

# News Release

MONA ABADIR  
President, Board of Directors  
Hawai'i Capital Cultural District  
Phone: (808) 550-4449  
Fax: (808) 550-4403

---

For Immediate Release: September 2, 2006

## **Hawai'i Capital Cultural District Seeks Public Input on Application for National Heritage Area Designation**

HONOLULU – The public is invited to comment on the Hawai'i Capital Cultural District (HCCD) application to become a congressionally designated National Heritage Area. A series of public meetings to gather comments is part of the HCCD National Heritage Area Suitability/Feasibility Study, a key requirement of the application.

All meetings are open to the public. The schedule is:

- 1:00-3:30 pm, Thursday, September 7, Hosted by Hawai'i State Art Museum, 250 South Hotel Street
- 5:00-7:00 pm, Thursday, September 7, Hosted by Arts at Marks Garage, 1159 Nuuanu Avenue
- 9:00-11:30 am, Saturday, September 9, Hosted by Children's Discovery Center, 111 Ohe Street
- 9:00-11:30 pm, Wednesday, September 13, Hosted by Aloha Tower Marketplace, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Mauka Lanai
- 9:00-11:00 am, Thursday, September 14, Hosted by Waikiki Improvement Association, Pacific Beach Hotel, Venus Room

The National Heritage Area program, operated by the US Department of the Interior National Park Service, encourages residents, government agencies, non-profit groups and private partners to collaboratively plan and implement programs and projects that recognize, preserve and celebrate America's defining landscapes. Once NHA designation is achieved, the National Park Service provides technical assistance, marketing and promotions, and federal funding to support preservation, educational, promotional and other activities.

“National Historic Area designation for the Hawai'i Capital Cultural District would be a terrific next step in advancing the state as a major cultural and heritage destination,” said Mona Abadir, president of the HCCD board, “We hope stakeholders will take the opportunity to express their hopes and dreams for this area. It is important to make clear to the Department of the Interior and US Congress that the people of Hawai'i care deeply about preserving and enhancing their heritage through this designation.”

“We also hope that when it gains NHA designation, the HCCD coalition will provide a model that can be used throughout Hawai'i to designate appropriate areas on other islands and promote the rich historic and cultural assets of Hawai'i for community building and the education and enjoyment of residents and visitors alike,” Abadir said.

The Hawai'i Capital Cultural District initiative was launched in 2003 by a coalition of historic sites, galleries, performing arts venues, and businesses with the financial support of the Muriel Flanders Fund, Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, the state Department of Business, Economic

Development and the City & County of Honolulu. The coalition came together to further develop the area bounded by Kalihi, Piʻikoi and Beretania streets and the Pacific Ocean as a culturally significant and vibrant destination for the people of Hawaiʻi and for the world.

“National recognition of the Hawaiʻi Capital Cultural District would support the efforts of many dedicated groups and individuals in our community to protect and enhance an area of Hawaiʻi that is home to so much of our cultural heritage,” said Governor Linda Lingle.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann stated, “I believe strongly in the arts and culture as a means of enhancing the lives of the people of Honolulu as well as to generate economic development for the city-”

The HCCD National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Project is a collaboration of the Hawaiʻi Capital Cultural District coalition, the University of Hawaiʻi at Manoa, Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, Hawaiʻi Community Services Council, and The Cultural+Planning Group. The study is funded through a grant from the Hawaiʻi Tourism Authority with generous in-kind support from HCCD coalition participants. It is anticipated the study will be completed by the end of this year.

The Hawaiʻi Capital Cultural District, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, operates as a community coalition with the mission to: 1) preserve and nurture the rich heritage, cultures, and arts of Hawaiʻi; 2) generate economic and social vitality for Honolulu’s urban core through its cultural assets; and 3) promote Hawaiʻi as a premier destination for cultural and heritage tourism.

For more information on the HCCD or the NHA application -- or to participate in the coalition – please visit: [www.hawaiicapitalculture.org](http://www.hawaiicapitalculture.org) or contact Lorraine Lunow-Luke, HCCD coordinator at [coordinator@hawaiicapitalculture.org](mailto:coordinator@hawaiicapitalculture.org) or (808) 927-1370.

###