



February 22, 2023

Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Conference Room 308
Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 474, HD 1**, Relating to the State of Hawai'i
Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee members:

My name is Dee Jay Mailer and I am the interim President and CEO of the Bishop Museum, Hawai'i's State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. I strongly support HB 474, HD 1, which allocates federal funds should they become available to support the Bishop Museum.

The Bishop Museum serves a pivotal and integral role in education, research, preservation and advancement of culture and science, not only for Hawai'i, but for the world. The Museum's collections encompass more than 25 million catalogued objects, placing Bishop Museum among the top five natural history museums in the United States and the top 10 anywhere. 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 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 continue sharing Hawai'i's unique knowledge base and stories with the world. We welcome you back to the Museum to see, touch, feel, and learn all that the Museum is now and all that it can be with the support of the legislature.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

Dee Jay Mailer
Interim President & CEO

HB-474-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:21:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2023 2:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Minister, Hector Hoyos (aka) SisterFace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this loudly. What is a culture without the arts?