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**House Museums and their Innovative Role in Interpreting and Curating
History Highlighted in 30th Annual ‘Experts’ Lecture Series**

Honolulu, HI: Six free public lectures will explore the role house museums play in sharing community histories, including innovation in interpretation and curation, at the annual historic preservation “Experts” lecture series beginning January 26.

“Turning an old house into a museum, collecting entrance fees to help pay for maintenance, and utilizing the facility for educational purposes once served as the primary activities of historic preservation advocates,” said Dr. William R. Chapman, director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and organizer of the series.

“In time, other kinds of preservation efforts took precedence; federal and state laws, historic districts, and archaeology played an increasing role in practice. House museums seemed increasingly to play a secondary role. In recent years, however, a new generation of managers and curators have taken new and creative approaches to house museums, helping to reignite interest and search out new ways to interpret and present the past. This year’s series will look at how some of Hawaii’s distinctive house museums have joined in this effort and continue to advance preservation ideals in an increasingly challenging world,” Chapman said.

“Hawai‘i is fortunate to be home to several types of historic museums and sites, all of which protect the artifacts, documents, buildings and landscapes that explain the distinctive and collective histories of the Hawaiian Islands,” said Kiersten Faulkner, executive director of Historic Hawai‘i Foundation. “These special places open a window to the past, helping us to understand these were real people with real lives, including the joys, challenges, triumphs and heartbreaks of their age. We can find inspiration and enjoyment through stories that live on through careful stewardship and curating of these resources.”

The series' speakers and their topics are:

January 26: Teresa Valencia, Curator, 'Iolani Palace, "'Iolani Palace: Challenges and Opportunities in the Care and Interpretation of Historic Homes"

February 2: Dr. Thomas Woods, Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives, "Mission Houses: The Improbable Partnership Between American Protestant Missionaries and Hawaiian Ali'i"

February 9: Paige Donnelly, Associate Curator of Programs, Shangri La, A Museum of Islamic Art, Culture & Design, "Programming at Shangri La: New Approaches to Curation"

February 16: Mahealani Bernal, Docent Coordinator, Daughters of Hawai'i, "Queen Emma's Summer Palace: New Directions in Curation and Interpretation"

February 23: Robert Liljestrand, Principal and Director, Liljestrand House, "The Liljestrand House: Preserving a Mid Twentieth-Century Masterpiece"

March 2: Jenny Eagle, Education Director, and Jenny Leung, Collections Manager, Mānoa Heritage Center, "Master Campus Planning: Integrating Kualii and Mānoa Heritage Center"

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

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 30th year, the lectures provide kama'āina and visitors alike the opportunity to explore a particular aspect of the rich history of Hawai'i.

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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**](http://www.iolanipalace.org)