

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1424

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 9, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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

This is to inform you that on July 9, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 79, S.D. 1, H.D. 2,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION
REVIEWS.
ACT 311

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEWS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
2 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§6E- Proposed state or county housing projects;
5 historic review requirements. (a) Notwithstanding section
6 6E-8, before any agency or officer of the State or its political
7 subdivisions commences any housing project that may affect a
8 historic property, an aviation artifact, or a burial site, the
9 agency or officer shall advise and authorize the department to
10 make a determination for the proposed project as to the effect
11 of the project on the historic property, aviation artifact, or
12 burial site. The project shall not commence or continue until
13 the department has made its determination; provided that:

14 (1) If the department determines that the proposed project
15 is in a:

16 (A) Highly sensitive area known to include a high
17 density of historic, cultural, or archaeological



1 resources, or in an area that is likely to
2 contain a high density of historic, cultural, or
3 archaeological resources, the department shall
4 require an archaeological inventory survey in
5 accordance with rules adopted by the department
6 unless an archaeological inventory survey has
7 already been previously reviewed and accepted by
8 the department for the same or a substantially
9 similar project located in the same project area,
10 in which case the department may allow the
11 project to proceed under an archaeological
12 monitoring program pursuant to rules adopted by
13 the department;
14 (B) Moderately sensitive area where an archaeological
15 inventory survey has already been previously
16 reviewed and accepted by the department and no
17 significant historic properties have been
18 previously identified, the department may
19 authorize the project to proceed under an
20 archaeological monitoring program in accordance
21 with rules adopted by the department; or



- 1 (C) Nominally sensitive area known to include a low
2 density of historic, cultural, or archaeological
3 resources, or where the project area has been
4 substantially disturbed by previous excavation or
5 other ground disturbing work and no significant
6 historic properties have been previously
7 identified, the department may authorize the
8 project to proceed without further review under
9 this section; and
- 10 (2) The department's determination shall be based on:
- 11 (A) The Hawaii or national register of historic
12 places;
- 13 (B) The age of above-surface structures;
- 14 (C) Any existing archaeological inventory surveys
15 previously accepted by the department;
- 16 (D) Any burial treatment plans accepted by the
17 department;
- 18 (E) The type of substrate known to typically contain
19 burials;
- 20 (F) Consultation with the:
- 21 (i) Relevant island burial council; and



1 (ii) Office of Hawaiian affairs; and
2 (G) Any other literary review relevant to the area.

3 The department shall provide its written determination
4 within ninety days after the filing of a complete and accurate
5 project request with the department; provided that the
6 department's determination may be appealed to the Hawaii
7 historic places review board.

8 (b) The department shall confirm that housing projects
9 have state inventory of historic places numbers for all historic
10 properties located within the housing project area before the
11 start of construction.

12 (c) A project proponent shall obtain state inventory of
13 historic places numbers from the state historic preservation
14 division for all historic properties located within a housing
15 project area if an archaeological or architectural survey is
16 conducted as part of the historic preservation review process.
17 If an archaeological inventory survey is conducted before the
18 start of construction, the project proponent shall obtain state
19 inventory of historic places numbers for each historic property
20 identified within the housing project area during archaeological
21 monitoring before completion of construction.



1 (d) Before any agency or officer of the State or its
2 political subdivisions commences any housing project that may
3 adversely affect a significant historic property, the agency or
4 officer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to avoid
5 or minimize any effect to the significant historic property. If
6 any adverse effect cannot reasonably be avoided, the agency or
7 officer shall mitigate the adverse effect. Mitigation includes
8 but is not limited to preservation, archaeological data
9 recovery, burial treatment, ethnographic documentation, historic
10 data recovery, and architectural recordation. Mitigation shall
11 be implemented pursuant to terms approved by the department or
12 the relevant island burial council pursuant to section 6E-43.

13 (e) If previously unidentified human remains are
14 inadvertently discovered during archaeological monitoring or
15 housing project construction, all work within a twenty-foot
16 radius of the:

- 17 (1) Discovery; and
- 18 (2) Back-dirt pile containing the soil removed during
19 excavation in proximity of the discovery,
20 shall cease and both areas shall be securely covered and
21 protected from the natural elements and adjacent activities;



1 provided that work in other areas of the project may continue
2 and may only proceed in accordance with section 6E-43.6.

3 (f) If a previously unidentified historic property is
4 identified or previously unanticipated effects are found after
5 the historic preservation review process has concluded during
6 archaeological monitoring or housing project construction, all
7 work within a twenty-foot radius of the discovery shall cease
8 and the agency or officer shall notify the state historic
9 preservation division within forty-eight hours of the discovery.

10 The notification shall include:

11 (1) A historic properties assessment that documents the
12 historic, cultural, or archaeological resource and
13 determines its significance;

14 (2) An assessment of effect that shall detail any impacts
15 the project has had or will have on the historic,
16 cultural, or archaeological resource; and

17 (3) Proposed actions that may be taken to avoid, minimize,
18 or mitigate any adverse effects the project may have
19 on the historic, cultural, or archaeological resource.

20 The state historic preservation division shall respond to
21 the notification within two working days.



1 (g) Upon completion of any identified avoidance,
2 minimization, and mitigation measures, the agency or officer
3 shall submit a report to the state historic preservation
4 division documenting the actions taken.

5 (h) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with
6 chapter 91 to implement this section.

7 (i) For the purposes of this section, "housing project" or
8 "project" means a housing project that is developed by,
9 receiving financing from, or situated on land owned by the State
10 or a county."

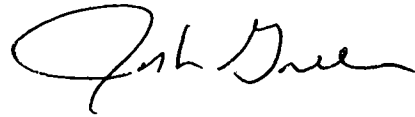
11 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 79
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 9th day of July, 2025





GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 79, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives