
HOUSE 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
28 review, consultation, documentation, and the protection of
29 archaeological and historic resources throughout the State; and
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1 WHEREAS, the counties exercise significant authority over
2 land use planning, zoning, development approvals, and building
3 permits and therefore play an important role in protecting
4 historic and cultural sites and resources; and

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

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

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

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

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

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are encouraged to
42 develop local policies, inventories, and procedures that help



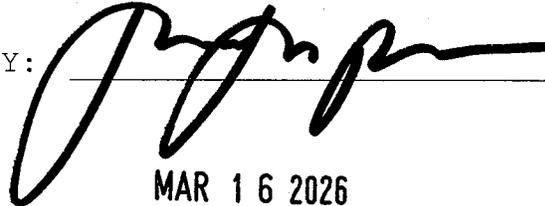
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1 identify, evaluate, and protect historic and cultural resources
2 within their jurisdictions, consistent with applicable state and
3 federal preservation laws; and

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

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OFFERED BY: _____



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