
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that federal and state
2 agencies face constant needs for professionals trained in
3 cultural resource management in the disciplines of archaeology
4 and anthropology. Trained professionals in these fields are
5 necessary to ensure rigorous, timely, and professionally
6 reviewed compliance submissions for federal and state
7 legislation, such as the National Native American Graves
8 Protection Act of 1990 and chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
9 establishing burial councils, as well as all aspects of the
10 state historic preservation division of the department of land
11 and natural resources and related federal and state laws and
12 agencies.

13 In Hawaii, the potential and demonstrated adverse effects
14 to cultural resources are evident in many current project
15 initiatives that could have a potentially adverse impact on
16 cultural and environmental resources, economic stability, and
17 community well-being. These initiatives, if not handled with
18 the support of trained professionals and consultation with



1 appropriate community cultural leaders, have the potential to
2 cause heightened levels of concern, mistrust, expensive and
3 time-consuming litigation, and an overall sense of loss.
4 Examples of these are not intended to point blame at any
5 particular project, but are well known in the lexicon of
6 planning, economic development, natural resource conservation,
7 and most important, the cultural integrity essential to
8 sustainable systems for Hawaii's people, cultural and natural
9 resources and traditions, its unique lifestyle, and its future
10 visions.

11 In the past, the Bishop Museum served as a regional
12 resource for historical curation, cultural anthropology,
13 archaeological research, and cultural education throughout the
14 Pacific region. Eminent scholars such as Kenneth Emory, Yoshito
15 Sinoto, William Bonk, and their trained successors provided
16 Hawaii and the Pacific region with unparalleled resources for
17 historical conservation, preservation, and scholarly research in
18 concert with native practitioners and cultural experts from all
19 communities.

20 In spite of the evidence in newspapers, community
21 gatherings, court proceedings, and daily dialogue at many levels
22 of federal, state, and county government, the State of Hawaii



1 has limited opportunity to train cultural resource management
2 professionals at the graduate level to work with community
3 leaders to assist federal, state, county, or private entities in
4 cooperating with the local community in the cultural resource
5 management process so vital to preserving cultural integrity.
6 Establishing localized training in cultural resource management
7 is essential to training a cadre of effective and qualified
8 professionals who would form meaningful partnerships with
9 educational institutions and indigenous cultures in the
10 preservation of the nation's cultural heritage, as called for in
11 the presidential Executive Order 13287 of March 3, 2003. Hawaii
12 has an extraordinary track-record in such preservation, and it
13 is essential to restore leadership to Hawaii's academic,
14 cultural, and conservation resources.

15 The lack of trained professionals is demonstrated in the
16 critical understaffing of the state historic preservation office
17 of the department of land and natural resources, as well as
18 critical backlogs of more than two hundred fifty reports and
19 reviews required to advance state and federal capital
20 improvement projects at many levels. There are also critical
21 shortages of trained staff for the twenty-four permitted
22 cultural resource management firms working in the State, which



1 require that principal investigators possess a graduate degree
2 from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology
3 (specialization) or an equivalent field. Other planning,
4 architectural, engineering, and communications firms report a
5 critical need for trained and knowledgeable professionals to
6 assist in this important work. There are further shortages in
7 United States-affiliated Pacific islands, the territories of
8 Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern
9 Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States. The
10 Polynesian nations that share Hawaii's cultural heritage also
11 are woefully short of qualified cultural resource management
12 programs; fully one-third of the world's cultural heritage is
13 impacted by a shortage of personnel and a dearth of knowledge
14 spanning three thousand years of cultural awareness.

15 While there has been a significant increase in recent years
16 in expanding environmental, social, and cultural resource
17 programs, there is no better place to grow Hawaii's own talent
18 than the University of Hawaii at Hilo's "living laboratories" in
19 anthropology, geology, archaeology, astronomy, natural and
20 environmental science, biology, and the first national doctoral
21 program in a native language through Ka Haka Ula o Ke'elikolani,
22 the college of Hawaiian language, which has unanimously endorsed



1 expansion of the cultural resource management program at the
2 University of Hawaii at Hilo, through establishment of a masters
3 program through the anthropology department, in close
4 association with the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Although
5 the program has elicited enormous interest from community,
6 faculty, student, and government leaders, it is essential to
7 obtain a complete analysis of costs and resources required to
8 proceed with this important endeavor.

9 Also critical to establishment of a masters program in
10 cultural resource management is development of an appropriate
11 partnership with federal, state, county, and private resources
12 to establish a professional curatorial facility on the island of
13 Hawaii that will enable scholarly and student access to further
14 research, instruction, practicum, and exhibition of the
15 University of Hawaii at Hilo's exceptional archives covering
16 federally mandated collections requirements now housed in
17 inadequate storage areas. In addition, there are numerous
18 private collections that require appropriate conservation and
19 preservation and a pressing development of new and existing
20 facilities to aid this important work. There are numerous
21 locations and partnerships that can be developed to support the
22 concept of the "living laboratory", such as that as practiced by



1 the Army Environmental Center at Pohakuloa, which is staffed by
2 more than thirty-five professional experts in archaeology,
3 anthropology, biology, out planting, endangered species
4 management, conservation, ungulate and invasive species
5 management practices, and other real-world conservation skills
6 practiced on adjacent lands managed by the department of land
7 and natural resources at Mauna Kea State Park, and office of
8 Hawaiian affairs at the historic Humuula sheep station and
9 historic paniolo Keanakolu Trail and Mana Road. The practices
10 of the past have a place in the future, and the opportunities to
11 create new and innovative educational disciplines and high
12 skill-high knowledge - high pay jobs will never be more
13 important than they are now.

14 The purpose of this Act is to establish a master of arts
15 program in cultural resource management at the University of
16 Hawaii, Hilo in concert with related courses or programs at the
17 University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hawaii community colleges.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the
21 establishment of a graduate level master of arts program in
22 cultural resource management at the University of Hawaii at Hilo



1 and related courses at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and
2 Hawaii community college.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
4 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

University of Hawaii, Hilo; Cultural Resource Management;
Graduate Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates funds for a culture resource
management graduate level program at the University of Hawaii in
Hilo. (SD1)

