
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

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

1 PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may
3 be cited as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Appropriations Act of
4 2025.

5 SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. Unless otherwise clear from the
6 context, as used in this Act:

7 "Means of financing" or "MOF" means the source from which
8 funds are appropriated or authorized to be expended for the
9 programs and projects specified in this Act. All appropriations
10 are followed by letter symbols. The letter symbols, where used,
11 shall have the following meanings:

12 A General funds

13 T Trust funds

14 "Position ceiling" means the maximum number of permanent
15 and temporary full-time equivalent positions authorized for a
16 particular program during a specified period or periods, as
17 denoted by an asterisk (*) for permanent full-time equivalent



1 positions and a pound (#) sign for temporary full-time
2 equivalent positions.

3 "Program ID" means the unique identifier for the specific
4 program and consists of the abbreviation for the office of
5 Hawaiian affairs (OHA) followed by the organization number for
6 the program.

7 **PART II. PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS**

8 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATIONS. The following sums, or so much
9 thereof as may be sufficient to accomplish the purposes and
10 programs designated herein, are hereby appropriated or
11 authorized from the means of financing specified to the office
12 of Hawaiian affairs for the fiscal biennium beginning
13 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027. The total expenditures
14 and the number of positions in each fiscal year of the biennium
15 shall not exceed the sums and the numbers indicated for each
16 fiscal year, except as provided elsewhere in this Act, or as
17 provided by general law.



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PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

ITEM NO.	PROG. ID	PROGRAM	EXPENDING AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS			
				FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026	M O F	FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027	M O F

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Hawaiian Affairs

1. OHA150 - OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES

				0.00 *		0.00 *
				0.00 #		0.00 #
OPERATING		OHA		0 A		0 A
				0.00 *		0.00 *
				0.00 #		0.00 #
		OHA		0 T		0 T

2. OHA160 - ADMINISTRATION

				13.00 *		13.00 *
				0.00 #		0.00 #
OPERATING		OHA		1,258,454 A		1,296,208 A
				0.00 *		00.00 *
				0.00 #		0.00 #
		OHA		0 T		0 T

3. OHA175 - BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY

				0.00 *		0.00 *
				0.00 #		0.00 #
OPERATING		OHA		3,600,000 A		3,700,000 A
				0.00 *		0.00 *
				0.00 #		0.00 #
		OHA		3,600,000 T		3,700,000 T



1 \$740,000 in general funds and \$740,000 in trust funds for fiscal
2 year 2026-2027 shall be expended to provide for educational
3 improvement programs for Native Hawaiian students; provided
4 further that programs shall be designed to help Native Hawaiian
5 students prepare for post-secondary education and economic
6 stability pursuits to support families and communities.

7 SECTION 7. Provided that of the funds appropriated for
8 beneficiary advocacy (OHA175), the sum of \$700,000 in general
9 funds and \$700,000 in trust funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
10 the same sums for fiscal year 2026-2027 shall be expended to
11 provide for legal services and legal representation to office of
12 Hawaiian affairs beneficiaries for:

- 13 (1) The assertion and defense of quiet title actions;
- 14 (2) Assistance with ahupua`a and kuleana tenant rights,
15 including rights of access and rights to water;
- 16 (3) Land title assistance, including review of title and
17 genealogy;
- 18 (4) Preservation of traditional and customary practices;
- 19 (5) Protection of culturally significant places, including
20 iwi kūpuna protections;



- 1 (6) Preservation of Native Hawaiian land trust
- 2 entitlements;
- 3 (7) Home ownership retention strategies for Native
- 4 Hawaiians; and
- 5 (8) Family law-related matters, including adoption, foster
- 6 care, child welfare, incarcerated individuals,
- 7 guardianship, elder care, and similar matters.

8 SECTION 8. Provided that of the funds appropriated for
9 beneficiary advocacy (OHA175), the sum of \$600,000 in general
10 funds and \$600,000 in trust funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
11 \$625,000 in general funds and \$625,000 in trust funds for fiscal
12 year 2026-2027 shall be expended for protections of `āina (land
13 and water), including climate change adaptation and mitigation
14 strategies and practices.

15 SECTION 9. Provided that of the funds appropriated for
16 beneficiary advocacy, the sum of \$470,000 in general funds and
17 \$470,000 in trust funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$495,000
18 in general funds and \$495,000 in trust funds for fiscal year
19 2026-2027 shall be expended for cultivating resilient
20 communities through ahupua`a economics (regional economic
21 development) and workforce readiness.



1 PART IV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS AND EFFECTIVE DATE

2 SECTION 10. Provided that, whenever necessary, the board
3 of trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs or the board's
4 designee may transfer sufficient funds and positions between
5 programs for operating purposes; provided further that these
6 transfers shall be consistent with legislative intent; provided
7 further that the office of Hawaiian affairs shall submit a
8 report to the legislature of all uses of this authority for the
9 previous twelve-month period from December 1 to November 30, no
10 later than twenty days prior to the regular sessions of 2026
11 and 2027.

12 SECTION 11. If any portion of this Act or its application
13 to any person, entity, or circumstance is held to be invalid for
14 any reason, the legislature declares that the remainder of the
15 Act and each and every other provision thereof shall not be
16 affected thereby. If any portion of a specific appropriation is
17 held to be invalid for any reason, the remaining portion shall
18 be expended to fulfill the objective of the appropriation to the
19 extent possible.

20 SECTION 12. In the event manifest clerical, typographical,
21 or other mechanical errors are found in this Act, the board of



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1 trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs is authorized to
2 correct these errors. All changes made pursuant to this section
3 shall be reported to the legislature at its next session.

4 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Neelhi K. Moku
By Request

JAN 16 2025



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Report Title:

Office of Hawaiian Affairs Package; Budget

Description:

Appropriates moneys to fund the operating expenses of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for the fiscal biennium beginning on 7/1/2025, and ending on 6/30/2027.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

