



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

H34(2280)

Dear Native Hawaiian Organization Leader:

The National Park Service (NPS) is revising and reissuing its *National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Places (TCP Bulletin)*. NPS wishes to consult with Tribal Governments, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations in the revision of the TCP Bulletin. A copy of the Draft TCP Bulletin may be found here:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/TCPBulletin>

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture, including places significant for their association with cultural beliefs, customs, or practices. The TCP Bulletin was initially developed and issued in 1990 (with revisions in 1992 and 1998) to provide guidance on nominating properties believed to have traditional cultural significance for inclusion in the National Register. A traditional cultural place is a building, structure, object, site, or district that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register for its significance to a living community because of its association with cultural beliefs, customs, or practices that are rooted in the community's history and that are important in maintaining the community's cultural identity. The TCP Bulletin formalized the term "Traditional Cultural Property" (now referred to as "Traditional Cultural Places"), but the National Register has included places of traditional cultural significance since its inception.

In response to requests for additional guidance on TCP identification, documentation, and evaluation from State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, federal agencies, and cultural resource professionals, the NPS held nationwide listening sessions from 2011 through 2013 to seek comments on the existing TCP Bulletin. NPS hosted webinars and participated in conferences, teleconferences, and meetings with Tribes, Native Hawai'ian Organizations, federal and state agencies, national and regional historic preservation organizations, and the general public. Many comments were received, most asking for clarification on TCP eligibility and TCP consideration in federal undertakings.

Based on those comments, as well as discussions with preservation partners, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, the NPS has prepared a revised *Draft TCP Bulletin* and is relaunching its effort to reissue the Bulletin. The *Draft TCP Bulletin* makes no change to how a "traditional cultural property" is defined but improves upon the 1999 version by using plain language and including numerous examples of National Register-listed TCPs.

We will be conducting consultation via the virtual meeting platform Zoom, according to the schedule shown in the table, below. Please register in advance of the meeting at the link shown.

Webinars	Date	Time (Eastern Time)	Meeting Registration Link
Native Hawaiian Organizations Webinar	Tuesday, February 28, 2023	2:00-4:00 PM	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84451234567

If you wish to submit written comments on the enclosed *Draft TCP Bulletin*, they must be received by April 30, 2022. Please send your comments to:

by electronic mail to
nr_tcp@nps.gov

or via the project website at
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/TCPBulletin>

or by delivery service to
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Stewart Lee Udall Building
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Please note: U.S. Postal Service mail received at the Udall Building is irradiated and may be damaged. It is recommended that paper correspondence be delivered to the Udall Building via private courier service, such as DHL, UPS, or FedEx.

Please contact Sherry Frear, Deputy Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, at sherry_frear@nps.gov or 202-913-3763 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Joy Beasley
Associate Director, Cultural Resources,
Partnerships, and Science
Keeper of the National Register