



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: House Bill No. 2486 SD1 CD1

On July 8, 2008, House Bill No. 2486, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Historic Preservation" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to require owners of historic buildings to submit archival-quality photographs to the Department of Land and Natural Resources prior to the issuance of a building-related permit. The provisions in this bill apply to privately-owned and public buildings that are at least fifty years old.

While fifty years is usually the age at which a building may be considered as eligible for listing on the Hawaii or National Register of Historic Places, every building over fifty years of age is not eligible for listing on the State or National Register. A structure must possess historic integrity in terms of its setting, design, materials, workmanship, location, and association in order to be eligible for listing on the these registers.

Although I agree with the bill's intent to ensure that a quality record of historic buildings lives on even after the buildings are demolished, I am nonetheless concerned that this bill places a financial burden on owners of buildings over fifty years of age without considering the structure's condition. In some cases, a building may be deteriorated to such a degree that it may not warrant the expense of the archival-quality documentation necessary under this bill to receive a permit seeking to improve the condition of the structure. Next session, my Administration will propose amendments to narrow the scope of this legislation.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed House Bill No. 2486 to become law as Act 228, effective July 8, 2008, without my signature.

Sincerely,

LINDA LINGLE