



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
And
Commerce and Consumer Protection

February 3, 2010, 2:45 p.m.

By

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SB 2531 – RELATING TO ARCHAEOLOGIST

Aloha!

My name is Geoffrey White. I am Chair of the Department of Anthropology at UH Mānoa and speak on behalf of my colleagues who make up our archaeology program at UHM.

We are submitting testimony to register a comment and suggested amendment for SB No. 2531, relevant to its reference to our department as a source of expertise for a proposed Board of Review for archaeological licensing.

We are pleased that the authors of SB 2531 have seen fit to include a representative from “The University of Hawaii’s anthropology program” as one of three public members of the above-mentioned Board of Review (page 2, lines 11-12). However, given our current range of commitments and recent losses of faculty expertise due to retirements, we would be unable to fulfill the responsibilities set out in the draft bill. Performing such tasks as described would require a significant increase in resources and staff levels. We request that the bill, if passed, be amended so as not to adversely impact our very limited staff and budget resources.

In conclusion we ask that the legislature examine carefully the resources required to implement the provisions of SB No. 2531. We want to reiterate our willingness to engage in dialogue about the best means to strengthen the state’s capacity to administer well qualified, culturally informed archaeological assessments as required by state law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.