

I . Safeguarding system & policy

1. Cultural Policy

The Historic Preservation Legislation was established in 1991 to protect and safeguard our cultural and historic properties, of oral traditions, and technology and skills that were left behind by our ancestors.

- A. Our definition of intangible cultural heritage would be the oral traditions, and technology and skills, and the arts, performing, music, and handicrafts.
- B. The title of the law is the **Historic Preservation Legislation**.
- C. The Historic Preservation Office under the auspices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for the implementation of the act.
- D. The legislation was established in the year 1991.
- E. There has been no amendment to date.
- F. The only article in the Legislation that deals with ICH is Part III, §9 and §10.

Permits for anthropological research may be issued only if the following minimum standards are met:

- (1) the research will be conducted by an anthropologist who has demonstrated pertinent experience conducting anthropological field research;
- (2) the applicant certifies that he will be guided by the Professional Ethics of the American Anthropological Association;
- (3) the permission of the person owning or controlling the land involved, and any required land use or environmental permits, have been obtained, or have been applied for and are pending issuance of the permit;
- (4) the applicant's research plan is sensitive to any archaeological, cultural or historic values the research topic may possess;

- (5) analysis and curation of specimens of traditional and modern material culture collected during the research shall occur at an institution or other entity meeting the Institutional Standards of the Society of Professional Archaeologists, unless the collection of such limited scope that a full range of curation facilities is not required;
 - (6) the study is designed to address significant research topics in the natural or social sciences or the humanities, or to provide data that will advance the purposes of the Marshall Islands Cultural and Historic Preservation Plan or a local cultural and historic preservation plan;
 - (7) the applicant provides an appropriate schedule for the submission of a final report and copies of primary field data, and for the disposition of recovered specimens; and
 - (8) the applicant agrees to the requirements set out in § 10 of these regulations.
- G. The Republic of the Marshall Islands Historic Preservation Office, under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and in collaboration with the Alele Museum, the Marshall Islands Visitors Bureau Authority, and the Council of Iroij, are all involved in implementing some of the activities in compliance with the legislation.
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While we have our HPO Legislation in place, it is still needed to be amended as to include safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage. The 2003 UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage should be ratified and information should be disseminated amongst all Marshallese.