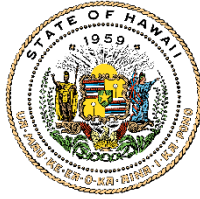


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
9:00 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 533
RELATING TO HISTORIC PROPERTY

House Bill 533 amends the definition of “historic property” under 6E, HRS to include only those properties that predate Statehood and, with respect to buildings and structures, are registered in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure.**

Chapter 6E, HRS, sets forth the framework for a comprehensive statewide historic preservation program in Hawai‘i. The definition of historic property, found at Section 6E-2, HRS, informs the State Historic Preservation Division’s historic preservation reviews, conducted pursuant to 6E-8, 6E-10, and 6E-42, HRS, respectively. It also determines which properties are eligible for listing in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places, and currently requires those properties be at least fifty years old. The Department believes that the current definition of historic property in Section 6E-2, HRS, which relies solely on age, should be amended; and, has supported proposed legislation in the past that do so. The Department believes, however, that the proposed amended definition in this measure is deeply problematic.

Limiting historic properties to those that predate statehood and, in the case of buildings and structures must predate statehood and be listed in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places will establish an arbitrary threshold for what can be considered “historic”. It would mean that buildings, such as the Hawaii State Capitol Building, that are currently listed within the Hawaii Register of Historic Places, be required to be removed from the Hawaii Register of Historic Places—as it was constructed in 1969, a decade after statehood—simply because the definition of historic property changed. Such definitions should and must be determined through factual analysis that is based upon best professional practice. The national standard for identifying and defining historic properties is anything that is at least fifty years in age or older and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; unless it meets the rigorous

requirements of criterion consideration “g” set forth within National Register Bulletin, on How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (National Park Service, 1995) that would allow historic resources that were less than fifty-years in age to be listed in special circumstances.

Only a small percentage of properties in Hawaii are listed in either the Hawaii or National Registers of Historic Places, many of those resources were constructed after statehood. Neither the Department nor the State has ever conducted a statewide inventory, assessment, and program of listing significant properties in order to expand the state or national registers. Consequently, the Hawaii Register includes only a tiny portion of Hawaii’s historic buildings, and an even much smaller portion of Hawaii’s significant archaeological and cultural sites. Instead, the State has relied on individual property owners or a handful of dedicated preservationists to initiate the listing process. The listing process itself requires a significant investment of time and/or money to achieve. The decision on whether to list a property in the Hawaii Register is made by the Hawai’i Historic Places Review Board, which meets four times a year and is comprised of members that are subject matter experts in the fields of history, culture, archaeology, architecture, sociology, and preservation. The proposed amended definition will limit the number of properties that will be eligible for listing in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places not because they are not historic, but because they are not old enough and will never be old enough to be included. Essentially pre-determining any event that happened after statehood, any person who was born after statehood, any architectural resource built after statehood, and any intangible cultural practice established after statehood to be determined “not historic” and not an historic property. This includes places like the Edith Kanakaole Multipurpose Stadium where the Merrie Monarch Festival is held; the camp sites on Kahoolawe central to the Hawaiian Renaissance of the 1970s; and the people, places, and events that have not yet been born, created, or happened yet. The definition of historic property proposed in this bill will prevent them from ever being recognized as historic under the State’s historic preservation program. Sites associated with these people, places, and events would not be eligible for listing in the state register, they would not be considered when a project that requires review under 6E-8, -10, or-42, HRS directly impacts them, and they will not be eligible for county property tax reductions (in many cases, it’s likely single-family residential dwellings will be required to be delisted and will no longer be able to receive the counties’ property-tax reduction benefits).

Lastly, because the federal rule of thumb is 50-years for the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Program and the National Register of Historic Places, having a different date for Chapter 6E, HRS, will create unnecessary confusion due to the mismatch between the State and federal program. It also puts Hawaii out of step with the rest of the U.S. The confusion will be greatest for projects on private, state, or county land that use federal funds or requiring federal permits and approvals, and must comply with both state and federal historic preservation rules and regulations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



To: The Honorable Chair Mark Hashem, the Honorable Vice Chair Rachele Lamosao, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land.

From: Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB533 RELATING TO HISTORICAL PROPERTY.**

Hearing: Tuesday February 4, 2025, 9:00 a.m., room 411

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land!

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i seeks to educate and engage the local community in climate change action, to help Hawai'i show the world the way back to a safe and stable climate.

The Climate Protectors Hawai'i appreciate the bill's intent but have the following **COMMENTS AND CONCERNS about Bill 533.**

This bill proposes to amend the definition of historic property in Section 6E-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to require that the property be built before August 21, 1959 and be listed in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places.

The proposed amended definition in this measure is deeply problematic. Only a tiny fraction of properties is listed in the Hawaii Register. The State has never conducted a statewide inventory, assessment, and program of listing significant properties, consequently the Hawaii Register includes only tiny portion of Hawaii's historic buildings, and an even much smaller portion of Hawai'i's significant archaeological and cultural sites.

Setting the age criterion to a fixed date means that over time the gap between what is genuinely historic and what can be considered eligible for the register increases year-by-year. Furthermore, the federal rule of thumb is 50-years for the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Program and the National Register. Having a different date for Chapter 6E, HRS, will create unnecessary confusion due to the mismatch been the State and federal program. It also puts Hawaii out of step with the rest of the U.S. Furthermore, the confusion will be greatest for

projects using federal funds or requiring federal approvals, where the Federal 50-year rule of thumb applies, and eligibility for the National Register not actual listing is required. The proposed amended definition will also limit the income producing buildings that might qualify for the federal Historic Tax Credit.

One example of the problem: the childhood home of U.S. President Barack Obama—Punahou Circle Apartments—was constructed in 1965. The future president lived there from 1971 to 1979. The homes of every U.S. President since George Washington have been acknowledged for their historic significance and steps taken to ensure their preservation. Under the proposed bill, Hawai'i would disavow the significance of this location and its association with an important person in history merely because it occurred after statehood.

Under this bill, the State would not be able to accept and approve new nominations to list properties to the State Register if such property was built or acquired its historic significance after 1959. This would differ from the National Register of Historic Places' criteria, which generally uses a 50-year age rule but also considers historic significance and integrity for all properties. The changed criteria would create a discrepancy between State and Federal programs, which would introduce conflicts for any State project that uses federal funds or requires federal land, permit, license or approval. This includes the federal tax credit for rehabilitation of historic properties, which provides affordable housing and other economic development benefits. It also includes many affordable housing projects that require approval or financing through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The revised definition of “historic property” as proposed in HB533 would introduce a great deal of confusion, conflict and delay. It would negate and marginalize the many contributions, lessons and achievements of prior generations and deny those sites the recognition that they deserve, as well as access to programs to help preserve and share them.

Please do not pass this bill in its current form with affixed date defining historical property.

Mahalo!

Climate Protectors Hawai'i (by Ted Bohlen)



HISTORIC HAWAII' FOUNDATION

680 Iwilei Road Suite 690, Honolulu HI 96817 • (808) 523-2900 • preservation@historichawaii.org • www.historichawaii.org

TO: Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele R. Lamosao, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land (WAL)

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

Committee: Tuesday, February 4, 2025
9:00 a.m.
Via Video Conference and Conference Room 411

RE: HB 533, Relating to Historic Property

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in **opposition to HB 533**.

The bill would amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes §6E-2 to revise the definition of "historic property" to include only those properties that were constructed prior to Hawaii's admission as the 50th State in August 1959 and any properties currently listed in the Hawai'i register of historic places.

If passed, the measure would deny the historic significance of any person, event or design/construction achievement in Hawai'i after 1959, essentially signaling that the official policy of the State Legislature is that history ended with Statehood.

The living culture of Hawai'i is ongoing and continuously relevant: it did not end in 1778, it did not end in 1893 and it did not end in 1959. The bill is deeply problematic in its proposal that the State of Hawai'i deny this living culture and negate the opportunity to recognize historic significance of places associated with it.

If the Legislature repudiates the history of the people of Hawai'i that has occurred since 1959 by approving this bill, it would be a great disservice to the many important achievements and events that are part of Hawai'i's past. It would deny many property owners the opportunity to participate in voluntary preservation programs, including nominating properties to be listed in the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places, applying for preservation grants and tax credits, gaining public recognition and status for important people and events.

DISPROPORTIONAL IMPACT AND EQUITY CONCERNS

The proposed change would have a disproportionate outcome and adverse effect on properties associated with women, people of color and less affluent groups. In recent decades, there have been

Historic Hawai'i Foundation is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.

deliberate and methodical attempts to diversify the National and the Hawai'i Registers of Historic Places to include underrepresented groups and untold stories in order to include the full history of both the state and the nation.

As many of those individuals and communities did not have the opportunities available to them in earlier eras, it is only now that their stories and sites are becoming known. The proposed hard cutoff of 1959 places an unnecessary barrier and penalizes historically marginalized communities from recognition of their historic significance and contributions to Hawai'i and the nation. It is notable that the proposed date occurs prior to some of the most impactful social movements of the 20th century, including the Civil Rights Movement and the Environmental Movement, as well as important technological achievements and major historic milestones.

HHF offers a few examples to illustrate this concern:

- The era from the late 1960s through the 1970s is often called the **Hawaiian Cultural Renaissance** due to the movement that brought renewed focus on Hawaiian language, music, hula, ocean wayfaring and widespread discussions of native Hawaiian identity and culture.

This period included such notable historic events as the construction of the **Hökūle'a** and her first voyage to Tahiti in 1976. It also includes the actions of the **Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana** which filed suit to stop the Navy's use of Kaho'olawe for bombardment and training, and pioneered the use of the then-new environmental protection laws for cultural resource protection.

- The **childhood home of U.S. President Barack Obama**—Punahou Circle Apartments—was constructed in 1965. The future president lived there from 1971 to 1979. The homes of every U.S. President since George Washington have been acknowledged for their historic significance and steps taken to ensure their preservation. Under the proposed bill, Hawai'i would disavow the significance of this location and its association with an important person in history merely because it occurred after statehood.
- Many of Hawaii's most **notable architects, artists and designers** did outstanding work between 80 and 30 years ago. Many of the buildings, structures and artworks from this period have only recently become recognized and valued. A few of those who are only now coming into wider public awareness are listed below.

Many of their works still need to be added to the Hawai'i Inventory of Historic Properties and evaluated for eligibility for the state register for design, engineering and construction significance. Under the proposed definition of historic property, many of them would remain obscure or ignored by the official historic preservation program of the State.

- **Ray Akagi** was a draftsman in the 1930s with C.W. Dickey, Hart Wood and Guy Rothwell. He became a licensed architect in 1947 and operated his office until 1971. He designed the Buck Toy Society Hall on Vineyard Avenue, Niu Valley Elementary School, and a number of churches for the

Roman Catholic Church, including Holy Family on Hickam Air Force Base, St. Peter and Paul in Honolulu, and St. Anthony's in Kailua;

- **Juliette May Fraser** was a talented painter, muralist and printmaker who received a WPA commission in 1934 to prepare murals for the Hawai'i State Library. Her other works can be seen at the Board of Water Supply and Ben Parker School in Kāne'ohe.
- **Hego Fuchino** opened his engineering office in Honolulu in 1919. Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Fuchino was arrested and sent to an internment camp in Wisconsin where he was held for five years. With his release he returned to Hawai'i and reopened his office. Major works prior to the war include the Makiki Christian Church and the Izumo Taishakyo Mission. In 1947 he entered into partnership with Robert Katsuyoshi, which lasted until Fujino's death. The Soto Zen Mission on Nu'uuanu Avenue and the Waipahu Hongwanji are among his noteworthy post-war designs.
- **Ernest Hideo Hara** opened his architectural firm in 1945. He designed a number of apartments and hotels, including the Queen Kapi'olani (1968), Waikiki Grand (1962), Hilo Hawaiian (1976), and the Waikiki Shopping Plaza (1975). He was a founding member of Central Pacific Bank and served on its board from 1954-1980. In 1969 he was the first person of Asian descent appointed to Punahou School's Board of Trustees.
- **Erica Karawina** was a renowned stained-glass artist whose works adorn many churches, businesses and public buildings. She came to Honolulu in 1949 and created dozens of stained-glass murals. Her works include the windows in the Kalanimoku Building, St. Anthony's in Kailua, Mānoa Valley Church, Wesley Methodist Church, and St. John's Episcopal Church in Kula, Maui.
- **Stephen Oyakawa** was born in Hawai'i and worked for Frank Lloyd Wright from 1944 until 1959. His works include the 'Aiea Library, Liliha Library, Lihū'e Library, the Hale Aloha complex of four round dormitories at the University of Hawai'i.
- **Kenneth Sato** was born on the North Shore of O'ahu, graduated from McKinley High School, and received a degree in civil engineering from the University of Hawai'i in 1930. He owned the Kewalo Steel Company and designed a number of churches, apartments, and low-rise commercial buildings. He also worked on a number of public schools and bridges for the Territory of Hawai'i.

These are only a few of the events, people and design achievements that are important to the history of Hawai'i that have occurred less than 60 years ago but that nevertheless need to be included in Hawai'i's historic preservation program.

CONTEXT AND ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Currently, HRS §6E-2 defines historic properties as any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater site, which is over 50 years old. HHF is concerned that the bill would deny the significance of Hawai'i's own history and will disadvantage numerous properties that are important to the history and culture of Hawai'i.

Under the current system, properties must be at least 50 years old even to be considered for listing on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places and for the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board to determine if the nominations demonstrate eligibility. **Under this bill, the State would not be able to accept and approve new nominations to list properties to the State Register if such property was built or acquired its historic significance after 1959.**

It would also be a departure from the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which uses the 50-year age as a rule of thumb, but includes additional criteria of historic significance and integrity to evaluate all properties, of any age, in determining eligibility.

The changed criteria would create a discrepancy between State and Federal programs, which would introduce conflicts for any State project that uses federal funds or requires federal land, permit, license or approval. This includes the federal tax credit for rehabilitation of historic properties, which provides affordable housing and other economic development benefits. It also includes many affordable housing projects that require approval or financing through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HHF believes that the revised definition of "historic property" as proposed in **HB 533** would introduce a great deal of confusion, conflict and delay. It would negate and marginalize the many contributions, lessons and achievements of prior generations and deny those sites the recognition that they deserve, as well as access to programs to help preserve and share them.

Therefore, HHF opposes the bill and respectfully asks that it be held in committee.



February 4, 2025

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

RE: **HB533 - Relating to Historic Property.**
Hearing date: February 4, 2025 at 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and members of the committees,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of NAIOP Hawaii in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 533. NAIOP Hawaii is the local chapter of the nation's leading organization for office, industrial, retail, residential and mixed-use real estate. NAIOP Hawaii has over 200 members in the State including local developers, owners, investors, asset managers, lenders, and other professionals.

HB 533 amends the definition of "Historic property" to include any building or structure that is on the Hawaii register of historic places or objects, areas, and sites that predates Statehood Day, August 21, 1959. The intent of the measure is to promote more timely reviews of projects conducted the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) by narrowing the scope of project which require review while preserving historic properties which meet the criteria to be on the historic register or predate Statehood Day.

Currently, the backlog of historic reviews is encumbering permits throughout the state. Reviews by SHPD are significantly slowing down the permitting process adding costs and delays to a substantial number of projects. Consequently, much needed housing, economic development, and critical infrastructure projects often face significant delays in permit approvals and project implementation. These delays result in decreased economic and construction activity and delivery of housing units.

Ultimately, the issue at hand is that far too many projects are being sent to SHPD for review that do not qualify as historic under any reasonable interpretation associated with historic importance. Nearly half of Oahu's housing stock is 50 years old including projects built in the 60s and 70s which should not be deemed historic based on age alone.

NAIOP understands the great importance that these reviews hold in preservation of Hawaii's historic sites, however, a balance needs to be found to: 1) reduce overwhelming volume of reviews placed on an understaffed department; and 2) allow SHPD staff to focus on properties of true historic significance. Primarily, requiring buildings and structures to be on the historic register to be deemed "historic property" adequately balances the need for the preservation of truly

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land
February 4, 2025
Page 2

historic properties while allowing non historic properties to move forward with vital housing and infrastructure. The process for getting onto the Hawaii historic register will allow properties to be vetted through a process which requires multiple criteria to be deemed historic without the property automatically triggering the need for separate SHPD review and overburdening the department. This revised definition still will allow of historic properties to be protected, and third parties to register a given property for protection, provided that they meet the criteria to be deemed historic on the register.

Moreover, setting a date for properties to be deemed historic will establish a clear date for the SHPD to determine whether review is triggered. This amendment would be unambiguous, clear and prevent future portions of Hawaii's housing stock from triggering the need for review just because the structure has become 50 years old. This would address DLNR's concerns noted in their testimony while preserving the intent of the bill. NAIOP Hawaii looks forward to working together with stakeholders to find the right language to balance the concerns being addressed in this bill.

NAIOP greatly supports this measure to identify a solution to the significant backlog of much needed projects awaiting SHPD review. Ultimately, HB 533 addresses a critical issue in the development of more affordable housing and critical infrastructure for Hawaii residents. NAIOP appreciates the Legislature's commitment to collaborating on this issue and look forward to working together.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reyn Tanaka', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reyn Tanaka, President
NAIOP Hawaii

Feb. 4, 2025, 9 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 411 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Water and Land
Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair
Rep. Rachele Lamosao, Vice-Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: HB533 — RELATING TO HISTORIC PROPERTY

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Lamosao and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB533](#), which would change the definition of historic property.

Currently, “historic property” is defined as “any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater site, which is over fifty years old.”

HB533 would amend the definition to read as follows: “any building, structure, object, district, area, or site, including heiau and underwater site, which predates Statehood Day, August 21, 1959, and, with respect to buildings and structures, is registered on the Hawaii register of historic places.”

This change would exempt a number of properties from historic review, since the 50-year threshold means that any structure built in 1975 or earlier must be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Division, unless it is a single-family dwelling or townhome that qualifies for an exemption under state law.¹

On Oahu alone, there are 8,583 improved parcels in the industrial, commercial and hotel and resort property tax classes. Of these, 4,524 — 52.7%% — host buildings built in 1975 or before. Meanwhile, 4,315 — 50.3% — host buildings constructed in 1976 or later.

¹ [6E-42.2 Excluded activities for privately-owned single-family detached dwelling units and townhouses.](#), Hawaii Revised Statutes, accessed Jan. 31, 2025.

Compare this to the definition change proposed by HB533. In these tax classes, just 1,773 — 20.7%% — host buildings built in 1959 or before, while 7,045 — 82.1%% — host buildings constructed in 1960 or later.²

The sheer magnitude of projects that could be subject to SHPD review under the current definition helps explain why reviews often take months — and why an exemption could speed the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

² Hawaii Information Service database, accessed Jan. 31, 2024. Figures exceed 100% because some parcels in a given tax class have multiple buildings with multiple construction dates, resulting in double counting. A subscription is needed to access the data.

HB-533

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:31:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The intent of HB 533 is to redefine a historic property as one which "predates Statehood Day, August 21, 1959, and, with respect to buildings and structures, is registered on the Hawaii register of historic places."

If this legislation were to be implemented as proposed, there would not be alignment with the definition of a historic property at the federal level if the definition of "historic property." At the federal level, a historic property uses the 50-year-old threshold. This legislation may cause confusion where some buildings, structures, objects, districts, or sites meet the criteria to be defined as historic properties at the federal level and not at the state level. This would create issues, especially for the many state projects that use federal funding or require a federal permit or approval.

In the past, Hawai'i has been a beacon for historic preservation, and this bill would be a step backward for the preservation of Hawai'i's past, as properties relating to Hawai'i's early to mid-20th century history would not be afforded any protection under Chapter 6E unless they were already assessed as being eligible for listing on the HRHP. Although 50 years does not seem that long ago, we need to remain mindful that in another 50 years or 100 years, we will be longing for the portions of Hawai'i's history that would have been allowed to be lost as a result of this legislation.

Archaeological, architectural, and ethnographic inventory surveys would be necessary to determine whether a site meets the criteria to be placed on the HRHP. A critical aspect of HRS 6E is the triggering of historic preservation review if a project may have an effect on historic properties or burials. HRS 6E requires all historic properties to be identified and then assessed for significance, which may include consultation with Native Hawaiians or other ethnic groups. This bill redefines historic property and requires the presumption of significance. This presumption that a building, structure, object, site or district is not eligible to the HRHP in an assessment of whether HRS 6E would be triggered, could result in many historic properties being destroyed or damaged without proper assessment or review. Without undergoing historic preservation review with the State Historic Preservation Division, it would be impossible to assess whether a project may potentially impact these sites. In addition, there is no clarification in the bill regarding the professional qualifications to conduct such an analysis of eligibility, nor that any consultation with Native Hawaiians would be required.

I oppose HB 533 and I urge you to do the same. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

HB-533

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 12:20:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Keeping the 50 year language would unfairly give property owners additional tax exemptions by classifying their homes as "historic" when 50 years is not that old.

HB533

Companion: SB578

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm in **OPPOSITION** for HB533

1. Ala Moana Center (Opened in 1959)

- **Cultural and Architectural Significance:** As one of the first major shopping malls in Hawai'i, Ala Moana Center is an iconic symbol of the rise of tourism and consumer culture in the post-statehood era. It reflects the state's shift toward a modern, tourist-driven economy, which reshaped local culture and daily life.
- **Concerns:** Though the mall is technically built after statehood, it represents a key moment in Hawai'i's economic and cultural transformation. Excluding it from preservation programs could erase an important landmark of mid-century development.

2. The Hawai'i State Capitol (1969)

- **Architectural Importance:** This modernist building, designed by architect John Carl Warneke, is a key example of post-statehood architectural innovation. It is uniquely designed with open spaces and symbolizes the democratic values of the state. The Capitol also represents Hawai'i's transition into statehood and its own legislative independence.
- **Concerns:** If such buildings are excluded from preservation, we risk losing iconic landmarks that speak to Hawai'i's political and architectural evolution in the 20th century.

3. Kawaiaha'o Church (1960s Renovations)

- **Cultural and Religious Importance:** While the church itself predates statehood, the renovations made in the 1960s—when Hawai'i's indigenous culture began to be more widely recognized—are integral to understanding the church's evolving role in the community. The church became a focal point for the Hawaiian Renaissance and for social movements in Hawai'i.
- **Concerns:** The renovations and the church's later use might be excluded under the amendment, even though they reflect crucial social and cultural shifts.

4. The Honolulu International Airport (Now Daniel K. Inouye International Airport)

- **Historical and Cultural Significance:** Built in the 1960s, the airport symbolizes Hawai'i's increasing role as a gateway to the Pacific and as a tourism hub after statehood. It has also

witnessed historical moments, such as the arrival of key political figures and civil rights movements.

- **Concerns:** Excluding the airport's historical significance post-1959 may downplay the role it played in Hawai'i's economic and cultural development after statehood.

5. The Hawaiian Renaissance Cultural Sites (1970s and Beyond)

- **Cultural Significance:** The Hawaiian Renaissance movement, which began in the 1970s, led to the revival of native Hawaiian culture, language, and traditions. Several properties tied to this movement, such as cultural centers, galleries, and gathering places, were built during this period. These properties serve as markers of Hawai'i's social and cultural revitalization.
- **Concerns:** Excluding post-statehood properties associated with the Hawaiian Renaissance could erase key cultural landmarks for Native Hawaiians, effectively disregarding an essential movement in modern Hawai'i history.

6. University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Campus (Post-1959 Structures)

- **Educational and Social Importance:** Many of the university's buildings and structures were constructed or expanded after statehood, contributing significantly to the educational landscape and to the growth of the state's public higher education system.
- **Concerns:** These buildings represent a major shift in Hawai'i's academic and social development post-statehood. Their exclusion from preservation could undermine the understanding of Hawai'i's post-1959 educational and social evolution.

7. Haleakalā Observatory (Post-1959 Construction)

- **Scientific and Cultural Importance:** The observatories at Haleakalā were expanded and modernized in the 1960s and 1970s, becoming centers for astronomical research. This site is culturally significant for Native Hawaiians as well as a key location for global scientific research.
- **Concerns:** Haleakalā's observatories, while not necessarily tied to pre-statehood history, have had a profound influence on both science and cultural perceptions of the land. Their significance in Hawaiian culture and science may not be preserved if they're excluded.

8. Waikīkī's Hotels and Resorts (Post-1959 Developments)

- **Economic and Social Importance:** The development of large-scale hotels and resorts, including those in Waikīkī, reshaped Hawai'i's tourism industry, which is central to the state's economy. These properties represent the post-statehood boom in tourism and are deeply intertwined with the state's social history and global reputation.

While many of these buildings might not predate statehood, they symbolize the rapid changes Hawai'i experienced in the second half of the 20th century. Excluding them from historic preservation could overlook their role in the state's economic and cultural growth.

Conclusion

The shift toward excluding post-statehood properties may be seen as focusing too narrowly on one period of history and ignoring the ongoing cultural evolution that has shaped Hawai'i over the past several decades. While it's important to preserve properties that predate statehood, groups advocating for the recognition of post-statehood properties might argue that it is equally essential to preserve and protect the landmarks that reflect the continuing development of the state's diverse cultural and historical landscape.

Mahalo.

____/s/____

Cindy Freitas

HB-533

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 12:41:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. Keeping the 50 year language would unfairly give property owners additional tax exemptions by classifying their homes as "historic" when 50 years is not that old.

HB-533

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 7:13:58 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

While well intentioned, our historic preservation laws have become burdensome and a major barrier to affordability in Hawaii for working- and middle-class families. Onerous protections prevent the building of better housing and commercial structures while driving up already too high living costs.

I strongly urge this Committee to SUPPORT this bill!