
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the royal mausoleum,
2 also known as Mauna ‘Ala in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, is the sacred resting
3 place of the ali‘i of the Kamehameha and Kalākaua dynasties,
4 among other high chiefs of Hawai‘i. This wahi pana holds deep
5 cultural, historical, and spiritual significance for Native
6 Hawaiians and the people of Hawai‘i. Mauna ‘Ala embodies the
7 mana of the ali‘i and the cultural practice of mālama iwi kūpuna,
8 expressing the enduring respect for the ancestors who shaped
9 Hawai‘i's history and identity.

10 Since its transfer to the department of land and natural
11 resources in 1967, Mauna ‘Ala has been maintained by the State.
12 However, the legislature finds that Native Hawaiian
13 organizations, the ali‘i trusts, and cultural descendants have
14 raised concerns about ensuring that all management decisions
15 uphold traditional protocols, respect genealogical ties, and
16 preserve the sanctity of the site.



1 The legislature believes that a permanent body dedicated
2 exclusively to the protection and management of Mauna 'Ala will
3 provide the necessary cultural guidance, policy continuity, and
4 community oversight to safeguard the site for future
5 generations.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
7 royal mausoleum commission under the department of land and
8 natural resources to ensure the respectful stewardship,
9 preservation, and appropriate management of the royal mausoleum,
10 or Mauna 'Ala, in accordance with Hawaiian cultural traditions
11 and values.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
13 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
14 read as follows:

15 "§6E- Royal mausoleum commission. (a) There is
16 established a permanent commission to be known as the royal
17 mausoleum commission, placed within the department for
18 administrative purposes. The commission shall exercise
19 policy-making authority independent of the department, except
20 for budgetary, fiscal, and personnel administration purposes,
21 regarding the royal mausoleum, also known as Mauna 'Ala.



1 (b) The commission shall include the chairperson of the
2 board of land and natural resources, or the chairperson's
3 designee, who shall be an ex officio, nonvoting member and who
4 shall not serve as chairperson of the commission.

5 (c) The governor shall appoint the following individuals
6 to serve as the voluntary members of the commission and shall
7 select one person among them to serve as chairperson of the
8 commission:

9 (1) One representative of the group of ali'i trusts known
10 as Mālama Mauna 'Ala Hui;

11 (2) One representative of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I;

12 (3) One representative of 'Ahahui Ka'ahumanu;

13 (4) One representative of the Daughters and Sons of
14 Hawaiian Warriors Māmakakaua;

15 (5) One representative of Hale O Nā Ali'i O Hawai'i;

16 (6) One member who is a lineal descendant of persons
17 interred at Mauna 'Ala connected to the Kamehameha
18 dynasty;

19 (7) One member who is a lineal descendant of persons
20 interred at Mauna 'Ala connected to the Kalākaua
21 dynasty; and



1 (8) One member who is a lineal descendant of High Chief
2 Ho'olulu and a member of the Ho'olulu Kahu family.

3 Members of the commission shall serve four-year terms and
4 may be reappointed thereafter to the commission. Initial
5 appointments shall be staggered, with half of the members
6 serving two-year terms to ensure continuity. Members shall
7 serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for their
8 actual and necessary expenses, including travel expenses,
9 incurred in the performance of their duties, subject to
10 legislative appropriation.

11 (d) The commission shall:

12 (1) Develop and implement a comprehensive management plan
13 for the protection, maintenance, and interpretation of
14 Mauna 'Ala, including all crypts, vaults, chapel,
15 structures, and the surrounding grounds;

16 (2) In consultation with Native Hawaiian organizations,
17 the ali'i trusts, lineal descendants, and kahu
18 families, establish protocols governing:

19 (A) Access by visitors, researchers, and
20 practitioners;

21 (B) Ceremonial and ritual practices;



- 1 (C) Curation and interment of remains; and
- 2 (D) Selection of the official kahu or curator of
- 3 Mauna 'Ala to ensure continuity of traditional
- 4 practice;
- 5 (3) Advise and collaborate with the department and other
- 6 agencies regarding conservation, security,
- 7 infrastructure, and visitor management;
- 8 (4) Accept, receive, and expend gifts, grants, and
- 9 appropriations for purposes consistent with this
- 10 section;
- 11 (5) Engage the public, Native Hawaiian organizations, and
- 12 the ali'i trusts in education, outreach, and
- 13 consultation regarding Mauna 'Ala; and
- 14 (6) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
- 15 including any proposed legislation, a summary of the
- 16 condition of the site and the activities of the
- 17 commission, and financial statements, to the
- 18 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
- 19 convening of each regular session.
- 20 (e) The legislature may appropriate funds to support the
- 21 operations of the commission, including maintenance and cultural



1 programming. The commission may also receive private or federal
2 funds to further its objectives.

3 (f) The commission may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
4 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, including
5 rules relating to access, ceremonies, maintenance, and the
6 respectful treatment of human remains and artifacts.

7 (g) The kahu of Mauna 'Ala shall be recognized as the
8 individual responsible for the cultural, traditional, and
9 spiritual care of the iwi kūpuna interred at Mauna 'Ala.

10 (h) If any provision of this section, or the application
11 thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the
12 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of
13 the section that can be given effect without the invalid
14 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
15 section are severable.

16 (i) For the purposes of this section, "commission" means
17 the royal mausoleum commission established under this section."

18 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DLNR; Mauna 'Ala; Royal Mausoleum Commission; Reports

Description:

Establishes a Royal Mausoleum Commission within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement policy for the preservation, operation, and outreach of Mauna 'Ala. Requires the Royal Mausoleum Commission to report annually to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD3)

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

