

# DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

May 20, 2026

Public testimony received by the Planning Department as of May 20, 2026, 1:00 pm for May 21, 2026, Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission meeting regarding the following item:

- H.1. **County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works**  
**Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall**  
**Roofing Replacement, Mechanical Repairs, and Accessory Improvements**  
TMK: (4) 3-6-002:009  
Property Address: 4191 and 4193 Hardy Street  
Līhu'e, Kaua'i

Consideration of a Class I Zoning Permit to conduct roof improvements, mechanical repairs, and accessory improvements on an existing building.

**From:** [Marisa Valenciano](#)  
**To:** [Duke Nakamatsu](#)  
**Cc:** [Jodi Higuchi Sayegusa](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HHF Comments to KHPRC re Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall Roofing and Repair Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 10:06:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [HHF Testimony KHPRC War Memorial Convention Hall ReRoofing 5.21.2026.pdf](#)

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Hi Duke,

Attached is public testimony for Item H.1. convention hall.

Thanks,  
Marisa

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**From:** Kiersten Faulkner <Kiersten@historichawaii.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2026 10:04 AM  
**To:** Planning Department <planningdepartment@kauai.gov>  
**Cc:** Marisa Valenciano <mvalenciano@kauai.gov>; Jodi Higuchi Sayegusa <jhiguchi@kauai.gov>; Virginia Murison <Virginia@historichawaii.org>  
**Subject:** HHF Comments to KHPRC re Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall Roofing and Repair Project

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

Aloha,

Please see attached comments from Historic Hawai'i Foundation to the Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission for the meeting scheduled to be held on May 21, 2026, Agenda Item H.1. Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall Roofing Replacement, Mechanical Repairs and Accessory Improvements.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if there is an issue with the attachment.

Mahalo,  
Kiersten Faulkner

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# HISTORIC HAWAII' FOUNDATION

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**To:** Aubrey Summers, Chair  
Gerald Ida, Vice Chair  
Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission

**From:** Kiersten Faulkner  
Executive Director, Historic Hawai'i Foundation

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, May 21, 2026  
1:00 p.m.  
Līhu'e Civic Center, Moikeha Building

**Subject:** **County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works**  
**Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall**  
**Roofing Replacement, Mechanical Repairs, and Accessory Improvements**  
**TMK: (4) 3-6-002:009**  
**4191 and 4193 Hardy Street, Līhu'e**

On behalf of Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF), I am writing with comments and recommendations related to the Proposed Replacement Roofing and other repairs to the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall (Agenda Item H.1).

### Interests of Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Historic Hawai'i Foundation is a statewide nonprofit organization established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic viability of the state.

### Affected Property and Context

The Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall consists of the original auditorium complex and a one-story addition and exemplifies Hawai'i Modern architectural style. The auditorium complex was designed by Young & Henderson, Architects, and constructed in 1963. It includes a domed auditorium, backstage wing, exhibition hall wing, and a covered walk. It is located within the Līhu'e Town Core in Special Planning Area "G" ("SPA-G"), also known as the "Līhu'e Civic Center and Community Facilities Neighborhood Design District".

### Identification of Historic Properties<sup>1</sup>

The Kaua'i County Architectural Resource Survey, dated August 14, 2015, identifies the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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<sup>1</sup> Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Letter Dated May 3, 2026 [Project Applicant]

According to the Project’s HRS-6E statement, “to our knowledge, there has not been a formal concurrence by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) of this recommendation.”

Further research and evaluation conducted by the project proponent concludes that the Kaua’i War Memorial Convention Hall “is significant under Criterion A as a representation of the patterns of development that occurred on Kaua’i in the mid-twentieth century” and continues that “the building is also significant under Criterion C for its association with architect Clifford Young. Young was one of a group of Hawaii-born architects who returned to the island in the post-World War II era to practice architecture.”

**Historic Hawai’i Foundation agrees that the Kaua’i War Memorial Convention Hall meets the criteria for listing in the Hawai’i and National Registers of Historic Places under Significance Criteria A (historic events) and C (design and construction). HHF recommends that KHPRC make a formal concurrence with the County contractor’s determination of eligibility and request SHPD concurrence with the finding.**

**HHF notes that although the Kaua’i War Memorial Convention Hall is not in a listed historic district, it is located within the Līhu’e Town Core and in the vicinity of the Līhu’e Civic Center Historic District, which is listed on both the Hawai’i and National Registers of Historic Places. This context should be included in the assessment of integrity related to setting, location and association.**

The proponent’s analysis identified design and construction characteristics that convey the significance of the historic property. These **character-defining features** include the following, with emphasis added to highlight those that would be affected by the project:

*Exterior*

- General massing and configuration of the auditorium and wings
- **Parachute dome roof** at the auditorium building
- Concrete walls at the auditorium building, including the exposed aggregate panels and vertically oriented concrete piers
- Lava stone cladding at walls, piers, pylons, and buttresses
- Buttresses with **copper roof gutters**

*Interior*

- Open auditorium space
- **Exposed glulam roof framing and wood decking** including the arched wood beams at the dome roof and beams at the exhibit hall wing
- **Suspended plaster “acoustic cloud” panels** above stage

Proposed Project

The Applicant is proposing repairs intended to replace deteriorated roofing, upgrade mechanical systems, and address deficient conditions observed at the interior glued laminated timber (glulam) beams.

The scope of work states that replacement roof systems will be designed to meet applicable codes and energy efficiency requirements. This will require the installation of a minimum of 4 inches of rigid board insulation applied on the exterior side of the roof deck.

- The **significant increase in insulation may be visually apparent at the dome roof** and upper roof of the exhibition hall, which do not have parapets. Approaches for minimizing the visual impact of the increase in insulation thickness will be evaluated during the design process.
- Repairs to the **glulam beams** will include installation of through bolts, lag screws, and supplemental steel plates. In general, these repairs will be concealed by either painting the steel or countersinking anchors and concealing with wood plugs.
- Removal of lath and plaster finish at the acoustic cloud panels above the stage and replacement with gypboard (see drawings AD-102 and A-502 for reference).

#### Proponent's Proposed Determination of Effect

The project materials state that “the overarching treatment approach for the project is *preservation*. This approach would retain and repair original and historic materials and character-defining features. The treatment approach allows for the repairs necessary to stabilize and preserve the glulam structure and replace the deteriorated and aging roof and mechanical systems.”

The Applicant states that “because the building has not been determined eligible by the SHPD, we understand that mitigations are not required.”<sup>2</sup> This is incorrect and should be corrected in the administrative record.

Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) 6E-8 (public projects) and 6E-42 (projects requiring a permit) both apply to this project as thresholds for review by the State Historic Preservation Division. The SHPD administrative rules state that the applicant is responsible to determine whether a property is a “significant historic property” also often referred to as “eligible for listing in the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places.” The SHPD role is to concur or not concur, but SHPD is not charged with making the determination of eligibility on behalf of the applicant. Furthermore, the requirement for mitigation or not is based on the project's potential effect on the integrity and historic significance of the property, not on the eligibility determination.

**While HHF challenges the applicant's statement of the appropriate process and triggers, we do agree that mitigation is not warranted for this project because the scope of the intervention is not adverse to the character of the building and will not diminish its historic integrity.**

#### **HISTORIC HAWAI'I FOUNDATION COMMENTS and RECOMMENDATIONS**

Historic Hawai'i Foundation appreciates the thoroughness of the materials presented in the Applicant's submittal materials dated May 3, 2026.

**Overall, Historic Hawai'i Foundation believes this project is a needed investment to retain the historic characteristics and longevity of the complex. We agree that it does not have an adverse effect on the**

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<sup>2</sup> WJE Letter to Todd Ozaki, County of Kaua'i, Dated May 3, 2026, page 15.

**historic building because it complies with the Preservation Treatment approach following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.**

However, we have two areas of concern that should be addressed prior to final approval:

1. The visual impact of the increase in insulation thickness at the edge of the dome roof. Note 2 on sheet A-102 refers to detail 3/A-503. However, sheet A-503 is not included in this submittal. **KHPRC should confirm that this detail will be minimally visible.**
2. The submittal states that the project will remove the plaster finish at the “acoustic clouds” and replace it with gypboard. **HHF recommends that the replacement be done using a plaster finish to match in-kind the repaired acoustic clouds.** The construction specification should also call out special care to avoid damage to the underlying suspended steel support, as this is a delicate framework that will need special handling (Refer to sheets AD-102, A-502 and S-502).

Historic Hawai'i Foundation understands the urgency to repair the roof. We also respect the significant status of the Kaua'i War Memorial Convention Hall as a contributing resource to the Līhu'e Civic Core and applaud the County's desire to continue the preservation of this historic property.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We are happy to continue discussions with the KHPRC, the Planning Department and the applicant if you have any questions.