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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP MUSEUM.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Bernice Pauahi  
2 Bishop Museum, officially designated as the State of Hawaii  
3 Museum of Natural and Cultural History, is a distinguished  
4 scientific, cultural, and educational institution for the State  
5 of Hawaii, whose mission is to perpetuate Hawaii's natural and  
6 cultural heritage. No other agency is tasked with the  
7 responsibility of preserving and protecting Hawaii's invaluable  
8 collections of primary source materials and more than one  
9 hundred years of research across the Pacific region. The  
10 legislature recognizes that the research and primary source  
11 material stewarded at the museum is a global resource that is  
12 unique, essential, and necessary to address the challenges we  
13 face today, including massive biodiversity loss, ecosystem  
14 collapse, and cultural resilience in the face of climate change.  
15 The latter challenge is especially apparent, as sea level rise  
16 is currently impacting Hawaii's coastal infrastructure and  
17 resources.



1           The legislature further finds that to fulfil its mandate,  
2 Bishop Museum is in need of additional funds. Its operating  
3 budget is currently approximately \$16,000,000. Forty-four per  
4 cent of the budget supports the museum's core functions, while  
5 fifty-six per cent supports education, public programs,  
6 communications, community relations, groundskeeping, general  
7 management, and other programs. Moneys for the museum's  
8 operating budget are raised annually through federal, state, and  
9 local grants; contracted services; admissions and earned income;  
10 memberships; contributions; and endowments.

11           The legislature recognizes that Bishop Museum's core  
12 operations is the basis for significant grants and is used to  
13 leverage unrestricted funding. Every unrestricted dollar the  
14 museum receives is used to bring in additional restricted  
15 funding, including funding from federal agencies. However, the  
16 legislature also recognizes that federal grants may be  
17 competitive and restrictive.

18           The legislature finds that increasing the State's subsidy  
19 to the museum, which currently accounts for approximately four  
20 per cent of the museum's budget, would help to reliably support  
21 the museum's core operations, including core staffing, mandatory



1 cooling and environmental security for core collections, and  
2 core internet technology operations.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
4 funds to support the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
8 supporting the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, officially  
9 designated as the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural  
10 History; provided that any funds appropriated pursuant to this  
11 section shall be in addition to and shall not supplant any  
12 portion of the base budget of the department of accounting and  
13 general services for the museum; provided further that the  
14 amount appropriated pursuant to this section shall be included  
15 in the base budget for the department of accounting and general  
16 services for the museum in future fiscal bienniums.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18 accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



**Report Title:**

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys to support the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.  
(SD1)

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

