

ACT 398

S.B. NO. 2584

A Bill for an Act Relating to Bishop Museum.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum has been the primary repository of Hawaiian and Pacific region artifacts in the State and the Territory since 1921, and for ninety-seven years has made its reputation as a world-renowned scientific and cultural institution.

The legislature also finds that Bishop Museum continues to serve all of the people of Hawaii, from school children to adults, and from tourists and other visitors to our islands to scholars throughout the world, who all benefit from the outstanding collections, research, exhibits, and educational programs.

The legislature also recognizes that the Bishop Museum, throughout its many years of service, has established critical areas of expertise and reference of lasting value to Hawaii and its people through:

- (1) Its gathering, preserving, storing, and sharing of the tangible evidence of Hawaii's natural and cultural history;
- (2) Its staff who annually contribute hundreds of hours of expertise and support to over fifty state government agencies, departments, and affiliated organizations; and without whom many basic questions concerning Hawaii's people, plants, and animals could not be answered with efficiency and confidence;

- (3) Its library which serves as one of the three main Pacific libraries in the world, with more than 90,000 items, half of which are considered rare; a photographic collection of more than half-a-million images; and the only geographic center in the world devoted exclusively to the Pacific;
- (4) Its press which is the oldest continuing publisher of scholarly books west of the Mississippi having published over 1,200 titles, including classics such as Hawai'i: A Pictorial History and Mary Kawena Pukui's Hawaiian Proverbs and Poetic Sayings.

The legislature also recognizes that the Bishop Museum has served "de facto" for nearly a century as Hawaii's state museum without benefit of regular, predictable support from state sources to assist in the preservation of its irreplaceable collections, to staff research programs, and to plan and present its exhibits and educational programs.

SECTION 2. It is, therefore, the desire of the legislature that the Bishop Museum is officially designated as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. This status shall be implemented through an annual appropriation from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii.

SECTION 3. The designation shall not impinge on the autonomy of the Museum, nor imply state control over its programs or policies, except as specifically provided in this section. The comptroller and the legislative auditor shall have the authority to examine the use of state funds and shall report any findings to the legislature. The director of the Museum shall provide an annual report not later than twenty days before the legislature convenes each regular session. At a minimum, the annual report shall include an explanation of the facility maintenance and other functions accomplished by state fund expenditures in the previous fiscal year.

SECTION 4. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§6E- Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. The official designation of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum shall be the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History. The qualifying standards and conditions related to the receipt of funds contained in chapter 42 shall not apply to funds received by the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History; provided that if the museum in turn contracts with a recipient or provider, then the qualifying standards, conditions, and other provisions of chapter 42 shall apply to the recipient or provider and the contract."

SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1988.

(Approved June 17, 1988.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.