

# 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:**

## PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

A      General funds

T      Trust funds

"Position ceiling" means the maximum number of permanent and temporary full-time equivalent positions authorized for a particular program during a specified period or periods, as 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.



## 1 Hawaiian Affairs

2  
3 1. OHA150 - OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES

0.00 *	0.00 *
0.00 #	0.00 #
0 A	0 A
0.00 *	0.00 *
0.00 #	0.00 #
0 T	0 T

4  
5  
6 OPERATING

OHA

7  
8  
9  
10  
11 2. OHA160 - ADMINISTRATION

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

12  
13  
14 OPERATING

OHA

15  
16  
17  
18  
19 3. OHA175 - BENEFICIARY ADVOCACY

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

20  
21  
22 OPERATING

OHA



1                                   **PART III.   PROGRAM PROVISIONS**

2           SECTION 4.   Provided that of the funds appropriated for  
3   beneficiary advocacy (OHA175), the sum of \$600,000 in general  
4   funds and \$600,000 in trust funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
5   \$625,000 in general funds and \$625,000 in trust funds for fiscal  
6   year 2026-2027 shall be expended for office of Hawaiian affairs  
7   beneficiaries for affordable, quality housing and related  
8   infrastructure.

9           SECTION 5.   Provided that of the funds appropriated for  
10   beneficiary advocacy (OHA175), the sum of \$515,000 in general  
11   funds and \$515,000 in trust funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
12   the same sums for fiscal year 2026-2027 shall be expended to  
13   provide for social services, including referral services and  
14   case management, to at-risk office of Hawaiian affairs  
15   beneficiaries to immediately address unexpected crises; provided  
16   further that program activities shall be designed with an  
17   overall objective to provide financial assistance to improve  
18   stability during emergency situations.

19          SECTION 6.   Provided that of the funds appropriated for  
20   beneficiary advocacy (OHA175), the sum of \$715,000 in general  
21   funds and \$715,000 in trust funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and



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 (OHA175), the sum of \$470,000 in general  
17 funds and \$470,000 in trust funds for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
18 \$495,000 in general funds and \$495,000 in trust funds for fiscal  
19 year 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



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

5 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.





**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. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

