

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Andrea Nandoskar

Membership & Communications Coordinator

Historic Hawaii Foundation

808-523-2900

Andrea@historichawaii.org

Preserving Historic Churches and other Religious Buildings Will Be Highlighted in 29th Annual 'Experts' Lecture Series

Honolulu, HI: Seven free public lectures will explore current issues and opportunities in preserving historic churches and other religious buildings through the annual historic preservation "Experts" lecture series, which begins January 28.

Created in 1988, the historic preservation experts series began as a collaboration between the Historic Preservation Program, Department of American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Historic Hawai'i Foundation and the Friends of 'Iolani Palace. Now in its 29th year, the lectures provide kama'āina and visitors alike the opportunity to explore a particular aspect of the rich history of Hawai'i. The series will be held this year at the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Von Holt Room at 229 Queen Emma Square in Honolulu.

"Our historic churches, synagogues, temples, and other religious buildings provide important backdrops to our lives," said Dr. William R. Chapman, director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and organizer of the series. "They are places of important rites of passage: marriages, christenings, and funerals. They also serve as significant visual markers in our communities--the familiar church spire or the tiered roof of a Buddhist shrine. In Hawai'i, these might include a church imitating a Japanese castle or a Chinese pagoda, in addition to more conventional forms. There are also newer churches and other religious buildings, some the product of Hawai'i's generation of modernist architects."

Dr. Chapman noted that, "these places of worship face extraordinary difficulties including the ongoing deterioration of walls, roofs, windows and other parts of building structures; the special problems of duplicating examples of historic crafts and materials; and the growing issue of diminishing congregations and, as a result, fewer funds for maintenance and repair. These and

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other subjects will form the content of this year's "Experts" series--re-labeled "Experts at the Cathedral" in honor of our host in 2016, the Cathedral of St. Andrew. This should provide to be a remarkable series, one of interest to anyone with a love of the past and its place in the future."

The series' speakers and their topics are:

January 28: James Erickson and Glenn Mason, "Stained Glass: Preservation and Protection"

February 4: Richard Tillotson, "What Makes a Historic Place: Politics and Preservation at the Church of the Crossroads"

February 11: Francine Palama, "Chapels in Need: Hale'iwa and American Samoa"

February 18: Angela Thompson, "The Cathedral of St. Andrew: Master-Planning for Conservation"

February 25: Barbara Shideler and Virginia Murison, "Our Lady of Peace: Mock-ups and Historic Structure Reports, Aids in Project Planning"

March 3: Glenn Mason, "St. Augustine by the Sea: Preservation and Improvement of a Modernist Site"

March 10: Lorraine Minatoishi, "Aloha Buddha: The Making of A Film"

All lectures are open to the public, free of charge, and take place from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Cathedral's Von Holt Room at 229 Queen Emma Square in Honolulu.

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Historic Hawai'i Foundation is a statewide non-profit organization that encourages the preservation of historic buildings, sites, communities and objects relating to the history of Hawai'i. Founded in 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has become the driving force behind historic preservation in the state through its core programs of developing a community ethic of historic preservation, supporting smart legislation, and providing technical assistance to make preservation accessible. www.historichawaii.org

Historic Preservation Program, Department of American Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa established a Graduate Certificate Program in Historic Preservation in 1986. The program, as part of the Department of American Studies, attempts to keep issues of cultural identity and the recognition of traditional cultural properties and heritage at the forefront of discussions and instruction. www.hawaii.edu/amst/

The Friends of 'Iolani Palace organization supports, guides, and manages Palace activities, providing caring stewardship for this Hawaiian landmark and national treasure. The Friends is also dedicated to preserving the history of the Hawaiian monarchy and to providing visitors with a fresh understanding of Hawaii's royal heritage. www.iolanipalace.org