

**From:** Pono Shim [pshim@enterprishonolulu.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 19, 2011 4:14 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
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Honolulu City Council  
The Honorable Nestor Garcia, President

Committee Hearing: Wednesday, April 20, 2011  
2:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

Support for Bill 3, Relating to the real property tax exemption for historic residential real property

Aloha Council President Garcia and Council Members,

I am submitting my support for Bill 3, which adds clarity, transparency and improved enforcement of the City's property tax exemption program for preservation of historic homes.

A couple of weeks ago as I walking down Merchant street and noticed the beauty of the old two story buildings that line up from the Alexander and Baldwin Building toward Ewa. I noticed the majesty of how they all fit and the soul that they contributed to the downtown area. It was such a contrast to the other buildings that make up the rest of the block. I share this to illustrate the value that preserved history provides for our community. We all heard the term once lost never to be found, and this is a reason many folks tirelessly toil to preserve things, alas there are those that time must release from perpetuity, and others that can help remind us of kuleana and malama of our own homes, communities, history, and future.

All of these are very much connected to economic development strategies and healthful communities. There are lists of reasons to support this bill, all of which have been cited many times and we agree with. As we preserve, protect, and repopulate our native plants in Hawaii, I ask for your consideration in doing the same with our historic homes that we can still save and share.

We support Honolulu's investment in historic resources.

Mahalo,

Pono Shim

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