



February 12, 2021

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means
Conference Room 211
Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 315**, Relating to the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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

SB-315

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:04:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaiwi	Testifying for Bishop Museum	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for your continued support and aloha for our Museum. We have been here since 1889, studying the Pacific and collecting over 25 million objects. All of it belongs to the people of Hawaii. Preserving and protecting our cherished cultural and natural science collections will enable increased online access for education and research and better inform worldwide efforts surrounding climate change and sea level rise. We remain poised and ready to create quality jobs at all levels and humbly ask for any support towards building the capacity to do so. We are a safe place where Hawaii's core knowledge exists. Investing in our Museum is investing in our legacy and our future.

me ke aloha,

Kaiwi Yoon

VP of Operations, Planning and Program Management

Bishop Museum