

SB 231

Measure Title: RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE.

Report Title: Native Hawaiian Culture Resources Inventory Database; Hawaii Tourism Authority; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Requires the Hawaii tourism authority to contract with a section 501(c)(3) private nonprofit, engaged in promoting Hawaiian culture, to develop and maintain a comprehensive Hawaiian cultural resources inventory database; appropriates funds; requires dollar-for-dollar match by the office of Hawaiian affairs.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: THA, WAM

Introducer(s): GALUTERIA, Kahele, Keith-Agaran, Kidani

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/18/2013	S	Introduced.
1/18/2013	S	Passed First Reading.
1/22/2013	S	Referred to THA, WAM.
1/28/2013	S	The committee(s) on THA has scheduled a public hearing on 02-06-13 2:45PM in conference room 224.



SB231
RELATING TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE

Senate Committee on Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs

February 6, 2013

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

The administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the OHA Board of Trustees **COMMENT** on SB231, which proposes to require the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to contract a private nonprofit to develop and maintain a comprehensive Hawaiian cultural resources inventory database.

OHA understands the value of having a central database of cultural resources to help promote the unique Native Hawaiian heritage of Hawai'i to potential visitors from around the world. Further, we acknowledge that this database would not only help visitors to experience more authentic Hawaiian cultural activities, but it would also help Native Hawaiian businesses to expand their client bases to include more visitors.

However, we have strong reservations about the bill's proposed funding mechanism for the database. SB231 would bar an unspecified general fund appropriation from being expended unless matched dollar-for-dollar by OHA. Please note that the OHA trustees are vested with exclusive authority to direct the expenditure of OHA's trust fund resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.