

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:



- 1 (A) Free admission for public school faculty, staff,
2 and students who attend shows through department
3 of education programs; and
- 4 (B) Consultants for purposes of setting standards in
5 the symphony's educational programming and public
6 activities.

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

9 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Dan K. W. Johnson



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.

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