

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
2:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1031  
RELATING TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD**

House Bill 1031 proposes to reduce the size of the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board (HHPRB) from ten members to seven members. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administration measure.**

HHPRB members are appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. Section 6E-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), establishes the HHPRB and requires that the membership include at least one person professionally qualified in each of fields of archaeology, architecture, history, and sociology. Section 6E-5.5, HRS, also requires that the Governor appoint one person “knowledgeable in traditional Hawaiian society and culture” to the HHPRB.

The principal duties of the HHPRB are to list places in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places (Hawaii Register), and to recommend nomination of places to the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Listing in the Hawaii Register and/or the National Register is formal recognition of their significance in the heritage of Hawaii and the United States. Listing in the Hawaii Register makes a private residence eligible for county property tax reduction. Certified rehabilitation of Hawaii Register listed properties is eligible for a state income tax credit. Certified rehabilitation of an income producing property that is listed in the national register is eligible for a federal income tax credit. These tax programs are aimed at promoting the preservation of significant historic properties and have demonstrated their importance in revitalizing historic neighborhoods and communities.

In order to be approved by the State Historic Preservation Office under the National Historic Preservation Act, the State must have a “state historic preservation review board.” As established in Section 6E-5.5, HRS, the HHPRB meets the requirements of Section 301(12) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
ACTING 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

During the last seven years, the HHPRB has had the full complement of ten members for approximately twelve months. The HHPRB currently has two vacancies, and two more members will reach the end of their second term in a few months. Recruitment has been getting progressively more difficult. At present, HHPRB quorum is six, and six yes votes are required for a motion to carry. At the beginning of the next fiscal year, in order to meet and conduct business all appointed members must be present and any motion to list a property will require a unanimous yes vote.

Reduction of the HHPRB from ten to seven members would reduce the quorum to four and the number of required yes votes for a motion to carry would also be four. Reducing the size of the HHPRB will ease the recruitment problem, and reduce the potential for the HHPRB to be unable to meet and conduct business due to lack of quorum. It also addresses the problem of positive listing decisions requiring unanimous yes vote.

House Bill 1031 does not alter requirements for the required five expert members. The HHPRB would still meet the federal requirements established in the national historic preservation act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.