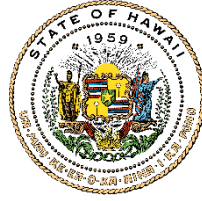


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

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

**Testimony of**  
**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on**  
**WATER AND LAND**  
**and**  
**HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, January 31, 2022**  
**1:00PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 75**  
**RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Senate Bill 75 proposes to appropriate funds to initiate the development of a comprehensive statewide inventory of historic properties and burial sites. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure.**

Senate Bill 75 would appropriate a blank level of funding for archaeological survey, burial sites inventory, and inventory of historic buildings to the Department to undertake the surveys necessary to develop a comprehensive statewide survey of historic properties, archaeological sites, and burial sites. As far as the Department is aware, development of a comprehensive inventory has never been funded.

The Department believes that the implementation of a comprehensive survey is essential to meeting the goals set in the establishment of the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) in Section 6E-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). SHPD does maintain an inventory, but it relies almost entirely on the supporting data provided by agencies and project sponsors submitted as part of the project review processes established by Sections 6E-8, 6E-10, 6E-42, and under federal law. As a result, SHPD's inventory has limited geographic coverage and, even in 'high' development areas, is incomplete. In the absence of better inventory data, it is extremely challenging for SHPD to assess with great confidence the condition of

Hawaii's historic resources. A comprehensive inventory would provide information essential to managing and protecting the state's cultural and heritage resources.

Equally important, a comprehensive inventory as contemplated in this measure would greatly facilitate development of critical projects, such as affordable housing, renewable energy, and essential infrastructure, and associated permit reviews by providing project planners, designers, and consultants to have access to a comprehensive inventory of historic properties and burial sites. The inventory will ensure that they have best available and current information when siting and designing their projects from the earliest stages of project planning to avoid adverse impact rather than to discover these resources during construction. It would facilitate permit review as information on historic properties and burials would be available to permitting agencies allowing them to make better decisions about what projects needed to be submitted to SHPD for review. The inventory would also assist SHPD in making better decisions on those projects it does receive for review and expedite the review process as SHPD will have more of the essential data for its review already at hand.

While Senate Bill 75 does not specify appropriate funding, the Department believes that \$750,000 per year for each category may be appropriate to initiate the first phase of the multi-year effort necessary to complete the statewide survey.

The Department also notes that SHPD will have to contract all the work necessary to carry out the inventory effort as it does not have the capacity to endeavor such a monumental but necessary comprehensive inventory. However, we believe the investment in developing a comprehensive inventory now, will facilitate the project review and development in the long run.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

# HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

**TO:** Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water & Land (WTL)

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair  
Senator Kurt Fevella, Vice Chair  
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)

**FROM:** Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director  
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

**Committee:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023  
1:00 p.m.  
Via Video Conference and Conference Room 224

**RE: SB 75, Relating to Historic Preservation**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing **in support for SB 75**. The bill appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the Historic Preservation Division to inventory historic properties and burial sites in the State, collect data on burial site locations, and conduct an archaeological surface survey.

Historic property inventories and surveys are a crucial step in the historic preservation process. The context studies and inventories provide research, evaluation and examples of patterns, themes and trends in which a building, structure, site, object or district is understood. The contexts provide information on meaning and provide the necessary background to understand why a given resource may be historically significant. The inventories then provide information on specific properties and features that convey that significance and are important to the cultural heritage of the community and the public.

The State's current inventory and historic property surveys are ad hoc rather than deliberative or methodical. Additions to the State Inventory of Historic Properties are often the result of supporting data provided when another agency or applicant submits a project proposal to SHPD. The resulting inventory is therefore piecemeal and incomplete in terms of identification of the individual properties and features. It also lacks information that would allow for a more robust understanding of the historic context in which individual sites and properties may be understood.

A comprehensive inventory should also include thematic context studies that would identify and explain historic themes and patterns as well as describe the types of properties associated with that context. The inventories should include descriptions of the physical characteristics and the locations where the properties are found. Contexts are required components of nominations to the Hawai'i and National

Registers of Historic Places. The contexts summarize the themes to which the resources relate, explain how the properties illustrate that theme and compare the nominated resource to other resources associated with the theme.

On a pragmatic level, a thorough and credible inventory would facilitate appropriate project review by providing the necessary information about the presence of significant historic properties so that projects may be sited and designed in a way to avoid, minimize and mitigate effects on those properties.

Therefore, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports the measure to provide resources for the development of inventories of historic buildings and structures, archaeological properties and burial sites.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**SB-75**

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 8:51:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB75, with caution. The Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources Archives/Library, State Historic Preservation Division needs improved policies and procedures for the management and catalog of Historic sites and burial sites. There are alot of misplaced files of open cases, pertaining specifically to iwi kūpuna. There is little to no oversight and accountability for lost or misplaced documents.

**SB-75**

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 10:12:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB75