



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

RL:0578

HB 2698, HD 2 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Tourism
Public Hearing - March 12, 1986

By
Matthew Spriggs, Anthropology
Jacquelin Miller, Environmental Center
Doak C. Cox, Environmental Center

HB 2698, HD 2 proposes certain amendments to HRS Chapter 6E relating to archaeological and historic sites. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The amendments proposed on the bill are:

- 1) Five new sections relating to: a) the preservation of Hawaiian burial sites and battle areas; b) the protection of physical historical sites; c) cemetaries; d) permits for examination of archaeological and historic sites; and e) standards for archaeological work.
- 2) Revision of the definition of "historic property in HRS 6E-2.
- 3) Requirement for attention to the disposition of bones, artifacts, and records relating to burial sites and battle areas in the historic preservation program under HRS 6E-3.
- 4) Provision of divisional status in the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the historic preservation program, and adoption of more stringent qualifications for the historic preservation officer, who would head the division, than those now specified in HRS 6E-5.
- 5) Inclusion of provisions of the proposed new sections among the requirements imposed on developments that might result in harm to archaeological and historic sites.

Each of the proposed amendments addresses an inadequacy in the present State program for historic preservation that has been called to our attention. Although we might suggest ways in which HB 2098, HD 2, could be improved in detail, the passage of the bill in its present form would result in considerable improvement in the State's treatment of historical and archaeological sites.