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TESTIMONY OF
THE STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
March 21, 2022, Conference Room 225 & Videoconference at 3:00PM
H.B. 1924

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee, I am Jonathan Johnson, Executive Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA), and we are grateful for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of H.B. 1924.

The State Foundation on Culture and the Arts recognizes the value of Iolani Palace and Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum for the State of Hawaii. SFCA supports the appropriation of general funds to the State of Hawaii Museum of Monarchy History (Iolani Palace) and the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History (Bishop Museum) for fiscal year 2022-2023, to be expended by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, provided doing so does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive budget.

Hawaii's culture sector is the hardest hit in the nation. Bishop Museum and Iolani Palace have lost significant operating revenue due to the drop in attendance while each institution continues to require care for collections and repair and maintenance of their aging facilities. Funding these institutions through an annual appropriation from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii and on a consistent basis will help to support ongoing operations to preserve irreplaceable cultural treasures. Both Bishop Museum and Iolani Palace have provisions to receive State funds and an exemption from qualifying standards and conditions related to Chapter 42F. The Iolani Palace facility is in the purview of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

The cultural economy is one of our state's most important resources. When we invest in our cultural economy, we invest in economic stability of Hawai'i. State support of these two culturally significant institutions is an investment into cultural preservation as well as the State's economy. As the State recovers from the devastating effects of the global pandemic, visitors will return to Hawai'i and look to visit cultural establishments that in turn, support the revitalization of Hawaii's leading economy; tourism.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1924

March 21, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 1924.

H.B. No. 1924 appropriates unspecified general funds in FY 23 for the State of Hawai'i Museum of Monarchy History and the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, to be expended by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

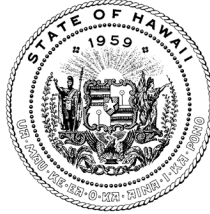
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Monday, March 21, 2022
3:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1924
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

House Bill 1924 proposes to appropriate funds to the State of Hawaii Museum of Monarchy History and the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History, to be expended by the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department appreciates the intent of the Legislature to support the State of Hawai'i Museum of Monarchy better known as 'Iolani Palace. The Department also feels that State support of 'Iolani Palace is essential due to its significant value to the people of Hawaii.

The Department executed a 25-year general lease with the Friends of 'Iolani Palace (Friends) to manage and operate 'Iolani Palace, 'Iolani Palace Barracks (Hale Koa) and the Coronation Pavilion. The Department's Division of State Parks (State Parks) regulates and manages the various public special use activities and events of the adjacent four quadrants that comprise the grounds surrounding the buildings and authorizes events that are managed by the Friends that are a primary source of operating revenue.

State Parks also administers and executes capital improvement projects for the buildings and appurtenant structures. The Department of Accounting and General Services performs all the grounds and tree maintenance functions and manages the parking areas surrounding the Palace and oversees the modern Archives Building.

The Friends have funded its operations entirely from earned revenues, donations, and grants (both private and government) for such items as salaries & benefits, repair and maintenance, and

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

regular expenses of the Palace such as electricity, heating ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) maintenance, water for chillers and a security camera contract.

The Department feels that State support of 'Iolani Palace is essential due to its significant value to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Monday, March 21, 2022 – 3:00 pm
Via videoconference and Rm. 225**

HB1924 – Relating to the Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts:

We are in **strong support** of HB1924. This bill, in part, proposes to provide general funds to the State of Hawaii Museum of Monarch History (Iolani Palace). It is our understanding that this is a proposed general fund allocation that is separate and distinct from the state funding the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) receives for its artist and art programs.

Established in 2005, the H.T. Hayashi Foundation reflects the legacy of visionary hotelier and philanthropist Herbert Takami "H.T." Hayashi. Today, the foundation invests in arts and culture, human development, environmental conservation, and economic security, focusing on programs serving women, children, and the elderly. We believe preserving Native Hawaiian culture, history, traditions, sites, and language is a critical part of a thriving Hawaii in the years to come.

The Friends of Iolani Palace have, since 1966, worked hard to raise funds (earned income/revenue, philanthropic grant support, and individual donations) in support of the operation and preservation of the Palace, as not only a treasure of the Native Hawaiian community but for all of Hawaii. Yet, for many years, the Palace has not been the recipient of any ongoing operational funding to support Palace operations (e.g., electricity, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and security equipment), preservation activities, repair and maintenance, security, and general upkeep. The responsibility to cover all ongoing and special costs to protect, preserve, and restore this state treasure has fallen to the nonprofit Friends of Iolani Palace. Last year, as the pandemic and resulting economic crisis continued, Iolani Palace was fortunate to receive via lawmaker action some much-needed ARPA funding administered through the SFCA. It was a lifesaver in many ways.

Funding Iolani Palace through a consistent general fund allocation will go a long way to supporting the preservation of not only an important part of Hawaii's history, but also preserving the Palace as a resource and light for future generations.

We strongly urge you to pass HB1924. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo,

Jan M. Harada
Executive Director

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts (LCA)

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawaii Foundation

Committee: Monday, March 21, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference & Conference Room 225

RE: HB 1924 Relating to the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

On behalf of Historic Hawaii Foundation, I am writing in **support for HB1924**. The bill would appropriate funds to the State of Hawai'i Museum of Monarchy History (aka Iolani Palace) and the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History (aka Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum), to be expended by the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Iolani Palace

Iolani Palace is an exceptional historic resource. It is designated as a State Monument, a National Historic Landmark and a contributing property in the Hawai'i State Capital National Historic District. Built in 1882 by King David Kalākaua, the palace served as the royal residence until 1893 for the King and his successor, Queen Lili'uokalani. For nine months in 1895, the deposed Queen was imprisoned in a bedroom of the Palace. From 1893 – 1968, the building served as the capitol of the Republic, the Territory and the State of Hawai'i. When the new capitol building opened in 1968, the process of restoring the Palace began under the leadership of the Friends of Iolani Palace, the Junior League of Honolulu and numerous community members.

The initial period of rehabilitation reflected a phenomenal effort and the results have been to restore the most significant building of the Monarchy era. All buildings require routine and regular maintenance; a historic structure of this level of significance also requires special treatment in accordance with strict preservation standards. The appropriation will allow the continued stewardship, care and operations on behalf of this beloved and significant site.

Bishop Museum

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.

Summary

The historic, cultural and natural resources of Hawai'i are a great legacy and irreplaceable treasures. Historic Hawai'i Foundation strongly supports measures that lead to investments in Hawaii's historic places and that help keep their stories alive for present and future generations. Bishop Museum and Iolani Palace are important icons for Hawai'i residents and visitors, adding to the enjoyment, education, and understanding of Hawaii's history and inspiration for the future. We support the effort to identify additional funding sources to help preserve, restore, enhance and celebrate these resources.

Therefore, Historic Hawai'i Foundation supports HB1924.

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 3:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

SUPPORT of House Bill 1924, Relating to Iolani Palace and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

The organizations represented in this written testimony support HB 1924. Both Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum predate the 1900's, a very pivotal time in Hawaii's history. For over 130 years, we have served to be safe houses for Hawaii's history, collections, and research. Unfortunately, the tide and time of change have weathered the campuses and continue to challenge the required resources to fulfill our mandates. We strongly support HB 1924 and are hopeful that we can collectively recognize and support the value that Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum provide to our communities, Hawai'i, and the world.

Passage of this bill enables the State of Hawaii Museum on Monarchy History (The Friends of Iolani Palace) to continue operations, which includes not only caring for four buildings and the more than 5,000 cultural items in them, but also providing security for the Palace, the state park, and state park gates.

The Friends of Iolani Palace have a long-term lease with DLNR-State Parks to operate the Barracks, Coronation Pavilion, Kanaina Building and Iolani Palace, which is listed on the Hawaii and National Register of Historic Places. We maintain and preserve these buildings and their contents, as well as offer a variety of tours to share the story of the Hawaiian kingdom with Hawaii and the world. For many visitors to the islands, this is the ONLY chance they will have to see and hear this story.

We fund our operations on tours, retail sales, memberships, donations, and grants. We mahalo the legislature for the funding received this fiscal year through the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. This funding was the lifeline that allowed us to continue operating. When the pandemic hit we were forced to slash positions as well as salaries. As we increase tours and events, this funding is needed to bring our staffing back to what it was pre-pandemic and to offer a fair wage. Our staff has been troupers, with many performing two jobs. We have seen an increase in maintenance costs for these historic structures. As with any aging building, deferred repair and maintenance can lead to disastrous consequences. In addition to this, we also anticipate a nearly \$2,000 increase soon in our monthly electricity bill, due to oil prices.

Iolani Palace is a wahi pana, a special, sacred place for our Lahui and for others around Hawaii and the world. We believe a dedicated source of state funding is critical to helping us to preserve Iolani Palace and its cultural artifacts for years to come and to be able to continue to share her story with future generations.

Passage of this bill this bill enables the Bishop Museum to protect Hawai'i's irreplaceable collections, which include 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.

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 Hawaii's people, plants, and animals could not be answered with efficiency and confidence. 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.

We understand this funding, expended through the SFCA, is separate from the funding SFCA provides to art programs statewide.

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
Bishop Museum



Paula Akana
Executive Director
The Friends of Iolani Palace

This testimony is supported by the organizations below:

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo
Papa Ola Lōkahi
Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Partners in Development Foundation
Kamehameha Schools



Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair

Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 3:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

SUPPORT of House Bill 1924, Relating to Iolani Palace and the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

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Passage of this bill enables the State of Hawaii Museum on Monarchy History (The Friends of Iolani Palace) to continue operations, which includes not only caring for four buildings and the more than 5,000 cultural items in them, but also providing security for the Palace, the state park, and state park gates.

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Passage of this bill this bill enables the Bishop Museum to protect Hawai'i's irreplaceable collections, which include 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.

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We understand this funding, expended through the SFCA, is separate from the funding SFCA provides to art programs statewide.

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
Bishop Museum



Paula Akana
Executive Director
The Friends of Iolani Palace

This testimony is also supported by the organizations below:

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo
Papa Ola Lōkahi
Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii
Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Partners in Development Foundation
Kamehameha Schools

HB-1924

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 9:39:03 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/21/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members

I support HB 1924.

Iolani Palace is a remarkable place, a place full of history and promise for the people of Hawaii. The Friends of Iolani Palace are the caretakers for the Palace, along with the Coronation Pavilion, Barracks, and the Kanaina Building. It is a kuleana they do not take lightly. Operations, Repair, and Maintenance are not inexpensive for a 140-year-old building.

This bill would provide funding that is critical in ensuring these historic structures are here for generations to come.

Thank you for your support of HB 1924.

Aloha,

Ashley Ono

HB-1924

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 10:47:20 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/21/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Williams-Solomon	Testifying for Friends of 'Iolani Palace	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members,

I strongly support HB1924 that provides funding for Iolani Palace, and I urge you to support it too. The Palace is an iconic treasure in Hawaii, telling the stories of her people in a unique and special way. This place is important to Hawaii's history and its future. As with anything more than 140 years old, it comes with maintenance and operational challenges that the Friends of Iolani Palace try hard to overcome. But these challenges are expensive and this bill would provide some badly needed funding. Please support the funding so that we can continue to take care of her and keep her around for future generations.

mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of this beloved place.

Respectfully,

Leilani Williams-Solomon

HB-1924

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 11:39:22 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/21/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark T. Shklov	Testifying for The Friends of Iolani Palace	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Mark T. Shklov in Support of HB 1924

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members:

I support HB 1924.

My name is Mark T. Shklov. I am a Hawaii Lawyer and a Member of The Board of Directors of the Friends of Iolani Palace, which is the non-profit corporation whose Purpose is “to preserve, restore, interpret, share and celebrate the unique cultural, historical, and spiritual qualities of Iolani Palace and its grounds for the benefit of and to serve Native Hawaiians, the People of Hawaii, and the World”.

Iolani Palace has been designated The State of Hawaii Museum of Monarchy History. It is a National Historic Landmark and the only royal residence in the United States. Iolani Palace is a cultural, historical, and spiritual asset for Hawaii and the World. Funds are needed to maintain and repair Iolani Palace.

HB 1924 provides funds necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to preserve, restore, and protect Iolani Palace.

Mahalo for your support of HB 1924 and Iolani Palace.

Mark T. Shklov

HB-1924

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 1:56:13 PM

Testimony for LCA on 3/21/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard K Akaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Relating to the STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Aloha Chair Taniguchi and Committee Members

I support HB 1924.

Iolani Palace is a remarkable place, a place full of history and promise for the people of Hawaii. The Friends of Iolani Palace are the caretakers for the Palace, along with the Coronation Pavilion, Barracks and the Kanaina Building. It is a kuleana they do not take lightly. Operations, Repair and Maintenance is not inexpensive for a 140 year old building.

This bill would provide funding that is critical in ensuring these historic structures are here for generations to come.

Thankyou for your support of HB 1924.

Aloha,

Gerard Akaka, MD



Testimony of Pono Shim of Oahu Economic Development Board

House Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Monday, March 21, 2022, 3 P.M.

House Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**Re: House Bill 1924, RELATING TO THE STATE FOUNDATION
ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in full support of HB1924. In 2009, I was asked to join the Friends of Iolani Palace Board of Directors to provide specific skill sets to the Board and for the long term vision and recovery of our Palace. The vision and courage of Governor Burns to turn the management kuleana of the Palace to the Friends of Iolani Palace, yet sustain the government support by keeping the Palace as a State building to be maintained, like all other state buildings, is significant to the foundation of the Palace as a resource for our residents and the world.

As the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Friends of Iolani Palace I ask that you continue to move this initiative forward. As the ugliness of the political and economic warring is happening locally and globally, we need actions and resources to serve as reminders that we are a beautiful and brilliant people. The maintenance, preservation, and restoration of the Palace and her stories is not limited to a project, and if lost, is sad. It is much more about ensuring that this resource (not project) will be a guiding resource rather than a time capsule for the future.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Pono Shim

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Friends of Iolani Palace
President and CEO, Oahu Economic Development Board



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaii-tourism-authority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

March 21, 2022
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1924
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE FOUNDATION ON CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) appreciates the opportunity to offer this testimony in **support** of HB1924, which appropriates moneys to support the State of Hawai'i Museum of Monarchy History ('Iolani Palace) and the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History (Bishop Museum).

The work happening every day at 'Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum is critical to understanding and contextualizing Hawai'i's natural resources, native culture, and our community. HTA's work is framed by four interacting pillars: Natural Resources, Hawaiian Culture, Community, and Branding – the last of which is dependent upon the strength of the first three.

Our efforts to educate visitors rely upon the kind of work that happens at these institutions, and these efforts are further strengthened by the direct educational experiences visitors and kama'āina alike enjoy at 'Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony in **support** of HB1924, to provide resources in support of 'Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum. Mahalo.