
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A HAWAII CULTURAL TRUST TO PRESERVE
AND PROMOTE HAWAII'S CULTURAL RESOURCES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to a rich cultural heritage that
2 includes indigenous traditions, historical landmarks, diverse
3 artistic expressions, and significant cultural institutions; and
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5 WHEREAS, sustained investment in cultural preservation,
6 heritage, and the arts supports economic growth, education,
7 tourism, and the overall well-being of the people of Hawaii; and
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9 WHEREAS, various states have successful cultural trusts
10 that could be used as models for sustainable funding of cultural
11 organizations by leveraging donations and tax incentives to
12 support arts and heritage programs; and
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14 WHEREAS, establishing a Hawaii Cultural Trust could enhance
15 financial sustainability for cultural institutions and the arts,
16 to provide long-term support for the preservation and promotion
17 of Hawaii's cultural resources; now, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2025, that a working group is requested to be established to
22 study the feasibility of creating a Hawaii Cultural Trust to
23 preserve and promote Hawaii's cultural resources; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
26 to consist of the following members:
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- 28 (1) The chairperson of the House of Representatives
29 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over
30 culture and the arts, who is requested to serve as co-
31 chairperson of the working group for the purposes of
32 convening the working group;



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- (2) The chairperson of the Senate standing committee with primary jurisdiction over culture and the arts, who is requested to serve as co-chairperson of the working group for the purposes of convening the working group;
- (3) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee;
- (4) The Director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, or the Director's designee;
- (5) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee; and
- (6) The Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, or the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer's designee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to invite a representative or the representative's designee from the following organizations to participate in the working group:

- (1) The Hawai'i Council for the Humanities;
- (2) A Native Hawaiian cultural organization;
- (3) A nonprofit cultural or arts organization;
- (4) A university or research institution specializing in cultural policy or arts administration; and
- (5) Any other members as deemed necessary by the working group to ensure a comprehensive study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to examine the potential structure, funding mechanisms, and governance models for a cultural trust in Hawaii, including but not limited to:



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- (1) Identifying potential sources of funding, including public, private, and philanthropic contributions;
- (2) Exploring tax incentives and other fiscal strategies to encourage donations;
- (3) Evaluating the impact such a trust could have on Hawaii's cultural institutions, the arts, and communities;
- (4) Assessing any administrative and legal frameworks necessary to implement and maintain a cultural trust; and
- (5) Drafting recommendations for legislative action, including proposed legislation establishing the Hawaii Cultural Trust; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Chairperson of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; and Executive Director of the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities.

OFFERED BY:



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