

JAN 23 2026

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

---

RELATING TO THE HAWAII SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii Symphony  
2   Orchestra provides a significant public service to the State of  
3   Hawaii and makes significant musical contributions to the  
4   artistic and cultural education of the community through its  
5   performances.

6           The legislature further finds that the Hawaii Symphony  
7   Orchestra was founded in 1900 to establish and operate a  
8   professional symphony orchestra in Hawaii. The symphony hosts  
9   shows and programs featuring musicians and performing artists  
10   from around the world, in addition to promoting local talent  
11   within Hawaii.

12          The legislature recognizes that the State has a certain  
13   responsibility to the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra for the public  
14   services it provides. The legislature notes that designating  
15   the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the "State of Hawaii Symphony  
16   Orchestra" will enable the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra to  
17   regularly obtain state funds to help cover its general operating



1 costs in exchange for other services to the State, to be  
2 mutually negotiated.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate the  
4 Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the "State of Hawaii Symphony  
5 Orchestra".

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
7 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated  
8 and to read as follows:

9 **"§9- Hawaii Symphony Orchestra; designation; funding.**

10 (a) The Hawaii Symphony Orchestra shall be designated the State  
11 of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra.

12 (b) The qualifying standards and conditions related to the  
13 receipt of funds contained in chapter 42F shall not apply to  
14 funds received by the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra;  
15 provided that if the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, in  
16 turn, contracts with a recipient or provider, then the  
17 qualifying standards, conditions, and other provisions of  
18 chapter 42F shall apply to the recipient or provider and the  
19 contract.

20 (c) The designation of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as  
21 the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra shall not impinge on the



1 autonomy of the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, nor imply state  
2 control over its programs or policies, except as specifically  
3 provided in this section.

4 (d) The comptroller and the legislative auditor may  
5 examine the use of any state funds appropriated pursuant to this  
6 section and shall report any findings to the legislature.

7 (e) The president and chief executive officer of the State  
8 of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra shall provide a report to the  
9 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
10 each regular session. At a minimum, the annual report shall  
11 include an explanation of the operations, maintenance, and other  
12 functions accomplished using state fund expenditures in the  
13 previous fiscal year."

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the  
17 general operating costs of the State of Hawaii Symphony  
18 Orchestra, including:

19 (1) Operations and maintenance; and

20 (2) Any advice, consultations, or services provided free  
21 of charge to state agencies, including:



(A) Free admission for public school faculty, staff,  
and students who attend shows through department  
of education programs; and

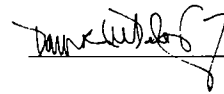
(B) Consultants for purposes of setting standards in  
the symphony's educational programming and public  
activities.

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

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

INTRODUCED BY:





# S.B. NO. 2603

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Symphony Orchestra; State Foundation on Culture and the Arts; State of Hawaii; Designation; Funding; Appropriation

**Description:**

Designates the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra as the State of Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys.

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

