

JAN 23 2026

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# 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.



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

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

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

(2) Serve as an inspiration to others.

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

(1) Arts;

(2) Business and labor;

(3) Entertainment;

(4) Food and drink;

(5) Literature;

(6) Music;

(7) Public service;

(8) Science;

(9) Sports;



# S.B. NO. 3022

1       (10) Community engagement;

2       (11) Profile in courage; and

3       (12) Friend of Hawaii;

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 (12) 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 category per  
11      year.

12      (d) Each awardee shall:

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

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



1       (e) Awardees shall be selected by a Hawaii leadership  
2 awards selection committee. The selection committee shall be  
3 composed of the following members:

4       (1) One individual to be appointed by the president of the  
5 senate;

6       (2) One individual to be appointed by the speaker of the  
7 house of representatives;

8       (3) One individual to be appointed by the governor;

9       (4) One individual to be appointed by the lieutenant  
10 governor; and

11       (5) One individual from the state archives.

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

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

16       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:



# S.B. NO. 3022

**Report Title:**

State Archives; Hawaii Leadership Awards Program

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Leadership Awards Program to honor individuals who have made considerable and outstanding contributions to the State and serve as inspirations to others.

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

