews and Archaeological Inventory Surveys.

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Without additional technical support, it is likely that SHPD will not finish upgrading the GIS program within a year. However, SHPD should have the Big Island on line and would be happy to provide the Legislature with an update on the GIS program in our annual report prior to the 2011 Legislative Session.