

BILL044(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 430

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 5, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 37

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 2

Name: Tara Rojas	Email: tarahawaii5.808@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 12:03 AM
Testimony: It is time for Protection of Iwi Kpuna in Hawaii to be upheld through Kingdom Laws and subsequently through current Legislation - with zero excuses as to enforcement and accompanying consequences of violations. The current departments tasked with Iwi Kpuna and Historic & Cultural Sites Preservation have this as their mission and priority and it needs to be reflected in their coordinated actions. I support this Bill 44 and for protection of all Hawaii Nei.		
Name: Pauline Lukela	Email: mapuanalukela1@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 08:19 AM
Testimony: My name is Mapuana Lukela and I support bill 44 Mahalo		
Name: Janice Toma Shiira	Email: ewamoonhawaii@hotmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 10:03 AM
Testimony: I am in support of Bill 44 relating to the Oahu Historic Preservation commission.		
Name: Chantal Seitz	Email: mrs.chantal.seitz@gmail.com	Zip: 80919
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 01:42 PM
Testimony: Please support this bill! Mahalo nui!		
Name: Diane Wong	Email: dwongz1@yahoo.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 02:04 PM
Testimony: I am testifying in strong support of creating an O'ahu historic preservation commission. Far too many important, special, historical places have been lost to development. Many wahi pana have been destroyed. We need to have accountability. We need to have someone who cares for our historical sites.		
Name: Brandon Galarita	Email: brandon.galarita@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 03:40 PM
Testimony: I am in support of Bill 44 (22)		
Name: Van James	Email: aka.vanjames@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 03:42 PM
Testimony: There can only be a healthy balance between development and preservation when historic and environmental preservation is		

sincerely and adequately represented in government. Please support Bill 44 as a step toward maintaining the sacred cultural places of O'ahu.--Van James, author and educator

Name: cindy freitas	Email: hanahanai@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96745
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 04:42 PM

Name: Sandra Park	Email: Lawaia49@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 06:27 PM

Testimony:
Dear Chair and Members,
We would hope that you all agree with me, Sandra and Denis Park of Waialua
“ In Strong Support of Bill 44”
today. Appreciate your time. Aloha and Mahalo
Sandra and Denis Park and Ohana

Name: Sr. Helene Wood	Email: helenew@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 06:35 PM

Testimony:
Hawaii's history is preserved not only in records but also in its historic and sacred places. Those who live here and those who visit Hawaii should be made aware of these places so as to cherish and appreciate the culture of Hawaii.
Sr. Helene Wood, ss.cc.

Name: Malia Marquez	Email: maliamarquez71@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 06:57 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Kua,

I am in full support of BILL 44.

Name: Mialisa Otis	Email: mialisa808@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 3, 2022 @ 07:29 PM

Testimony:
Aloha,
I support Bill 44. I also will be testifying in person.
Mahalo,
Mialisa Otis

Name: Kamakana Ferreira	Email: kamakanaf@oha.org	Zip: 96817
Representing: Office of Hawaiian Affairs	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 08:05 AM

Name: Kiersten Faulkner	Email: kiersten@historichawaii.org	Zip: 96817
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Representing: Historic Hawaii Foundation	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 08:31 AM
Name: Marydith Jaurequi	Email: napu1@yahoo.com	Zip: 96766
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 09:10 AM
Testimony: Support.		
Name: Christine Trecker	Email: CHRISTINET54@GMAIL.COM	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 11:55 AM
Name: Donna Wong	Email: htf3000@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Hawaii's Thousand Friends	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 12:15 PM
Name: Michael Hikalea	Email: mikehikalea@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Puuhonua O Wailupe	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 12:53 PM
Testimony: I strongly support the passage of bill 44. and will give oral testimony on Oct.5, 2022		
Name: Letani Peltier	Email: letani@hawaiiancouncil.org	Zip: 96707
Representing: Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 01:06 PM
Name: Louisa Keawe	Email: louisakeawe@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 01:43 PM
Testimony: Aloha I Support Bill 44 I am a Voter and a Protector of our IWI KUPUNA since 2019 to 2022 at Hunananiho, AKA Waimanalo Bay, AKA Sherwood Forest Waimanalo, Hawaii. I Humbly ask to pass Bill 44 for the future and safety of the People of Hawaii. Mahalo		
Name: Shelley Fey	Email: nuifey@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 03:10 PM
Testimony: I support Bill 44 which would update the law related to the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission. Currently, the City & County of Honolulu is the largest destination city in America and the only county in Hawaii without a historic preservation office. We need this commission to be active and functioning to help protect and preserve our sacred cultural sites on Oahu that have for decades been transgressed.		

Name: Jan Becket	Email: janbecket.net@gmail.com	Zip: 97056
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 03:16 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>This is testimony in favor of bill 044, establishing a historic Preservation Commission. I am one of the authors and editors of the book Pana Oahu (UH Press, 1999). In the 12 years leading up to the publication of the book, my partners and I visited and documented over 125 pre-contact Hawaiian ceremonial structures on Oahu. Despite the destruction of many over the years, many still remain, often overgrown, forgotten and unvisited. I witnessed the destruction of numerous sites that were seen as inconvenient barriers to development, or in some cases, not seen at all for what they were. The list is long: Kukiokne Heiau in Luluku, now under the H-3 Freeway, Noi Heiau in Laie, now partly under a sewage treatment plant, Hwea Heiau in Maunaloa, partly destroyed by Kaiser Development, the numerous fishing shrines at Oneula, destroyed to create the footprint of an Ewa Marina that never got built. And most recently, the bulldozing of a remnant of Klepaemoa Heiau in Niu Valley in the construction of a house. The continuing eradication of Hawaiian cultural sites impoverishes us all and stands as an indictment of currently toothless preservation safeguards. I urge you to establish a Historic Preservation Commission and to task it with safeguarding these irreplaceable cultural treasures.</p>		
Name: Kimeona Kane	Email: Kimeonakane@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 03:38 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha nui kkou,</p> <p>I strongly urge the Council to approve this bill and set the standard for how this entity will serve in the protection and preservation of our cultural spaces and much more. The very essence of who we are as a people, stem from the relationships we are privileged to share with the spaces. I urge the Council to establish this body as a means of serving our people among the other critically important aspects of preservation.</p> <p>Mahalo nui loa, Kimeona kane</p>		
Name: Mardi LaPrade	Email: mardilaprade@aol.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 03:52 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear Sirs, I strongly support Bill 44. There is a great need for an active and functioning Historic Preservation Office to ensure the protection of cultural sites on Oahu. I am concerned that future generations may not be able to see and learn from the voices of the past left in stone and in artifacts, the knowledge they impart, the wisdom they echo, if the historical and cultural sites of Oahu continue to suffer destruction. I wish for my grandsons to be able to see, visit, and treasure their heritage. Please ensure that Bill 44 is supported. Mahalo, Mardi LaPrade</p>		
Name: Wailupe Ê»Ohana Council	Email: Wailupeohanacouncil@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Wailupe Ohana Council	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 04:04 PM
Name: Piliialoha Callahan	Email: piliialohak19@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 04:15 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha n Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia ina, and esteemed Councilmembers,</p>		

O wau no Piliāloha. I am writing to you to express my strong support for bill 44. Reestablishing the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission for the city & county of Honolulu. A council of those who know the mo'olelo of our sacred places, have access to those resources or have learned this 'ina is the best way to protect our history for those today and those yet to come. We can potentially avoid tragic events such as disturbing or desecrating 'iwi kupuna. By allowing this commission to have a voice in the planning process of all projects taking place here on O'ahu, there's a chance for us natives of this 'ina to have a voice. I believe in this commissions ability to serve the people of Hawai'i. I urge you to support bill 44 and allow the State Historic Preservation Commission for the State of Hawaii to be reestablished. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to share my mana'o.

Name: Laura Kaakua	Email: laura.kaakua@hilt.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii Land Trust	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 04:31 PM

Testimony:
Hawaii Land Trust supports this effort, and will provide oral testimony.

Name: Elizabeth Reilly	Email: directors@hawaiiikaihui.org	Zip: 96825
Representing: Livable Hawaii Kai Hui	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 05:19 PM

Name: Wayne Tanaka	Email: hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org	Zip: 96803
Representing: Sierra Club of HawaiĒ»i	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 05:42 PM

Name: Healani Sonoda-Pale	Email: klhpoliticalactioncommittee@gmail.com	Zip: 96824
Representing: Ka Lahui Hawai'i - a native initiative for self-determination and self-governance	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 06:37 PM

Name: Jeannine Johnson	Email: jeannine@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Niu Valley Community Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 06:59 PM

Testimony:
My name is Jeannine Johnson and I have been the Secretary to the Niu Valley Community Association for over 15 years. I am also the Niu Valley representative on the Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2. The Niu Valley Community Association strongly supports Bill 44 which would update the law related to the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission. The original law governing the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission went into effect in 1993, but has not been stood up by any City Administration. The City and County of Honolulu is the largest destination city in America and the only county in Hawai'i without a historic preservation office. Our community was recently shocked and dismayed to watch an important cultural and historical resource in Niu allowed to be dismantled, stone by stone, so that a landowner could have a "larger driveway." Your support for Bill 44 is requested. Mahalo.

Name: Consuelo Apolo-Gonsalves	Email: jezelyn40@hotmail.com	Zip: 96761
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 09:40 PM

Testimony:
I support bill 44

Name:	Email:	Zip:
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Jeanne Ohta	jyohta@hawaii.rr.com	96821
Representing: Aina Haina Community Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 10:00 PM
Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: iwasajunk@mail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 10:07 PM
Name: Stefanie Sakamoto	Email: ssakamoto@imanaka-asato.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: BIA Hawaii	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 10:18 PM
Name: Laura Safranski	Email: musicmind75@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 4, 2022 @ 10:51 PM
Testimony: I am in FULL support !		
Name: Zhizi Xiong	Email: alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 06:49 AM
Testimony: Dear Chair, Vice Chair & Councilmembers, I'm testifying in support on behalf of CARES, we are an advocacy & research grassroots organization. I commend the council for their efforts to reestablish the commission and I'd like to echo the written testimony from Historic Hawaii Foundation. They highlighted a lot of practical benefits for the city, the state and the people for the reestablishing of the commission. The OHPC can assist the city by identifying properties and creating an oahu historic system of inventory which would be integrated with DPP procedures and it'd work well with the State Historic Preservation inventory system. There are grant opportunities from the Certified local government program and the Community Development Block Grant. There are many landscapes, buildings and historic sites are apart of the community's unique character and story. Reestablishing the commission will help to acquire and preserve valuable historical sites. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Zhizi Xiong		
Name: Grace Blevins	Email: 808agent4u@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 08:04 AM
Name: Ronald Brown	Email: ronpb43@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 5, 2022 @ 09:03 AM

Testimony:

I think Bill 44 is essential and should be supported. Honolulu has a rich and complex history and we need to preserve our historical record which makes us understand who we are. This need not interfere with sustainable growth--there is always more land for developers to exploit. And this preservation enhances our largest industry, tourism. We are behind other areas in having mechanisms which will ensure our historic places are preserved; Bill 44 will help us catch up in this important area.

Name:

Michelle Matson

Email:

MSMatson808@gmail.com

Zip:

96815

Representing:

Self

Position:

I wish to comment

Submitted:

Oct 5, 2022 @ 09:34 AM

Testimony:

This testimony is provided by Michelle Matson, president of the Diamond Head State Monument Foundation and the O'ahu Island Parks Conervancy, and member of the Diamond Head/Kapahulu/St. Louis Heights Neighborhood Board, Diamond Head Subdistrict, testifying today as an individual on Bill 44.

Aloha Honolulu City Council:

I have attempted to contact the introducers of Bill 44 with the following concerns:

1. Where are protections in Bill 44 to ensure that the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission will be permanently activated and fully operational??

Justification: No mayor to date has fulfilled this vital responsibility as the significant losses continue of historic and cultural properties as legacies for present and future generations.

2. Where is protection in Bill 44 to ensure that the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission will be filled properly and non-politically by appointees of the specified disciplines?

Justification: Appointments made by Honolulu's mayors and confirmed by the City Councils are often more political in nature than in possession of the required professional expertise.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Cindy Freitas
P.O. 4650
Kailua Kona HI 96745
hanahanai@hawaii.rr.com

October 3, 2022

Honolulu City Council Hearing

October 5, 2022

10:00 am

Kapolei Hale

1000 Ulu'ohi'a St

Aloha Council Council,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm Native Hawaiian, descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I'm in SUPPORT for Bill 44 for the following reasons,

Just last month I tried to get a hold of State Preservation Division (SHPH) on September 7, 8 and 13, 2022 (@ 808 933-7651 Shawn) leaving a message on voice mail about a construction that was going on at TMK 3-7-8-14:019 that their was bones and caves and a well there. Shawn never contacted me back.

Also contacted Libby at county of Hawaii planning department (Kona side) made a complaint with the issues above and she said they will try to get an inspector out there but no one show up.

Talk to the DOCARE about the same issue on September 7, 2022, but they got back to me the next day, and I tried again and we were on phone tags, but gave DOCARE the information and Hoopili is the person who called.

Talk to the contractor Cullen Burgess @ 808 960-7403 told him about the above issue and he said he understands our concern, but per order from owner he needed to continue told him about HRS 6E, that he needs to cease and call SHPH and DOCARE, but he never did.

So for the following reasons we need Bill 44 help protect historic properties, burials, caves, wells and ect...

For your information the following rules that protect our sites;

HRS 6E Historic Preservation....Article 12 Section 7...HRS 711-1107 Desecration
and ect...

Mahalo

_____/s/_____
Cindy Freitas



Honolulu City Council
Regular Meeting
October 5, 2022

**CR-245, BILL 44 (2022) – AMENDING THE ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE O‘AHU
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

October 5, 2022

9:00 a.m.

Kapolei Hale

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following testimony in **strong support** of Bill 44 which provides proposed amendments to Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH) Chapter 3-10 pertaining to the implementation of an O‘ahu Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC). The establishment and functioning of this important review body will greatly enhance the current historic preservation review process for O‘ahu and allow for greater community input. The proposed amendments are meant to refine the ordinance and strengthen implementation pursuant to recommendations made by a small working group under the direction of Councilmember Esther Kia‘āina.

For context, the working group was assembled after a failed January 2021 attempt by the City & County of Honolulu (CCH) Department of Permitting and Planning (DPP) to repeal the ordinance and the Honolulu City Council Committee determination that the ordinance should instead be reviewed to address any out-of-date or unworkable provisions. OHA appreciates Councilmember Kia‘āina’s efforts and sees extraordinary value to the operation of an OHPC much in the way that all other Counties in the State of Hawai‘i (State) have benefited from operation of their respective historic preservation commissions. It is almost inconceivable for the CCH not to have one, yet the DPP still attempted to repeal the ordinance for reasons that seem to run counter to the interests of upholding the public trust and rights provided under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to create certified local governments (CLG).

OHA is the constitutionally-established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians,¹ and has substantive obligations to protect the cultural and natural resources of Hawai‘i for the agency’s beneficiaries.² Accordingly, OHA is required to serve as the principal public agency in the State responsible for the performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; assess the policies and practices of other agencies impacting native Hawaiians and Hawaiians; and, conduct advocacy efforts for native Hawaiians and Hawaiians.³ Historic Preservation concerns are a recurrent priority with our beneficiaries and a constant source of both consternation and increasing litigation as many of these historic sites are remnants of the last vestiges of Native

¹ HAW. CONST. ART. XII, § 5

² See Haw. Rev. Stat. (“HRS”) Chapter 10 (2009).

³ HRS § 10-3 (2009).



Testimony

Honolulu City Council

Regular Meeting

October 5, 2022

Hawaiian cultural resources. The subject remains highly-emotive, and often contentious,⁴ as balancing constitutionally protected resources and landowner/developer rights can be difficult.

The NHPA of 1966, as amended, directs the establishment of CLGs, which according to the National Park Service (who administers the program) creates partnerships between County, State and Federal governments, to enhance historic preservation efforts through the provision of funding and technical support, leading to the sustainability and viability of precious irreplaceable historical resources by local communities.⁵ The OHPC was authorized in 1990 with the intent to become a CLG attached to the DPP.⁶ Regrettably, to date, the OHPC has never been formally constituted and operational despite O‘ahu being the most populous island with arguably the most intense development projects that tend to cause irreversible impacts to fragile and important cultural resources, including projects by the CCH itself.⁷

It should be noted that Kaua‘i County had their Kaua‘i Historic Preservation Review Commission (KHPRC) established in 1986 and it is attached administratively to the Kaua‘i Planning Department. The KHPRC prides itself on being the first County to “facilitate public participation in historic preservation efforts at the local level,”⁸ and continues to “protect, preserve, perpetuate, promote, enhance and develop the historic resources of Kaua‘i.”⁹ Similarly, the Maui County Cultural Resources Commission (MCCRC) was formally established in 1992,¹⁰ and also administratively attached to the Maui County Planning Department. The MCCRC has been a critical partner and component of historic preservation review in Maui County and further regularly provides a public forum for many projects on Maui that are impacting historic and cultural resources.¹¹ More recently, the MCCRC utilized CLG funds to undertake an important archaeological survey of the Lāhainā National Historic Landmark.

Hawai‘i County is the latest of the counties to obtain CLG status with its enabling ordinance in 2009 and subsequent State approval in 2014 of the Hawai‘i Cultural Resources

⁴ Note the recent controversy regarding Waimanalo Bay Beach Park and the 28 arrests of individuals, including many OHA Beneficiaries. Kirsten Downey and Christina Jedra, Honolulu Civil Beat, September 26, 2019

⁵ <https://www.nps.gov/clg/>

⁶ Chapter 3, Article 10 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990.

⁷ Twenty years ago, under Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris, the City’s Kūhiō Beach Park Expansion and Kalākaua Avenue Promenade and associated Board of Water Supply Kalākaua Main Replacement disturbed over fifty unmarked ancestral Native Hawaiian Burial Sites. There were also disturbances of unmarked burial sites at City parks such as Waimea and Mokuleia during the installation of leech fields. As part of the mitigation for these controversial projects, the City Administration made commitments to the SHPD and affected descendants to have the OHPC up and running.

⁸ Garden Island News, October 23, 2016

⁹ KHPRC Chair Anne Schneider, Id.

¹⁰ Title MC-12, Department of Planning, Subtitle 05, Maui County Cultural Resources Commission, Chapter 531, “Standards and Criteria Relating to the Duties and Authority of the Maui County Cultural Resources Commission.”

¹¹ [https://www.mauicounty.gov/188/Maui-County-Cultural-Resources-Commissio\(n\)](https://www.mauicounty.gov/188/Maui-County-Cultural-Resources-Commissio(n))



Testimony

Honolulu City Council

Regular Meeting

October 5, 2022

Commission (HCCRC) after developing its operating procedures and rules. The HCCRC is also placed within the Hawai'i County Planning Department for administrative purposes. A quick review of the HCCRC meeting agendas and minutes (beginning in September 2013) shows important historic preservation work being performed with public input at every step of the way.¹²

This leaves the CCH, unfortunately, as the only County not participating in this important CLG program designed to assist the State in protecting and preserving historic and cultural properties from irreparable damage and loss. Again, there is no clear reason for this or any justification as to why CCH should be the only County without one. The rich ancient Hawaiian culture present on O'ahu provides immense value to the CCH and the State, including, but not limited to ancestral burial sites, heiau and other ceremonial structures, kauhale and hale (house) sites. These vestiges of Hawaiian material culture remain dispersed throughout the entire island of O'ahu, and still exist in the densest of developed areas such as downtown Honolulu, and even Waikiki. The OHPC can provide for critical local and public input directly into the historic preservation process, something that both the DPP and the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), as agencies, consistently struggle with in OHA's experience over the past two decades. The OHPC would be both an asset and a resource for both the DPP and the SHPD in their respective responsibilities and roles.

OHA further notes that each County continues to have controversial cases and issues directly relating to historic and cultural resource protection affected by an understaffed and under resourced SHPD.¹³ The OHPC could truly assist the SHPD by serving as another set of eyes on projects and providing a dedicated forum for public participation in the historic preservation process. Establishing and enabling an OHPC would not only bring the CCH, and the island of O'ahu, up to par and in alignment with the other counties and islands, but genuinely demonstrate a commitment to the citizenry of Honolulu and the State of Hawai'i that the public trust is being protected and the last vestiges of our collective historical and cultural legacy, which makes Hawai'i so unique in the World, are cherished, valued, and preserved, through partnerships and meaningful commitments.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. The OHA respectfully requests that the City Council pass Bill 44.

¹² <https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/about-us/boards-committees>

¹³ The various Island Burial Councils (IBCs), who were created around the same time as Kaua'i's and O'ahu's CLGs, continue to raise concerns, most recently with OHA, regarding the SHPD's efficacy for over the past two decades.

HISTORIC HAWAI'I FOUNDATION

To: The Honorable Tommy Waters, Chair & Presiding Officer
The Honorable Esther Kia'aina, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council

From: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Hearing Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Kapolei Hale

Subject: **Bill 44 (2022) O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing in **strong support** for the proposal to reestablish the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission.

BACKGROUND and CONTEXT

The purpose of the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission is to establish a means by which the City & County of Honolulu can formulate and implement a comprehensive program for the identification and preservation of historic and cultural resources on O'ahu. These types of local government boards were envisioned and established in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) to encourage preservation and wise use of historic resources. The Act created the Certified Local Government (CLG) program to encourage local governments to undertake local historic preservation efforts.

In 1993, City Council passed enabling legislation for the Commission via Ordinance 93-55 and enacted it in Revised Ordinances of Honolulu [Section 3 Article 10](#). Despite clear policy directive and authority from Council, successive administrations failed to establish the Historic Preservation Commission. It has never had appointees or staff, so has been a paper commission only.

The framework established by the NHPA set up a decentralized partnership between the federal, state and local governments. The partnership is based on the use of common goals, standards and guidelines when undertaking preservation efforts. To help state and local governments achieve the purpose and goals of the NHPA, federal funds are provided to State Historic Preservation Offices. Of those funds, a specific percentage is passed through to Certified Local Governments to support local preservation efforts.

In Hawai'i, three of the four Counties have established preservation commissions that are consistent with Federal framework and the State's CLG program. Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i Counties all have local historic preservation or cultural resource commissions.

The purposes of these citizen boards are to:

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Tel: 808-523-2900 • preservation@historichawaii.org • www.historichawaii.org

Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic viability of the state.

1. Encourage historic preservation at the local level;
2. Encourage local governments to follow the national standards for archaeology and historic buildings, sites, structures and districts in developing and administering their preservation programs;
3. Provide technical assistance through a partnership with the State Historic Preservation Division; and
4. Provide participating counties with funding to underwrite various historic preservation activities.

HISTORIC HAWAI'I FOUNDATION COMMENTS:

The O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission can provide several specific benefits:

- The Commission can help the City with proactive identification of properties that tell the full story of Hawaii's history, not merely react to proposals brought forward piecemeal.
- The Commission would create an O'ahu historic property system for the survey, identification, and inventory of historic properties and archaeological sites. The system would be integrated into the City's Department of Permitting and Planning's (DPP) planning, application, review, and compliance system and complement the State Historic Preservation Division's (SHPD) inventory system.
- The Commission can assist with planning and design activities undertaken by City departments to ensure preservation considerations and standards are integrated from the initial concept development, thereby avoiding conflicts later in the construction or approval processes.
- The Commission would review proposed projects that may adversely impact historic properties and allows the commission to make recommendations to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts of proposed projects on historic properties.

The City & County would benefit from retaining and implementing its Preservation Commission and enrolling in the State's Certified Local Government program. The CLG grant program can provide financial assistance for start-up projects, including a Planning for Preservation program that allows newly-established preservation commissions to work closely with a preservation specialist. CLG grants can be used for planning, survey and evaluation, preparing National Register of Historic Places nominations, developing procedures to protect properties, and for public education projects. Community Development Block Grants can be used as a match for CLG funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports the implementation of the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission. HHF recommends that Council use this opportunity to recommit to its established policy and strengthen its practice of preserving, conserving and protecting historic properties for the public benefit. The landscapes, buildings and sites that we preserve are part of a community's unique character and story. They provide tangible links from the past to existing communities and provide benefit to future generations.

Therefore, HHF supports Bill 44 (2022).

Historic Hawai'i Foundation

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 690 • Honolulu, HI 96817 • Tel: 808-523-2900 • preservation@historichawaii.org • www.historichawaii.org

Historic Hawai'i Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic viability of the state.

DATE: October 5, 2022

TO: Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
Members of the City Council

FROM: Christine Trecker

RE: Bill 44 (2022): – OAHU HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION. Amending the ordinance relating to the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission.

Good morning, Chair Waters and councilmembers. I stand in **strong support** of Bill 44 to reestablish the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission.

For too long real estate interests have had an outsized impact on Oahu development decisions. The scales have tipped so far in that direction, that many citizens have become disillusioned about being able to protect and preserve Oahu's remaining historic and cultural treasures.

Sadly, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has been understaffed for years yet charged with processing two to three thousand permits a year. This heavy workload leaves SHPD little time to focus on preservation advocacy. Even so, at best, SHPD can only recommend to the approving agency that an inappropriate project be modified or not undertaken. It is the Department of Planning & Permitting that typically calls the shot on which projects are approved.

Bill 44 effectively addresses the need for an Historic Preservation Commission and highlights how such a Commission could align with SHPD to help shoulder responsibility, to eliminate redundancies or conflicts between the two entities, and to take on a more proactive advocacy role.

According to Civil Beat, Honolulu is the largest destination city in America without a historic preservation office keeping an eye on its treasured sites. ("Honolulu Lacks a Historic Preservation Commission. That May Put Some Sites at Risk." 08/21/22 Kristin Downey).

We must act now to better protect Oahu's historic resources. They are precious links connecting us with our past. Please support Bill 44.



335 Hahani Street #342132 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: huf3000@gmail.com

October 5, 2022

Chair Tommy Waters
Members, Honolulu City Council

Bill 44
Relating to the O`ahu Historic Preservation Commission

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that growth is reasonable and responsible and that planning and land use decisions are made that protect the environment, human health, natural and cultural resources and that decisions are implemented in conformity with the law, supports Bill 44 and the provisions to strengthen the O`ahu Historic Preservation Commission.

It has been twenty-nine years since the City Council passed legislation creating the O`ahu Historic Preservation Commission with the purpose to preserve historic properties to *enhance the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the county* and with the intent to *identify, protect and preserve historic properties...encourage the restoration, rehabilitation... identification, preservation, maintenance...* and to create *county-wide, comprehensive, historic preservation policies, programs and plans.*

Since 1993 the law has remained dormant. Commissioners were never appointed nor has there been any funding or staff. Without this critical oversight we shudder to think how many historic, cultural and archaeological sites have lost their integrity and/or been destroyed because they were unknown.

We commend the working group for the comprehensive recommendations and strongly support the implementation of the O`ahu Historic Preservation Commission through the passage of Bill 44 as written.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL TESTIMONY

Bill 44 – Relating to The O’ahu Historic Preservation Commission
Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 10:00am

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) submits testimony in **SUPPORT** of Bill 44, which would amend the O’ahu Historic Preservation Commission law to help better protect our historical and cultural resources.

CNHA is encouraged by the Council’s renewed interest in the O’ahu Historic Preservation Commission. Although the enabling law was unanimously passed in 1993, to date the commission has not yet been formed. Consequently, the responsibility to preserve and protect O’ahu’s historical and cultural resources largely falls on the understaffed State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). Bill 44 serves as a strong signal that historic preservation is a priority and that the O’ahu Historic Preservation Commission is ready to be mobilized to help protect our historical and cultural properties.

Accordingly, CNHA urges the Committee to **PASS** Bill 44.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

J. Kūhiō Lewis, CEO
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

Oct. 4th, 2022

To: Honolulu City Council
Re: In STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 44
The O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting on Oct. 5th, 2022



Aloha to the Honolulu City Council,

The Wailupe 'Ohana Council protects and cares for the places of our ancestors in Wailupe, East O'ahu. By perpetuating Wailupe's cultural practices and mo'ōlelo, we support area descendants in strengthening connections with Wailupe. Guided by the mana of our kūpuna, it is our honor and privilege to accept this kuleana and to support initiatives that support our cultural and natural resources in this area.

The Wailupe 'Ohana Council Strongly Supports Bill 44 to establish and enact the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission.

We have watched in shock as numerous cultural and historic sites have been heartbreakingly transgressed on Oahu. In East O'ahu alone, we have seen the lack of proper cultural and historic oversight that has left our sites vulnerable and led to severe damage and, in some cases destruction, of our wahi pana; from heiau, to burial sites - including iwi Kūpuna and archeological features of our area.

We believe Bill 44, establishing and enacting the O'ahu Historic Preservation Committee, will be a tremendous help to preserve and protect our wahi pana and historic sites and it will also provide a vehicle for the community to have a voice in the process of protecting and preserving our cultural sites.

The Wailupe 'Ohana Council is in Strong Support of Bill 44. We humbly ask the Honolulu City Council to support Bill 44.

Mahalo nui loa,
The Wailupe 'Ohana Council

~~~~~

Chris Cramer  
Laura Ka'akua  
Ann Marie Kirk  
Danny Loui  
Kaleo Paik  
Marie Reily



A COMMUNITY DRIVEN, VOLUNTEER-BASED RESTORATION PROJECT.  
**Hāwea Heiau Complex  
& Keawāwā Wetland**  
CELEBRATE THE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF YOUR COMMUNITY!



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**Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a  
501(c)(3) non-profit,  
community organization  
serving East Honolulu  
since 2004. We strive to  
promote sensible growth,  
respect for cultural &  
natural resources, and  
upholding the integrity of  
the East Honolulu  
Sustainable Communities  
Plan.**

October 4, 2022

Honolulu City Council  
Regular Meeting on October 5, 2022 at 10 a.m.  
Kapolei Hale/Virtual Meeting

**RE: Support and comments for Bill 44 (2022) – Oahu Historic Preservation Commission**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and Honorable Council Members,

As a Maunaloa-based nonprofit concerned with natural and cultural resource preservation, Livable Hawaii Kai Hui greatly appreciates the intent of Bill 44 (2022) and thanks the Council for taking up the measure. The catalyst for Bill 44 occurred right here in East Honolulu when City-permitted construction destroyed a portion of historic dry-stack stone walls. Naturally, the Hui wishes to testify in **support** of Bill 44 and offer the following **comments**:

While we commend Bill 44's amendments to and streamlining of Section 3-10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, one change in particular stood out to us. We agree that as it is currently written, Section 3-10.3(b) may be overly prohibitive in its definition of more than half the Commission's membership, but we believe **Bill 44 removes part of the ordinance's original intent**.

It is clear that by requiring both a native speaker of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and a Hawaiian Kahu, the existing ordinance all but guarantees **Native Hawaiian participation and representation**. We find Bill 44's language requiring only "an expert in Native Hawaiian culture issues and concerns" weakens the influence of the ordinance which, despite its own weaknesses, at least attempts to ensure that narrow interpretation cannot easily shut out Native Hawaiians. This is in no way a criticism of Bill 44's intentions, but rather a plea to keep, within constitutional parameters, the existing ordinance's intent when it comes to the Commission's makeup.

Like the Chair and Vice Chair who introduced Bill 44, we were deeply troubled by the news of what happened in Niu Valley last year. Respect for cultural resources is explicit in our mission statement because we recognize the role we as a community must serve – as stewards of lands upheld by a thousand years of Hawaiian history, meant to be protected for a thousand more. Thank you for sharing this vision and considering our comments when finalizing this important bill.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Reilly  
Founder/President

Ann Marie Kirk  
Cultural Advisor



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Bill 44: Relating to the O'ahu Historic Preservation  
Commission**

October 5, 2022

10:00 a.m.

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Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and members of the Honolulu City Council,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i reiterates its **strong support of Bill 44**, to better ensure that our historic and cultural sites are protected from irreparable harm.

The Sierra Club is grateful for the continued and expeditious movement of this measure, which will enable a dedicated O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission and staff specialists to assist in permit processing and historic preservation review by the Department of Planning and Permitting and the State Historic Preservation Division; allow for long-neglected historic and cultural protections to be more meaningfully implemented; and help to prevent the conflict, trauma, and erosion of our cultural heritage that results from the inappropriate desecration or destruction of irreplaceable historic and cultural sites, as well as cherished iwi kūpuna.

The Sierra Club urges the continued movement of this measure and stands ready to continue supporting its expeditious passage by the City Council.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Council to **PASS** this measure on second reading. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL  
Committee on Housing and the Economy  
**Testimony in SUPPORT of Bill 44: Relating to the O'ahu Historic Preservation  
Commission**  
September 20, 2022  
10:30 a.m.

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Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Say, and members of the Committee on Housing and the Economy,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers testimony in **support of Bill 44**, to better ensure that our historic and cultural sites are protected from irreparable harm.

The Sierra Club greatly appreciates the Committee's consideration of this important measure. As the City Council has already recognized, the City's current historic preservation process has been subject to a litany of procedural and substantive issues that have continually led to the desecration and destruction of historic sites, irreversibly undermining the very foundation of our island's cultural heritage. In addition, O'ahu's decades-long lack of a historic preservation or cultural resource commission has placed an added layer of responsibility on the Department of Planning and Permitting, which lacks historic preservation expertise and institutional capacity, and which may be hampered in its other important work by having to also uphold the City's important kuleana under the state historic preservation law. Clearly, to allow the status quo system to persist will only lead to the further permanent erosion of our island's heritage; notably, such losses will only exacerbate cultural harms and traumas to the Native Hawaiian community in a time when restorative justice has been recognized as critical to not only our social fabric and moral integrity, but to the very resiliency of our islands as a whole.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club enthusiastically supports the proposal embodied in Bill 44, which will facilitate the establishment of a working historic preservation commission with the expertise, staff capacity, and authority to more consistently and efficiently fulfill the City's historic preservation kuleana, and protect our island's historic and cultural heritage from permanent erasure.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Bill 44: Relating to the O'ahu Historic Preservation  
Commission**

August 10, 2022

10 a.m.

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Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and members of the Honolulu City Council,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers testimony in **support of Bill 44**, to ensure our historic and cultural sites are protected from irreparable harm.

Our historic preservation law recognizes that “the historic and cultural heritage of the State is among its important assets and that the rapid social and economic developments of contemporary society threaten to destroy the remaining vestiges of this heritage.” The law accordingly relies upon interagency and intergovernmental coordination for consultation, review, and other procedural and substantive protections in decisionmaking that may impact Native Hawaiian burials, cultural sites, and other historic features. Such protections are essential to preventing the irreversible loss of a **physical and spiritual foundation for Native Hawaiian traditional values, practices, and knowledge that enabled hundreds of thousands of people to live sustainably on our islands – and that may be the key to the resilience and well-being of our current and future generations.**

Unfortunately, as highlighted by Resolution 22-36, the administration of our historic preservation law has been long plagued with chronic, systemic problems that have resulted in the irreparable loss of burials and other cultural sites and features that had been preserved for generations, forever cutting off the values, practices, and knowledge they embodied. Resolution 22-36 specifically recognized that the lack of coordination and communication between the state historic preservation division and the county department of planning and permitting is one such problem that must be addressed. Given these concerns, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly appreciates and supports this bill, which would empower the long-neglected O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission to ensure that county decisions are appropriately vetted and referred to the state historic preservation division, consistent with the letter and intent of our historic preservation law.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Council to **adopt** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



BEFORE THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 5, 2022

BILL 44: Relating to the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and Councilmembers,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina submits the following written testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Bill 44. The 20 year delay in setting up the O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission is regrettable considering how many historical sites were lost, how many traditional Hawaiian burials were desecrated, and how much the destruction and desecration of the past two decades has adversely affected the spiritual and physical wellbeing of the Kanaka Maoli people. It is unacceptable that Kia'i (Protectors) have to put themselves on the line time and time again - facing arrests and threats - to preserve what is sacred and important to the indigenous people of Hawai'i.

In the hearings for Resolution 22-36 (earlier this year) there was a lot of discussion about the failure in communication between the State Historic Preservation Division and the Department of Planning and Permitting. This failure has resulted in contentious situations resulting in arrests, litigation, public outcry, and/or direct harm to indigenous Hawaiian communities. The O'ahu Historic Preservation Commission - with adequate funding and support - is a simple solution for issues that will not disappear. The Kanaka Maoli people have lived on O'ahu for 2,000 years and we have no intention of going anywhere.

Mahalo for your consideration of Bill 44. You have an opportunity today to make a difference to preserve a Hawai'i worth passing down to the next generations - vote yes.

Me ka 'oiai'o,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale  
Public Affairs Officer, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Kōmike Kalai'āina





## ‘ĀINA HAINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

c/o ‘Āina Haina Library, 5246 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Honolulu, HI 96821  
ainahainaassoc@gmail.com; www.ainahaina.org

Jeanne Ohta, President • Melia Lane-Kanahele, Vice-President • Art Mori, Treasurer • Kathy Takemoto, Secretary • Directors At Large: Jeff Carlson, Wayson Chow, Marie Riley

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October 5, 2022

To: Council Chair Tommy Waters,  
Vice Chair Esther Kia‘āina and  
Members of the City Council

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, President

RE: Bill 44 (2022) Relating to the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission

Position: Support

The Board of Directors of the ‘Āina Haina Community Association (AHCA) write in support of Bill 44 (2022) Relating to the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission which would amend the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu.

Protecting historic properties is of the utmost importance. AHCA has experienced the lack of coordination between the Department of Planning and Permitting and the state’s Historic Preservation Division. The lack of coordination and collaboration has been frustrating for the community. We are hopeful that the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission will improve the protection of historic properties.

We respectfully request that the Council consider a change to Sec. 3-10.7 (k) Powers and duties, by substituting “Shall” instead of “May review and comment on archeological reports and cultural impact assessments submitted to the department. By making that change, DPP would implement a process that requires reviews. Retaining “May” maintains the status quo where reviews are discretionary and likely to be overlooked.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this very important issue.

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa  
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, October 5, 2022

SUBJECT: Bill 44 (2022), Oahu Historic Preservation Commission  
Withholding Information from Public – **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Bill 44 (2022), which includes various changes related to the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission.

One of the proposed changes would authorize the Commission to “withhold information on the location, character, or ownership of historic properties where disclosure may cause a significant invasion of privacy, adversely impact the historic properties or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners.”

Another section of the bill authorizes the Commission to make recommendations to the Council regarding grants or other expenditures related to these properties.

Our real property tax records are public for a reason – they allow us all to check properties and determine whether owners are being treated equally or receiving preferential treatment. This bill would not only take that ability away from us but would also not allow the public to know the identity of the beneficiaries of certain grants and other taxpayer funds.

**Please remove the language regarding the authorization of withholding information from the bill.**



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL  
Kapolei Hale  
10:00 AM**

**October 5, 2022**

RE: Bill 44, Relating to Oahu Historic Preservation Commission

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaaina, and members of the Committee:

My name is Daryl Takamiya, 2022 President of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

**BIA-Hawaii offers the following comments regarding Bill 44, Relating to the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission.** This bill would update the ordinance regarding the Oahu Historic Preservation Commission.

While we have no objection to the Commission and its establishment and goals, we have some comments with regards to its function and impact on the current building timeline on Oahu. As the Council is aware, lengthy delays have already pushed building timelines to the limit, hampering the inventory of affordable housing on Oahu. We would like to ensure that this Commission does not add to the delays the building industry is already experiencing.

Section 5 of the Bill, revising Section 3-10.7 (g)(1) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu appears to duplicate actions of the State Historic Preservation Division by requiring the same review process SHPD is already required to take. We respectfully request that this section be deleted.

Allowing the Commission review authority of development applications to make recommendations to SHPD may be better accomplished in paragraph (k) of the same section, which states that the Commission "may review and comment on archaeological reports and cultural impact assessments submitted to the department as part of development proposal applications. If the commission recommends measures to mitigate adverse impacts to historic resources resulting from the project, the commission shall submit its recommendations to the State Historic Preservation Division for its consideration;"

Hawaii is in a major housing crisis, which has only worsened over time.. **The cost of housing in Hawaii is extremely high, with Oahu's median price of homes being currently over \$1 million.** It is the goal of BIA Hawaii to ensure that housing is affordable and available for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns.

Aloha e Chair Kia'āina,

Vice Chair Say, and Members of the Committee on Housing and the Economy,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of Bill 44.

O'ahu's historic sites not only define our heritage and cultural identity, values, practices. The existence of these sites and the knowledge of ancestors is critical to the future generations. Removing our history is an act of crime against Humanity by individual criminal conduct to carry out a State Plan and policy to attack civilians. The lack of effort and continued displacement of identity is a liability to the state of Hawaii.

I have made multiple attempts to inform SHPD if the removal of the Iwi Kupuna in the Kawailoa Ahupuaa. The desecration of the historical sites (to recorded as historical sites) for financial gain over the years. SHPD and DPP have contact of the current activity in the area, DPP supposedly going out this week. The over two months of not returning calls, not investigating right away, and passing the information along with no accountability is inefficient when addressing important issues. Being short staffed, not being knowledgeable, and not being able to address issues in a reasonable time is not a poor excuse.

We the Kanaka Maoli, deserves better to have a **functioning** Historic Preservation Commission, like all of the other islands, to ensure our vital historic and cultural resources are accounted for and protected. We need to pass Bill 44 to give life to the long-neglected Commission, whose duties will give aid to many families already in duress, the state and county's has obligations under our Historic Preservation Laws, and protect the irreplaceable and unique historic sites that our cultural, environmental, and social integrity our human right.

Therefore, I respectfully urge you to PASS Bill 44.

Mahalo nui,  
Grace Blevins