

EDT

SCR42

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

VIA EMAIL: EDTtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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

Committee: Monday, February 16, 2009
1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Subject: **Support of SCR 42**
Requesting Congress to Designate the Hawai'i Capital National Heritage Area

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing to support SCR42, requesting Congress to designate the Hawai'i Capital Cultural District as a National Heritage Area.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. HHF works to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

As a member of the Hawai'i Capital Cultural Coalition, HHF participated in the suitability/feasibility study for designating the ahupua'a between Kalihi and Punahou Streets, the Pali Lookout and the Pacific Ocean as a National Heritage Area. The feasibility study provides an inventory of the natural, cultural, historic and scenic resources of the area, and provides a framework for efforts to support and interpret these resources.

The proposed National Heritage Area would provide a vehicle for preserving, enhancing and interpreting the important sites in this significant part of Honolulu. The NHA will provide another opportunity for celebrating the rich history and storied legacy of Hawai'i.

The investment in these important historic and cultural resources will also serve a general economic development goal. In a study into the economic benefits of historic preservation completed last year, HHF found that improving historic resources attracts cultural heritage tourism. The National Trust for Historic Preservation lists the economic benefits of heritage tourism as creation of jobs, increased tax revenues, diversification of the local economy, opportunities for public-private partnerships, increasing historic attraction revenues, preserving local traditions and culture, generating local investment in historic resources, and building community pride in its heritage. A 2002 study by the Travel Industry Association of America reported that heritage and cultural tourists consistently stay in a place longer and spend more money than other types of travelers.

Therefore, HHF requests that the Committee support SCR42.

