

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

TO: Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs (CAI)

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee: Wednesday, February 3, 2021
10:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference/Conference Room 329

RE: HB 623, Relating to Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

On behalf of Historic Hawaii Foundation, I am writing in **support for HB 623**. The bill would establish a mechanism to appropriate funds to support the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, which is designated as the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum campus is a designated historic district that is significant for its cultural, architectural, educational, scientific and historical contributions to the Hawaiian Islands. The first building of the museum was constructed in 1889. It was founded by Charles Reed Bishop as a memorial to his wife, Pauahi, who was the last of the royal Kamehameha line.

The Hawaiian Hall complex, built to house the founding collections of Bishop Museum, was constructed in three building phases from 1888 to 1903. Its buildings established a construction style and use of materials that was used through the early 1930s in Hawai'i. Particularly notable was its precedent-setting use of cut basalt stone, most of which was quarried on the grounds. Today, the complex is regarded as a masterwork of late Victorian museum design. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of Hawai'i's most significant and iconic buildings.

The impact and importance of Bishop Museum is incalculable, not only for the people of the Hawaiian Islands, but also throughout the Pacific. The buildings, operations, research and exhibits all need to be supported for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of the public. The proposed appropriation will assist the Museum in its stewardship and trusteeship for both present and future generations.

Since 1974, Historic Hawai'i Foundation has been a statewide leader for historic preservation. Its members and supporters work to preserve Hawaii's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believe that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, economic viability and environmental sustainability of the state.

Therefore, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports HB 623.

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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. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHH 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.



February 3, 2021

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

Conference Room 329
Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 623**, Relating to the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti, and Committee Members:

My name is Melanie Ide and I am the President and CEO of the Bishop Museum, Hawai'i's State Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the official repository of the Hawai'i Biological Survey, which documents every plant and animal in the State. I strongly support HB 623, which allocates federal funds should they become available to support the Bishop Museum.

The Museum stewards more than 25 million catalogued objects, and actively generates and shares knowledge associated with its collections. Its work supports over 50 state and federal government agencies, departments, and affiliated organizations; and without whom many basic questions concerning Hawai'i's people, plants, and animals could not be answered with efficiency and confidence. The collections include over 1.2 million cultural artifacts, representing Native Hawaiian, Pacific Island, and Hawai'i immigrant life; more than 125,000 historical publications, including many in the Hawaiian language; 1 million historical photographs, films, works of art, and publications; and over 22 million plant and animal specimens.

Museum researchers have discovered over 17,000 species of plants, animals, and insects throughout the Pacific region, and have made countless discoveries related to the migration, settlement, and daily life of Pacific peoples. The Museum's educational programs provide science and cultural education opportunities to thousands of Hawai'i's schoolchildren each year, and it is estimated that the Museum has hosted more than 10 million visitors over its history.

Passage of this bill enables our committed staff to protect Hawai'i's irreplaceable collections and primary source knowledge, which is a global resource essential for the perpetuation of our natural and cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

Melanie Y. Ide
President & CEO

HB-623

Submitted on: 2/1/2021 12:51:34 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/3/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Museum is in need of funds, supporting. A note: If \$\$ are received from the State, it is important to ensure that the museum continues to work on disengaging from any projects, philosophies or paths that might linger from its' founding "fathers".