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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH, STRENGTHEN, OR EXPAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNCTIONS WITHIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPORT STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawai'i possesses unique and irreplaceable cultural  
2 resources, including historic buildings, archaeological sites,  
3 burial sites, cultural landscapes, traditional cultural  
4 properties, and places of significance to the history and  
5 posterity of native Hawaiian culture; and  
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7           WHEREAS, the preservation of these resources strengthens  
8 Hawai'i's cultural identity, supports education and community  
9 stewardship, and contributes to the protection of places and  
10 resources that embody the history and heritage of Hawai'i; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Division of the  
13 Department of Land and Natural Resources administers the State's  
14 Historic Preservation Program, including maintaining the Hawai'i  
15 Register of Historic Places, reviewing proposed projects for  
16 potential impacts to historic properties, and ensuring  
17 compliance with federal and state historic preservation laws;  
18 and  
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20           WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Division plays a  
21 critical role in implementing historic preservation review  
22 pursuant to chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and  
23 coordinating with federal agencies under the National Historic  
24 Preservation Act; and  
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26           WHEREAS, the responsibilities assigned to the State  
27 Historic Preservation Division are extensive and include project



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1 review, consultation, documentation, and the protection of  
2 archaeological and historic resources throughout the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, the counties exercise significant authority over  
5 land use planning, zoning, development approvals, and building  
6 permits and therefore play an important role in protecting  
7 historic and cultural sites and resources; and

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9 WHEREAS, many jurisdictions across the United States  
10 maintain county or municipal historic preservation offices that  
11 complement state historic preservation programs and provide  
12 localized expertise and review capacity; and

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14 WHEREAS, the establishment or strengthening of historic  
15 preservation functions at the county level could enhance  
16 coordination with the State Historic Preservation Division;  
17 improve early identification of historic and cultural resources  
18 during planning and permitting processes; provide additional  
19 capacity for review and stewardship; and ensure continuity of  
20 protection for Hawai'i's historic and cultural resources in the  
21 event that state-level protections, capacity, or administrative  
22 resources are diminished; and

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24 WHEREAS, ensuring that counties have the ability to support  
25 historic preservation activities would help maintain continuity  
26 of protection for historic and cultural resources should state-  
27 level protections or administrative capacity be reduced; now,  
28 therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
31 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
32 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the counties are urged to  
33 establish, strengthen, or expand historic preservation functions  
34 within county government to complement and support statewide  
35 historic preservation efforts; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these functions may include the  
38 establishment of county historic preservation offices,  
39 commissions, advisory boards, or designated staff within  
40 planning or cultural resource departments responsible for  
41 coordinating historic preservation activities and reviewing  
42 potential impacts on historic and cultural resources; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are encouraged to develop local policies, inventories, and procedures that help identify, evaluate, and protect historic and cultural resources within their jurisdictions, consistent with applicable state and federal preservation laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Administrator of the State Historic Preservation Division; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayors of the County of Hawai'i, County of Kaua'i, and County of Maui; Chair of the Honolulu City Council; and Chairs of the Hawai'i County Council, Kaua'i County Council, and Maui County Council.

OFFERED BY:   
MAR 16 2026