
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 state foundation
2 on culture and the arts was established to promote, perpetuate,
3 and preserve culture and the arts in Hawaii.

4 The legislature further finds that numerous other
5 jurisdictions have expanded efforts to improve and enhance
6 communities by deepening the integration of culture, arts, and
7 history into communities through innovative infrastructure
8 projects, programming, and engagement, far beyond what has been
9 done in Hawaii.

10 The legislature also finds that communities in Hawaii can
11 similarly benefit by adopting innovative approaches to integrate
12 culture, arts, and history into the planning, redevelopment,
13 infrastructure, and fabric of communities, and that local
14 residents are equally deserving of resulting improved public
15 spaces, neighborhoods, and a better quality of life.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish as an
2 attached office of the state foundation on culture and the arts,
3 the office of community culture and innovation to seek out the
4 best examples of success projects, programs, and ideas from
5 other states and countries; assist state agencies with creative
6 and innovative strategies to improve their projects and
7 programs; and focus on prioritizing and implementing community
8 improvements and innovative programs related to culture, arts,
9 history, and others that build affordable, healthy, and vibrant
10 communities.

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

14 **"PART . OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CULTURE AND INNOVATION**

15 **§9-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

16 "Office" means the office of community culture and
17 innovation established pursuant to section 9-B.

18 "Executive director" means the executive director of the
19 office of community culture and innovation, appointed pursuant
20 to section 9-B(b).



1 **§9-B Office of community culture and innovation;**
2 **established; executive director.** (a) There is established an
3 office of community culture and innovation within the foundation
4 for administrative purposes only.

5 (b) The office shall be headed by an executive director
6 who shall be appointed by the governor without regard to
7 chapter 76. Notwithstanding section 76-16(b)(17), this
8 exemption from chapter 76 shall not expire.

9 (c) The executive director may employ staff for the office
10 without regard to chapters 76 and 89; provided that the staff
11 shall be members of the state employees' retirement system and
12 shall be eligible to receive the benefits of any state employee
13 benefit program generally applicable to officers and employees
14 of the State. Notwithstanding section 76-16(b)(17), the
15 exemption from chapter 76 shall not expire.

16 (d) Department heads may assign additional employees from
17 existing positions within their departments to the office;
18 provided that the employees shall represent their respective
19 department's needs, assist other departments, or otherwise
20 support the needs of the office during the course of their
21 assignment with the office.



1 (e) The office may contract for the provision of programs
2 and services.

3 **§9-C Office of community culture and innovation; functions**
4 **and duties.** The office shall:

5 (1) Execute projects and programs related to community
6 improvement as directed by the governor and
7 legislature;

8 (2) Support and assist other state departments and
9 agencies with creative and innovative improvements to
10 their projects, programs, and endeavors to add value
11 to communities;

12 (3) Develop creative and innovative projects, programs,
13 and endeavors, and pilot new approaches to add value
14 to communities, their culture, and quality of life;
15 and

16 (4) Identify creative and innovative best practices used
17 by other jurisdictions, assess their value to the
18 State, and innovate accordingly.

19 **§9-D Annual report.** The office shall submit an annual
20 report summarizing its activities during the preceding year to



1 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
2 of each regular session. The report shall include:

- 3 (1) Creative and innovative strategies proposed or
4 employed by other jurisdictions that the office has
5 identified that may have potential benefit for
6 communities in the State;
- 7 (2) Funds received and expended for the activities of the
8 office from federal, state, private, and philanthropic
9 sources;
- 10 (3) The office's programs and activities throughout the
11 year;
- 12 (4) Plans and direction the coming year; and
- 13 (5) Any other findings and recommendations, including any
14 proposed legislation.

15 **§9-E Community and cultural partnership program;**

16 **established.** (a) The office shall establish a community and
17 cultural partnership program focused on improving communities.
18 The program shall serve as a community resource to enhance
19 historical culture, stimulate social and economic activity,
20 create positive change in the community, and serve as a template
21 for improvements in other communities, as may be appropriate.



1 (b) The office may contract with one or more entities to
2 administer the community and cultural partnership program and
3 complete the actions required by subsection (c).

4 (c) The program shall endeavor to:

5 (1) Identify and organize community stakeholders and other
6 community-based organizations that may contribute to
7 the community and cultural partnership program;

8 (2) Engage the community to develop improvements that
9 exhibit the area's history from its origins to the
10 present day;

11 (3) Assess the physical, social, and economic conditions
12 of properties and infrastructure in the area;

13 (4) Coordinate with stakeholders to provide for
14 preservation, adaptive reuse, and mixed-use diversity,
15 and assist with design and permitting information to
16 help property owners, business owners, and developers
17 who are considering property improvements, to best
18 reflect the cultural narrative and historical context
19 of the area;



- 1 (5) Organize culture and arts and improvement projects to
2 improve and expand public spaces, and enhance streets,
3 infrastructure, facades, and vacant storefronts;
- 4 (6) Organize community culture and arts events, including
5 the closures of streets for events and multi-use
6 purposes that can enhance community life by providing
7 safe and inclusive opportunities for recreation,
8 active transportation, and cultural engagement;
- 9 (7) Help facilitate the establishment of a business
10 improvement district, or similar organization, and
11 related community services;
- 12 (8) Seek additional funding to improve the community and
13 help enhance the area into a living cultural tourism
14 zone;
- 15 (9) Draft a strategic economic and physical revitalization
16 design implementation plan for the Chinatown area with
17 proposed projects;
- 18 (10) Work with appropriate agencies and stakeholders to
19 better design and integrate active, safe, and
20 protected multi-modal pedestrian, bicycle, and public



1 transit through the area, including to any nearby
 2 transit hubs or rail stations; and
 3 (11) Identify and develop other innovative projects,
 4 programming, or improvements to enhance the
 5 community."

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
 9 the establishment of the office of community culture and
 10 innovation, including for the following purposes:

- 11 (1) The establishment of one full-time equivalent
 12 (1.0 FTE) executive director position, exempt from
 13 chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 14 (2) The establishment of one full-time equivalent
 15 (1.0 FTE) specialist position; and
- 16 (3) Other expenses for the purposes of this Act.

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

19 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the works of art
 20 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be



1 necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the preservation and
2 relocation of works of art from Aloha stadium.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state
4 foundation on culture and the arts for the purposes of this
5 section.

6 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by
7 section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
8 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
9 the new sections in this Act.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Foundation on Culture and the Arts; Office of Community Culture and Innovation; Establishment; Positions; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Office of Community Culture and Innovation within the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for administrative purposes only. Requires annual reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds for the establishment of 1 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Executive Director position and 1 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Specialist position within the Office of Community Culture and Innovation. Establishes the Community and Cultural Partnerships Program. Appropriates moneys for the preservation and relocation of works of art from Aloha Stadium. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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