
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO IOLANI PALACE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that to enhance the
2 prestige and status of Hawaii as a modern nation, the Hawaiian
3 government appropriated funds and the cornerstone for Iolani
4 Palace was laid on December 31, 1879. By August 1882, the
5 building was substantially completed and King Kalakaua held a
6 luncheon for members of the Hawaii legislative assembly. In
7 December 1882, King Kalakaua and Queen Kapiolani moved into
8 Iolani Palace as their official state residence.

9 The newly constructed Iolani Palace was outfitted with the
10 most modern amenities of the time, including indoor plumbing.
11 The original gas chandeliers were replaced with modern electric
12 lighting five years after the palace was completed, less than
13 seven years after Thomas Edison invented the first practical
14 incandescent bulb. King Kalakaua installed a modern
15 communication system in the palace that included the recently
16 invented telephone. During the monarchy, Iolani Palace was a
17 center of social and political life in Hawaii. In 1976, in
18 recognition of Iolani Palace's significant place in Hawaii's



1 heritage and history, it was officially designated as a state
2 monument and today, is the only official state residence of
3 royalty in the United States. As the official residence of
4 Hawaiian royalty, official functions were held and dignitaries
5 and luminaries from around the world were received and
6 entertained. Today, Iolani Palace is recognized as a National
7 Historic Landmark, located in the capitol district of downtown
8 Honolulu.

9 The legislature finds that the Friends of Iolani Palace, a
10 non-profit organization, is responsible for the stewardship of
11 Iolani Palace under a lease with the State of Hawaii. The
12 mission of the Friends of Iolani Palace is to preserve, restore,
13 interpret, share, and celebrate the unique cultural, historical,
14 and spiritual qualities of Iolani Palace for the benefit of
15 native Hawaiians and the people of Hawaii and the world.

16 The purpose of this Act is to grant the Friends of Iolani
17 Palace a nine hundred ninety-nine-year lease to the historic
18 site of Iolani Palace.

19 SECTION 2. The chairperson of the board of land and
20 natural resources is directed to enter into a lease, by direct
21 negotiation and without recourse to public auction, of the
22 historic site of Iolani Palace for a period of nine hundred



1 ninety-nine years with the Friends of Iolani Palace; provided
2 that:

3 (1) The historic site of Iolani Palace, including its
4 historic contents, furnishings, collections, and
5 artifacts, shall be protected and managed by the
6 Friends of Iolani Palace, whose primary mission is the
7 perpetual care and sharing of Iolani Palace with and
8 for the people of Hawaii and visitors to the State;

9 (2) The historic site of Iolani Palace, its buildings and
10 adjacent lands, shall be safe and well-maintained
11 under the stewardship of the Friends of Iolani Palace;

12 (3) Iolani Palace shall have sufficient and appropriately
13 knowledgeable and qualified paid and unpaid personnel,
14 who are well-trained and possess the necessary skills
15 and expertise to fulfill their obligations to preserve
16 and protect the palace effectively and efficiently;
17 provided that palace personnel shall be subject to
18 regular job evaluations and shall be offered
19 appropriate professional development opportunities;

20 (4) The historic contents, furnishings, collections, and
21 artifacts of Iolani Palace shall be well-defined,
22 preserved, housed, appropriately documented, and



1 accessible on-site and on the Internet to the Friends
2 of Iolani Palace personnel and the public;

3 (5) The historic site of Iolani Palace shall be developed
4 and interpreted in recognition of its importance in
5 Hawaiian history, from its earliest period to the
6 present;

7 (6) The board of directors of the Friends of Iolani Place
8 shall maintain a reputation of excellence in museum
9 trusteeship;

10 (7) The historic site of Iolani Palace shall be an
11 accredited institution of the American Association of
12 Museums;

13 (8) The historic site of Iolani Palace shall contribute to
14 the economic development of the State of Hawaii as an
15 important cultural tourism experience and as a
16 significant learning resource in the education of all
17 of Hawaii's people; and

18 (9) The qualifying standards and conditions related to the
19 receipt of funds contained in chapter 42F shall not
20 apply to funds received by the Friends of Iolani
21 Palace; provided that if the Friends of Iolani Palace
22 in turn contracts with a recipient or provider, then



1 the qualifying standards, conditions, and other
 2 provisions of chapter 42F shall apply to the recipient
 3 or provider and the contract.

4 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that the nine hundred
 5 ninety-nine-year lease between the State and the Friends of
 6 Iolani Palace does not discharge the State's obligation to
 7 provide financial support for the maintenance and preservation
 8 of Iolani Palace.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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Report Title:

Iolani Palace; Lease

Description:

Directs the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources to enter a 999-year lease of Iolani Palace with the Friends of Iolani Palace.

