SB 2025-84
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Tourism
5 March 1984

By
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

SB 2025 would revise in several respects the present laws regarding archaeological and historical sites. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The revisions proposed in the bill include provisions that prescribe in greater detail than the present laws: 1) procedures to be followed when human remains and relics are discovered by excavation; 2) restrictions on the use of native Hawaiian burial grounds and shrines; 3) powers of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish standards for archaeological reconnaissance and detailed surveys and procedures for temporary and emergency classification of archaeological and historical sites; 4) powers of the state historical preservation officer; and 5) procedures and powers of the Historical Places Review Board.

All of the proposed revisions seems appropriate and some would represent significant improvements in the laws regarding archaeological sites. In particular, we regard as highly appropriate the provisions regarding standards for archaeological reconnaissance and detailed surveys. Conclusions based on very superficial reconnaissance are expressed in many environmental impact statements that in the areas covered there are probably no archaeological sites. Promises may be made in these statements that, if archaeological remains are discovered in the course of grading or excavation, an archaeologist will be called on to examine the remains. In many areas, however, more substantial archaeological reconnaissance would provide guidance as to the areas in which archaeological remains are likely to be found and in which grading or excavation should proceed only with an archaeologist is present, so that valuable archaeological information is not lost and valuable sites are not destroyed before their value is recognized.
SB 2025, SD 1
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Statement for
House Committee on
Water, Land Use, Development and Hawaiian Affairs
Public Hearing - 23 March 1984

By
Doak C. Cox
Environmental Center

The attached statement on SB 2025-84 remains applicable to SB 2025-84, SD 1.

Attachment