
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BERNICE PAUHI 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 Hawai'i through its
3 ongoing work to study, preserve, perpetuate, and share Hawai'i's
4 natural and cultural history. It was officially designated as
5 the state museum of natural and cultural history by the Hawai'i
6 state legislature in 1988 and is the world's premier resource
7 for Hawaiian and Pacific materials, housing the world's largest
8 collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic cultural artifacts as well as
9 over twenty-two million biological specimens from Hawai'i and the
10 Pacific. The cultural collections contain unique and
11 irreplaceable materials of Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i's
15 environment over time and provides information crucial to



1 protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating
2 invasive species.

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

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



1 training to state personnel in entomology, botany, malacology,
2 species identification, taxonomy, and other areas at no charge.

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

19 In addition, Bishop Museum provides vital educational
20 programs and resources to students and teachers of the
21 department of education, including science, technology,



1 engineering, and math programs that address the department's
2 science standards. The museum's educators serve more than
3 twenty-five thousand students per year through various on-site
4 educational programs.

5 The State has supported Bishop Museum's designation as the
6 State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History through
7 an annual appropriation of general revenues to support the
8 museum's operational activities, which are of great cultural,
9 scientific, and intrinsic value to the State of Hawai'i. This
10 annual appropriation has decreased significantly over the
11 preceding decade, from \$2,470,000 in 1992, which represented
12 twenty-two per cent of the museum's then operating budget, or
13 \$4,500,000 in today's dollars, to its current appropriation of
14 \$626,000, covering just four per cent of the museum's operating
15 budget.

16 The purpose of this Act is to:

17 (1) Beginning with the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium and each
18 fiscal biennium thereafter, require the governor to
19 include in the executive budget a minimum amount per
20 fiscal year to be allocated to the State of Hawaii
21 Museum of Natural and Cultural History; and



1 (2) Appropriate funds to support the work of the State of
2 Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

3 SECTION 2. Section 6E-40, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "**§6E-40 Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.** (a) The official
6 designation of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum shall be the
7 State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

8 (b) The qualifying standards and conditions related to the
9 receipt of funds contained in chapter 42F shall not apply to
10 funds received by the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and
11 Cultural History; provided that if the museum in turn contracts
12 with a recipient or provider, then the qualifying standards,
13 conditions, and other provisions of chapter 42F shall apply to
14 the recipient or provider and the contract.

15 (c) Beginning with the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium and each
16 fiscal biennium thereafter, the governor shall include in the
17 executive budget submitted to the legislature pursuant to
18 article VII, section 8, of the Hawaii State Constitution, no
19 less than \$2,000,000 per fiscal year as a recurring cost to be
20 allocated to the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural
21 History."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawai'i the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2020-2021 to support the work of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop
6 Museum, including but not limited to collections care and
7 student learning programs.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the State of
9 Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History for the purposes
10 of this Act.

11 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Beginning with the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium and each fiscal biennium thereafter, requires the governor to include in the executive budget a minimum amount per fiscal year as a recurring cost to be allocated to the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Appropriates funds to support the work of the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

(SD1)

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