
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF ALL THE PROGRAMS WITHIN THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources'
2 State Historic Preservation Division serves to protect and
3 preserve historic properties significant to Hawaii's history
4 through several program areas; and
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6 WHEREAS, the State Historic Preservation Division has
7 indicated that it has faced challenges with insufficient
8 staffing and funding, which hinder its ability to carry out its
9 important duties and responsibilities in a timely manner; and
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11 WHEREAS, under section 23-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the
12 Auditor may examine and inspect all accounts, books, records,
13 files, papers, and documents and all financial affairs of every
14 department, office, agency, and political subdivision;
15 now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
19 that the Auditor is requested to conduct a performance audit of
20 all the programs within the State Historic Preservation Division
21 of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the performance audit is
24 requested to include but not be limited to:
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- 26 (1) An evaluation of whether the review and response to
27 submittals is completed within the timeframes
28 established by rule;
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- 30 (2) Current project review practices, including efforts to
31 identify categorical exemptions; historic properties
32 and districts that should have special protections or
33 treatment; identification of types of sites that do



- 1 not require permit review; filing systems; and efforts
- 2 to streamline processes such as the discovery process
- 3 for burial sites;
- 4
- 5 (3) Standardization of monitoring protocols, including the
- 6 establishment of cultural impact assessment guidance;
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- 8 (4) The actions, initiatives, and performance of the State
- 9 Historic Preservation Division to address the existing
- 10 project review backlog; and
- 11
- 12 (5) Any recommended improvements, including proposed
- 13 legislation, to update, redefine or realign the State
- 14 Historic Preservation Division's mission and
- 15 organization based on balancing cultural and historic
- 16 preservation with the State's evolving land
- 17 development needs; and
- 18

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor shall submit a
20 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
21 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
22 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, Chairperson of the
26 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Administrator of the
27 State Historic Preservation Division.

