

JAN 23 2026

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) Public service;

20 (8) Science;

21 (9) Sports;



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.

