
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP TO CREATE A PLAN
REGARDING THE RETURN OF CULTURAL ARTIFACTS.

1 WHEREAS, cultural artifacts are an important part of the
2 history of any people; and

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4 WHEREAS, many of Hawaii's cultural artifacts have been
5 transported out of the State; and

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7 WHEREAS, likewise, many persons in Hawaii possess cultural
8 artifacts that rightfully belong to other lands; and

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10 WHEREAS, the State should take action to facilitate the
11 return of all cultural artifacts; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
15 Session of 2023, that the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
16 of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Administrator of the
17 State Historic Preservation Division, or their respective
18 designees, are requested to form and serve as Co-Chairs of a
19 Cultural Artifact Return Working Group; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Co-Chairs of the working
22 group are requested to invite museum representatives, cultural
23 and historical experts, and other appropriate individuals to
24 serve as members of the working group; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
27 to create a plan to:

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29 (1) Request the return of Hawaii's cultural artifacts to
30 the State; and

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32 (2) Arrange for the return of cultural artifacts in Hawaii
33 that rightfully belong to other lands,



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2 in a manner that promotes cross-cultural respect and aloha;
3 provided that for purposes of this measure, "cultural artifact"
4 means any manmade item that contains important information about
5 the people and culture of a society, but excludes human remains
6 and funerary objects; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cultural Artifact Return
9 Working Group is requested to submit a report of its plan,
10 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
11 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
12 of 2024; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be considered
15 dissolved after the last day of the Regular Session of 2024; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
19 Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Administrator
20 of the State Historic Preservation Division.

