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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

DEPT. COMM. NO. 247

STATE OF HAWAIʻI | KA MOKUʻĀINA ʻO HAWAIʻI
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA ʻOIHANA KUMUWAIWAI ʻĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

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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

November 28, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Report on the State Historic Preservation Program as required by section 6E-3, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the report may be viewed electronically at: https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2026/HP26-Historic-Preservation-Program-Report-FY25.pdf

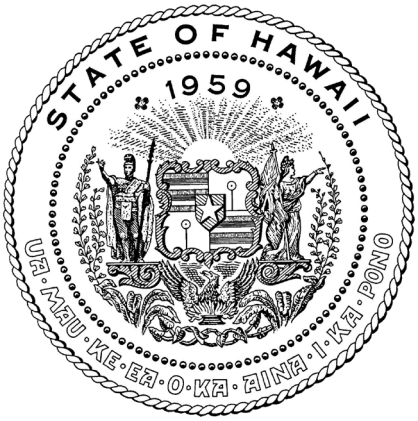
Sincerely,

Dawn N. S. Chang
Chairperson

Enclosure

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII
2026 REGULAR SESSION

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025



PREPARED BY:

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

IN RESPONSE TO
SECTION 6E-3, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

HONOLULU, HAWAI'I
DECEMBER 2025

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

BACKGROUND

Section 6E-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to submit to the Governor and the Legislature an annual report detailing the accomplishments of the year, recommendations for changes in the state plan or future programs relating to historic preservation, and an accounting of all income, expenditures, and the fund balance of the Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department's State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) continues to work on upgrades with the Hawaii Cultural Resource Information System (HICRIS), to improve its functionality for SHPD staff and make it more user friendly for external users. SHPD continues the multi-year effort to incorporate legacy data from hardcopy files, stand-alone databases, as well as various applications, enabling SHPD to leverage part of its substantial historic preservation inventory. Over the past year, SHPD and has completed historic preservation project reviews for 70% of projects submitted during the fiscal year. The remaining 30% include projects that have been submitted incompletely, require additional information and/or survey, are awaiting submittal of mitigation measures, or have not yet completed the historic preservation review process.

SHPD awarded the County of Maui a $92,000 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant for projects supporting the rehabilitation of historic resources in Lahaina impacted by the 2024 wildfires. Maui County's grant projects included post-fire photography, PMCo Office Building Reassessment/Shoring/Stabilization Drawings, foundation plans of building contributing the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District, and design guidelines for the Lahaina National Historic Landmark District and Local Districts 1 and 2 in Lahaina. The design guidelines and foundation plans are currently being utilized to streamline the HRS Chapter 6E review process through a Memorandum of Agreement between Maui County and SHPD, which was executed on April 14, 2025 to expedite permits for recovery projects.

Although SHPD has maintained 34 staffed positions, it continues to work on filling 19 vacant positions, of which 10 were newly authorized by the 2022 Legislature. Within the past fiscal year, SHPD has filled nine vacant positions. They include the vacated History and Culture Branch Chief and Architecture Branch Chief positions, two Maui County archaeology positions, a Hawaii Island Burial Sites Specialist Position, an Architectural Historian position, an Oahu Archaeologist position, a Librarian Assistant, and an Office Assistant position for our Maui office. SHPD is in the process of finalizing interviews and onboarding an additional five positions, which include three archaeologists and two architectural historians. Additionally, SHPD is in the process of posting for recruitment the ten additional vacant positions. The remaining three vacant positions cannot be filled at this time as they are federally funded, and SHPD does not have adequate funds to fill them.

SHPD has initiated a contract with Honua Consulting to update the Historic Preservation Plan for the State of Hawaii. The last finalized Historic Preservation Plan was completed in 2012 and expired in 2020. Drafting the updated plan will depend upon consultation stakeholders and our local communities. From November 2025 through January 2026, SHPD will be hosting eight in-person community meetings and ten virtual meetings to target stakeholders and partners to

discuss issues pertaining to historic preservation in Hawaii, identify historic and cultural resources at risk, and gather information that will determine Hawaii's plan for preserving historic and cultural resources over the next eight years. This preservation plan is a requirement of the federal Historic Preservation Fund Grant we receive from the Department of the Interior and HRS Section 6E-3.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Due to the approval of funding by the 2018 Legislature, SHPD can contract a legal fellow through the William S. Richardson School of Law to assist in revising its Administrative Rules. SHPD plans to issue revisions to our administrative rules to reflect changes to the HRS Chapter 6E historic preservation process enacted during the 2025 legislative session. SHPD also plans to complete a revised fee schedule by June 2026 to more accurately reflect the true costs incurred in the review process and to offset a larger portion of those costs. It is estimated that this will increase revenue to Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund three-fold.

Currently, SHPD is consulting with the County of Maui and the City and County of Honolulu to develop programmatic approaches to the HRS Chapter 6E historic preservation review process to identify those project types that do not have a potential to affect historic properties. These consultations will result in Programmatic Agreements (PAs) that will limit the project types and thus minimize the number of building permit applications submitted to SHPD for review. Both PAs are expected to be executed before the end of the 2026 calendar year.

HAWAII HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIAL FUND

The Hawaii Historic Preservation Special Fund (Fund) was established in Section 6E-16, HRS, by way of Act 388, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1989, to enhance and preserve elements of our past that should be integrated into our daily living. Allowable deposits into the Fund include:

(1) Appropriations by the Legislature to the special fund;

(2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and private persons;

(3) All proceeds collected by the Department derived from historic preserve user fees, historic preserve leases or concession fees, fees charged to carry out the purposes of Chapter 6E, HRS, or the sale of goods; and

(4) Civil, criminal, and administrative penalties, fines, and other charges collected under Chapter 6E, HRS, or any rule adopted pursuant to Chapter 6E, HRS.

All interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited in the Fund shall become part of the Fund. The Fund shall be administered by the Department; provided that the Department may contract with a public or private agency to provide the day-to-day management of the Fund.

Subject to legislative authorization, the Department may expend moneys from the Fund:

(1) For permanent and temporary staff positions;

(2) To replenish goods;

(3) To produce public information materials;

(4) To provide financial assistance to public agencies and private agencies in accordance with Chapter 42F, HRS, involved in historic preservation activities other than those covered by Section 6E-9, HRS; and

(5) To cover administrative and operational costs of SHPD.

Appropriation Account Number: S-321-C

Beginning Cash Balance	(7/01/24)	$63,006
Revenues		$51,196.88
Cash Transfers		$18,282.75
Expenditures		($19,442.59)
Ending Cash Balance	(6/30/2025)	$50,039.04
Ending Encumbrances	(6/30/2025)	$45,684.81
Net Cash Balance		$50,039.04

The revenues were derived from user fees, professional fees, and interest income. The Fund is also used to pay for utilities, office supplies, rental of electronic data processing equipment and multi-purpose copiers, as well as travel related expenditures for staff to attend meetings and site visits on neighbor islands, subject to the availability of funds.