

From: shayne stambler [mailto:shayne808@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 8:31 AM
Subject: City Council Public Hearing Testimony

RECEIVED
APR 19 8 43 AM '11
CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Subject: Historic Homes Review

Dear Budget Committee:

I realize that you have the difficult task of looking for additional revenue. However, I ask that you consider the importance of helping to preserve some of the structures that contribute to the charm of Hawaii. Born and raised here and I have watched it change over the last six decades, not always for the best. Much of the residential architecture that was unique to our islands has been replaced by tract homes, development, and 'mac-mansions'.

There is a very enlightening entry on "Architecture in Hawaii" in Wikipedia that mentions, among others, the well known architect, Charles Dickie. There are several Historic Homes in my area that were either built by him or had their design and construction greatly influenced by his style. The reaction of visitors walking through my neighborhood and the comments they make about how charming and well preserved the neighborhood ismake the effort of maintaining a historical home all the more rewarding and have reinforced the value of preserving something that is unique and unfortunately rapidly disappearing.

These structures, be they private homes or public building, are also important not only to visitors but to those that call the islands home. It's difficult not looked at pictures of, say old Waikiki, and the charming one and two story buildings many of us old timers remember and not get, not only nostalgic, but also wish that the charming atmosphere (and way of life) had been cherished, maintained, and preserved. Thank goodness such structures as The Royal Hawaiian and The Moana Hotel have been preserved. This is a quote from a Mr. Faulkner upon the naming of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, "Without the historic, cultural and natural resources that make Hawaii unique, it would be confused as just another commodity, without appreciation for it's true value."

In offering some financial support, via a tax break, you are not only encouraging the continued maintenance of the structures on the Historic Register, but also should they change hands, providing a great incentive to the new owner to keep the historic home intact.

My thanks for your kind attention in this matter,

I remain respectfully yours,
Shayne Stambler

References cited:

[Hawaiian architecture - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

[2010 Historic Hawaii Foundation News: Royal Hawaiian Hotel to make history](#)

MISC. COM. 587

B:11 ~ 2, 3, 4

PH