
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO A MODERN HAWAII HISTORY MUSEUM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has a rich
2 history captured for posterity by numerous institutions. Among
3 these are the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, also known as the
4 State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History, which
5 has a primary focus on early Hawaiian history, navigation, and
6 science; Iolani Palace, which provides a primary focus on the
7 Hawaiian monarchy and overthrow era; the King Kamehameha V
8 Judiciary History Center, which has a primary focus on educating
9 the public on the judicial process and Hawaii's legal history;
10 and the State Archives, which has a vast catalogue of historical
11 documents and artifacts such as copies of the Hawaii State
12 Constitution and moon rocks, but no meaningful place to properly
13 exhibit them and tell their story.

14 The legislature further finds that through the territorial
15 period and statehood to the present day, Hawaii played a
16 significant role contributing to national and global events and
17 progress. This includes growing as a model of social



1 integration as the nation's first majority-minority state, which
2 the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. called, "a place where we
3 see the glowing daybreak of freedom and dignity and racial
4 justice". It includes the local and national contributions of
5 Hawaii's greatest generation of leaders growing out of the World
6 War II era, who broke conventional norms and influenced the
7 course of the nation; world-renowned modern discoveries achieved
8 in ocean science and astronomy; and development of a modern
9 renaissance in music and arts that has influenced the world.
10 Hawaii has frequently driven political progress in the United
11 States in its role as the birthplace of Title IX, legal
12 abortion, widely accessible health care, same-sex marriage, and
13 most recently leadership on climate change, including
14 groundbreaking one hundred percent clean energy and
15 carbon-negative economy policies now being replicated around the
16 country.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 18 (1) Establish a museum of modern Hawaii history;
19 (2) Convene a task force to further develop plans for the
20 establishment, construction, and operation of a museum
21 of modern Hawaii history; and



1 (3) Appropriate funds for the purposes of this Act.

2 SECTION 2. Chapter 9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
3 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
4 as follows:

5 "PART . MUSEUM OF MODERN HAWAII HISTORY

6 §9- Museum of modern Hawaii history; established. (a)

7 There is established within the foundation the museum of modern
8 Hawaii history.

9 (b) The museum of modern Hawaii history shall:

- 10 (1) Primarily focus on the territorial and statehood eras
11 of Hawaii's history and complement other institutions;
12 (2) Chronicle Hawaii's significant milestones and events
13 in its history as well as the leadership that the
14 State has demonstrated with respect to many
15 significant issues facing the nation and the world;
16 (3) Provide a window into current events and issues; and
17 (4) Partner with other institutions in Hawaii and abroad
18 to share relevant narratives.

19 (c) The foundation may establish a nonprofit group or
20 select a nonprofit group with demonstrated qualifications to
21 manage and operate the museum of modern Hawaii history, its



1 concessions, or other for-profit business enterprises in a
2 manner that is self-sustaining."

3 SECTION 3. (a) There is established a museum of modern
4 Hawaii history task force within the state foundation on culture
5 and the arts for administrative purposes to develop plans for
6 the establishment, construction, and operations of a museum of
7 modern Hawaii history; and explore partnerships, collaborations,
8 and joint efforts with other local institutions with different
9 missions that may have some overlap, such as the state archives
10 and King Kamehameha V judiciary history center.

11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) The executive director of the state foundation on
13 culture and the arts or the executive director's
14 designee, who shall serve as the chair;

15 (2) The president and chief executive officer of the
16 Hawaii tourism authority or the president and chief
17 executive officer's designee;

18 (3) The state archivist or the state archivist's designee;

19 (4) A representative of the University of Hawaii, who
20 shall be appointed by the president of the University
21 of Hawaii;



1 (5) The chairs of the standing committees of the senate
2 and house of representatives with subject matter
3 jurisdiction over culture and the arts or the
4 respective chair's designee;

5 (6) The chief justice, or the chief justice's designee,
6 representing the King Kamehameha V judiciary history
7 center; and

8 (7) Other relevant stakeholders as recommended by the
9 chairperson.

10 Members of the task force may recommend additional members with
11 appropriate special expertise to the task force, for approval by
12 the chair.

13 (c) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of
14 the regular session of 2025, the task force shall submit a
15 report to the legislature that includes:

16 (1) Plans for the establishment, construction, and
17 operation of a museum of modern Hawaii history;

18 (2) Proposed partnerships, collaborations, and joint
19 efforts with other local institutions; and

20 (3) Any other findings and recommendations, including any
21 proposed legislation.



1 (d) The members of the task force shall serve without
2 compensation shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses,
3 including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of
4 their duties.

5 (e) No member of the task force shall be subject to
6 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of the
7 member's participation in the task force.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2024-2025 for the administration of the museum of modern
13 Hawaii history task force to carry out its duties.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the state
15 foundation on culture and the arts for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Museum of Modern Hawaii History; Foundation on Culture and the Arts; Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a Museum of Modern Hawaii History. Establishes a task force to develop plans for the establishment, construction, and operation of the Museum of Modern Hawaii History. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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