

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1110

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 14, 2026

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 14, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 3022, S.D. 1, H.D. 1

RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS.
ACT 010

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Aloha order of
2 merit was established to recognize individuals who have made
3 significant contributions and achieved national or international
4 recognition in a field either by a single event or by a totality
5 of work that has been pioneering in that field or outstanding in
6 the long term. The legislature also finds that many exceptional
7 and notable individuals are deserving of recognition
8 specifically for their contributions to the State. While the
9 Aloha order of merit honors individuals who have made national
10 and international contributions and achieved recognition, the
11 legislature believes there should be a similar program to honor
12 individuals who have made their mark on the State.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
14 Hawaii leadership awards program to honor individuals who have
15 made considerable and outstanding contributions to the State in
16 their respective fields and serve as inspirations to others.



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

4 "§9- Hawaii leadership awards program. (a) There is
5 established within the state archives for administrative
6 purposes the Hawaii leadership awards program to honor
7 individuals who:

8 (1) Have made considerable and outstanding contributions
9 to the State; and

10 (2) Serve as an inspiration to others.

11 (b) Awards shall be presented annually to individuals in
12 each of the following categories:

13 (1) Arts;

14 (2) Business and labor;

15 (3) Entertainment;

16 (4) Food and drink;

17 (5) Literature;

18 (6) Music;

19 (7) Sports;

20 (8) Science;

21 (9) Community engagement;



1 (10) Public service;

2 (11) Friend of Hawaii; and

3 (12) Profile in courage;

4 who have resided in the State for a period of at least seven
5 years; provided that no individual receiving an award pursuant
6 to paragraph (11) shall reside in the State.

7 (c) The governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the
8 Hawaii leadership awards selection committee, or their
9 designees, shall present the awards to awardees annually. No
10 individual shall receive more than one award per year.

11 (d) Each awardee shall:

12 (1) Receive a certificate of honor and medal; and

13 (2) Have the awardee's story and a statement of
14 recognition displayed in a conspicuous place for a
15 period of one year; provided that after the year, the
16 awardee's information shall be added to a permanent
17 archival exhibit of awardees, to include those from
18 the Aloha order of merit; provided further that the
19 awardee's information shall be archived within the
20 state archives.



1 (e) Awardees shall be selected by a Hawaii leadership
2 awards selection committee who shall ensure visibility and fair
3 and equitable consideration for all nominees in its evaluation
4 and selection process. The selection committee shall be
5 composed of the following members:

- 6 (1) One individual appointed by the president of the
7 senate;
- 8 (2) One individual appointed by the speaker of the house
9 of representatives;
- 10 (3) One individual appointed by the governor;
- 11 (4) One individual appointed by the lieutenant governor;
12 and
- 13 (5) One individual from the state archives.

14 (f) Nominations for awardees shall be accepted by the
15 Hawaii leadership awards selection committee from the public.

16 (g) The state archives shall coordinate with respective
17 stakeholders to administer and execute the program."

18 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



S.B. NO. 3022
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

APPROVED this 14th day of May , 2026

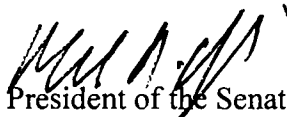
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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 22, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2026.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 14, 2026
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives