



February 10, 2021

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair  
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair  
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

Conference Room 329  
Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 1164**, Relating to the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

Chair Gates, Vice Chair LoPresti, and Committee Members:

My name is Melanie Ide and I am the President and CEO of the Bishop Museum, Hawai'i's State Museum of Natural and Cultural History and the official repository of the Hawai'i Biological Survey, which documents every plant and animal in the State.

The Museum stewards more than 25 million catalogued objects, and actively generates and shares knowledge associated with its collections. Its work supports over 50 state and federal government agencies, departments, and affiliated organizations; and without whom many basic questions concerning Hawai'i's people, plants, and animals could not be answered with efficiency and confidence. The collections include over 1.2 million cultural artifacts, representing Native Hawaiian, Pacific Island, and Hawai'i immigrant life; more than 125,000 historical publications, including many in the Hawaiian language; 1 million historical photographs, films, works of art, and publications; and over 22 million plant and animal specimens.

Museum researchers have discovered over 17,000 species of plants, animals, and insects throughout the Pacific region, and have made countless discoveries related to the migration, settlement, and daily life of Pacific peoples. The Museum's educational programs provide science and cultural education opportunities to thousands of Hawai'i's schoolchildren each year, and it is estimated that the Museum has hosted more than 10 million visitors over its history.

Passage of this bill enables our committed staff to protect Hawai'i's irreplaceable collections and primary source knowledge, which is a global resource essential for the perpetuation of our natural and cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

Melanie Y. Ide  
President & CEO