



THE FRIENDS OF IOLANI PALACE

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Media Note: Images available on request

First Lady Michelle Obama Designates The Friends of 'Iolani Palace a Preserve America Steward

Honolulu, HI; April 30, 2010 – The Friends of 'Iolani Palace was honored recently when Mrs. Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States, designated it as one of the nation's newest Preserve America Stewards.

“Preserve America Stewards are committed to preserving America's diverse physical and cultural heritage, and their work demonstrates how individuals who care deeply about serving their country and their communities can make a difference,” Mrs. Obama said. “I thank and commend the volunteers of 'Iolani Palace for protecting our nation's historic treasures, both for your fellow citizens as well as visitors from near and far. You set a wonderful example for our young people, who are the future stewards of our heritage, while also improving the quality of life and economic vitality of our nation.”

Kippen de Alba Chu, Executive Director of The Friends of 'Iolani Palace, received a certificate of designation signed by Mrs. Obama announcing that The Friends of 'Iolani Palace is now a Preserve America Steward. Designation as a Preserve America Steward provides national recognition for programs that successfully use volunteers to help care for our historic and cultural heritage. Benefits include use of the Preserve America logo on educational and promotional materials and listing in a web-based directory that showcases The Friends of 'Iolani Palace's volunteer efforts to care for important historic resources.

“We are the first historic site to receive this designation in the State of Hawai'i,” said Kippen de Alba Chu. “The day to day dedication of our staff and volunteers plays a critical role in preserving and perpetuating the Palace for future generations.”

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The Preserve America program became an authorized part of the national historic preservation program when President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 on March 30, 2009. The Preserve America program is a federal effort to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) administers Preserve America programs with the Department of the Interior, in cooperation with 10 other federal agencies. For more information, please visit www.achp.gov and www.preserveamerica.gov.

Iolani Palace is the only official residence of royalty in the United States. King Kalākaua built Iolani Palace in 1882 to enhance the prestige of Hawaii overseas and to mark Hawaii's status as a modern nation. This National Historic Landmark is located at the corner of King Street and Richards Street and is open for tours Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please call 522-0822 or visit www.IolaniPalace.org.

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