
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BERNICE PAUAAHI BISHOP MUSEUM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Bernice Pauahi
2 Bishop Museum serves the people and State of Hawaii through its
3 ongoing work to study, preserve, perpetuate, and share Hawaii's
4 natural and cultural history. It was officially designated as
5 the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History by
6 the Hawaii state legislature in 1988 and is the world's premier
7 resource for Hawaiian and Pacific materials, housing the world's
8 largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic cultural artifacts as
9 well as over twenty-two million biological specimens from Hawaii
10 and the Pacific. The cultural collections contain unique and
11 irreplaceable materials of Hawaii and the Pacific, which are
12 essential to perpetuating the Hawaiian culture and innovating
13 from a base of knowledge. The natural history collections
14 represent a library of life that documents changes in Hawaii's
15 environment over time and provides information crucial to
16 protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating
17 invasive species.



1 Over its one hundred thirty-year history, Bishop Museum has
2 stewarded the collective cultural and environmental heritage of
3 Hawaii; preserved and translated the oral history of Native
4 Hawaiians throughout the island chain; published key Hawaiian
5 language and cultural resources; founded fields of study and
6 performed research leading to countless discoveries; mounted
7 major exhibitions that have celebrated the nature, culture, and
8 history of Hawaii and the Pacific; served state and federal
9 resource managers and agencies; and produced a wide range of
10 educational and public programs for Hawaii's community.

11 Bishop Museum's collections and scientific expertise are
12 regularly accessed by state agencies, including the department
13 of land and natural resources, department of health, department
14 of agriculture, and University of Hawaii. State entities
15 account for approximately one-quarter of all collection usage at
16 the museum, and museum staff record a minimum of two months'
17 worth of cumulative staff time per year to support various state
18 agency requests at no charge. Bishop Museum also provides
19 training to state personnel in entomology, botany, malacology,
20 species identification, taxonomy, and other areas at no charge.



1 Bishop Museum biologists work closely with state scientists
2 to assist in identifying weeds, insects, snails, reptiles, and
3 other intercepted, potentially invasive species. During the
4 Christmas season when large numbers of trees are imported from
5 the Pacific Northwest, museum staff identify intercepted snails
6 and slugs from the tree shipments for the department of
7 agriculture. In a single year, the museum identified more than
8 twenty potential new invasive slugs and snails through the tree
9 shipments and helped to prevent their establishment in Hawaii.
10 The museum also identifies all snakes and other reptiles and
11 amphibians that are intercepted by State plant quarantine
12 officials. Museum biologists are also working with the
13 department of health, department of agriculture, University of
14 Hawaii, Hawaii invasive species council, and others to conduct
15 field surveys and screen snails and slugs for the parasite that
16 causes rat lungworm disease.

17 In addition, Bishop Museum provides vital educational
18 programs and resources to students and teachers of the
19 department of education, including science, technology,
20 engineering, and math programs that address the department's
21 science standards. The museum's educators serve more than



1 twenty-five thousand students per year through various on-site
2 educational programs.

3 The State has supported Bishop Museum's designation as the
4 State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History through
5 an annual appropriation of general revenues to support the
6 museum's operational activities, which are of great cultural,
7 scientific, and intrinsic value to the State. This annual
8 appropriation has decreased significantly over the preceding
9 decade, from \$2,470,000 in 1992, which represented twenty-two
10 per cent of the museum's operating budget at that time, or
11 \$4,500,000 in today's dollars, to its current appropriation of
12 \$626,000, covering just four per cent of the museum's operating
13 budget.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support
15 the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
20 2020-2021 to support the Bishop Museum, designated as the State



1 of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History, including the
2 hiring of necessary staff.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of budget and finance.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum; State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to support the work of the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History. (SB699 HD1)

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