## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** 

Andrea Nandoskar Membership & Communications Coordinator Historic Hawaii Foundation 808-523-2900 Andrea@historichawaii.org



## Preserving Historic Cemeteries Will Be Highlighted in 28<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Experts' Lecture Series

**Honolulu, HI**: Six free public lectures will explore current issues and opportunities in preserving historic cemeteries through the annual historic preservation "Experts" lecture series, which begin January 29.

Created in 1988, the 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 28<sup>th</sup> year, the lectures provide kama'āina and tourists alike the opportunity to explore in more depth a particular aspect of the rich history of Hawai'i. The series will be held this year at the Hawai'i State Art Museum at 250 South Hotel Street. The theme of the 2015 lectures is "Preserving Our Historic Cemeteries."

"Significant to all cultures and peoples, this is a subject of special concern in Hawai'i where burial sites of Native Hawaiians have long suffered from development pressures and lack of understanding. Increasingly, too, many grave sites in Hawai'i, including former plantation cemeteries and graveyards associated with rural chapels throughout the islands, are threatened by neglect and diminishing maintenance and care. This series will serve as a first step in a greater effort to bring these concerns before the public," notes Dr. William R. Chapman, director of the Historic Preservation Program at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa and curator of the series.

- January 29 Nanette Napoleon, Hawai'i Cemetery Research Project, "Gravestones and History: Cemeteries as Genealogical Resources"
- February 5 Scott Pawlowski, World War II Valor in the Pacific National Park, "The Arizona Memorial: Maintaining a War Grave"
- February 12 Tonia Moy and Louis Fung, Fung Associates, "Punchbowl Memorial: Honoring Our Wartime Sacrifices"

- February 19 Laura Ruby, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, "The Mo'ili'ili Japanese Cemetery: Preserving a Community Landmark"
- February 26 Richard Miller, Kalaupapa National Historic Park, "Saving a Special Heritage: Grave Marker Preservation at Kalaupapa"
- March 5 Jessica Puff and Regina Hilo, Hawai'i State Historic Preservation Division, "Evaluating and Nominating Cemeteries and Burial Places: The State and National Register of Historic Places"

All lectures are open to the public, free of charge, and take place from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Hawai'i State Art Museum located in the No. 1 Capitol Building at 250 South Hotel Street.

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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. <a href="www.hawaii.edu/amst/">www.hawaii.edu/amst/</a>

**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**