

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 3:47:12 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Botticelli	Bishop Museum	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts,

Mahalo for the opportunity to **comment** on SB3281 SD2. I am concerned by the section of the bill that changes the Bishop Museum's state designation from the "State of Hawai'i Museum for Natural and Cultural History" to the "State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Indigenous History."

The Bishop Museum has held its state designation since 1988, and for good reason. The Museum is a treasure trove of scientific discoveries and cultural collections from Hawa'i and the Pacific. Removing the word "cultural" and replacing it with "indigenous" creates a designation that does not reflect the broad purpose and value of the Museum for people here in Hawai'i and all over the world.

In addition, the Museum's work to preserve and enhance cultural knowledge goes beyond its own collections to include partnerships that support the uplift the work of smaller nonprofit organizations. There is no reason to change a 36-year-old designation that perfectly fits the vast value that Bishop Museum provides to our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Ann Botticelli

Chairwoman, Bishop Museum

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 6:34:18 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DeSoto Brown	Bernice P. Bishop Museum	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am DeSoto Brown, the Bishop Museum Historian and Curator for the Archives. I have spent over 40 years as both a volunteer and full-time employee of Bishop Museum.

Since its inception in 1889, Bishop Museum has collected literally millions of specimens representing both natural and cultural history. In the latter category, the Museum has never confined its collecting or research activities to only the "indigenous" category, which I am using in this context to refer to Hawaiian culture exclusively. We have innumerable pieces from other Pacific cultures as well as a great many other areas of the world, particularly those from which many of our ancestors came from to settle here in the Hawaiian Islands. These form an irreplaceable segment of our collections and we will continue to preserve, study, and exhibit them, regardless of them being indigenous or not. Furthermore, we will also continue to collect such items, if they are relevant, as they become available to us.

To highlight such non-indigenous artifacts, I will point out that from the 1970s to the 1990s, a organization affiliated with Bishop Museum, the Hawaii Immigrant Heritage Preservation Center (HIHPC), sought from the local public materials which came from Japan, China, Korea, the Philippines, Portugal and other European countries which had been brought to Hawaii by immigrants, or which were associated with them. These artifacts subsequently became part of Bishop Museum when HIHPC and its collections were absorbed. The donors of these pieces entrusted them to the Museum with the understanding that they would be cared for and valued indefinitely into the future. This trust must be carried on, and Bishop Museum's current title of being the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History does so.

The change of the Museum's title under discussion here has not been instigated by us, nor requested by us, and it never would be because it is not representative of what we have done for over 125 years, and will continue to do. Confining Bishop Museum's activities to being strictly and exclusively indigenous, as this new title implies, is neither workable nor wanted. The Museum must continue to use its existing title, created several decades ago after much thought and discussion. We cannot accept an arbitrary switch in this important part of our identity which is being imposed without our input and against our desires.

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 7:35:04 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
elizabeth rice grossman	Bishop Museum	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tam and Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts, and International Affairs:

I am opposed to SB3281- SD2 Lines 15,16,17 that proposes a change of name from the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History to the State Museum of Natural and Indigenous History. The proposed name absolutely does not reflect what the Bishop Museum has done for over 100 years, and continues to do. In fact I believe the proposed name change is disrespectful to the work of the Museum. The proposed name change is not an accurate description of the Museum's kuleana. I respectfully urge you to reject the name change. Please leave the designation as it currently exists and has since 1988: The State Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Rice Grossman

Member, Board of Directors, Bishop Museum

Kathy Suter, Chairperson  
Bishop Museum Association Council  
81-1038 Keopuka Heights Rd.  
Kealakekua, HI 96750  
March 8, 2024

Chair Adrian Tam  
Chair Kyle Yamashita  
Members of the House Committee on Culture & The Arts  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Senate Bill 3281, Relating to Culture & The Arts

Aloha!

We are writing to **COMMENT** on Senate Bill 3281. The Bishop Museum Association Council (BMAC), a volunteer organization providing support to the museum, would like to present an argument against the change of the Bishop Museum's designation from the "State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History" to the "Museum of Natural and Indigenous History".

### **Introduction**

As you know, the Bishop Museum, stands as a venerable institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and showcasing the rich tapestry of Hawaii's natural wonders, cultural heritage, and the broader Pacific. The proposed change to "Museum of Natural and Indigenous History" will narrow the museum's perceived scope and its foundational mission.

### **Argument for Broad Cultural History**

We acknowledge the significant role that indigenous knowledge, history, and culture play in the museum's collections and exhibitions. However, the term "Cultural History" encompasses a wider array of stories, including those of various ethnic groups that have contributed to Hawaii's unique multicultural landscape over time. Hawaii's history is marked by waves of migration, each adding new layers to its cultural fabric. The current designation reflects the museum's dedication to exploring these diverse cultural narratives through its world class collection. While the collection represents indigenous cultures, it also represents many cultures who do not identify as indigenous. Changing the designation might unintentionally signal a narrowed focus, potentially diminishing the museum's role in celebrating the full spectrum of Hawaii and the Pacific's cultural history.

### **Inclusivity and Educational Mission**

The museum serves as an educational resource for all residents of Hawaii and around the world. Its designation should reflect its inclusivity, offering a broad welcome to explore the interconnectedness of natural environments, indigenous knowledge, and cultural histories. The "State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History" aptly communicates the museum's role as a comprehensive repository and educator on these fronts.

## **Conclusion**

The current designation, "State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History," more accurately reflects the museum's comprehensive collection and mission to educate and inspire through the exploration of natural wonders, cultural diversity, and the rich tapestry of human history in Hawaii and the Pacific. Maintaining this designation ensures the museum remains a beacon of inclusivity, education, and preservation, honoring all facets of Hawaii's heritage.

We ask the committee to keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Bishop Museum's broad purpose is captured in the Museum's mission statement: "Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Please ensure that the Museum's designation does not omit the word "cultural."

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 6:26:12 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anton Krucky	Bishop Museum	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Bishop Museum has been the “State of Hawai’i Museum of Natural and Cultural History” since 1988. Act 398 describes the Museum as the “primary repository of Hawaiian and Pacific region artifacts,” and notes the Museum’s many years of service in “gathering, preserving, storying and sharing the tangible evidence of Hawai’i’s natural and cultural history.” Narrowing the state designation disrespects the Museum’s decades of devotion to preserving and amplifying broad knowledge of Hawaiian and Pacific culture for local and worldwide audiences.

Bishop Museum works supportively with small cultural organization. The Museum has worked collaboratively with He Aupuni Palapala to digitize Hawaiian language newspapers. The Museum has supported the work of Nā Hawai’i ‘Imi Loa (a group of Native Hawaiian Librarians), the Museum is are currently in partnership with Ka Papa Lo‘i o Kānewai and Ka Papa Lo‘i of Punalu‘u. Through a grant with the Strong Foundation, we host the Science and Sustainability Festival, which showcases the work of many community partners and smaller organizations.

For these reason I do not support this legislation.

Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement  
91-1270 Kinoiki St., Bldg. 1  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**Hawai'i State House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs**  
SB 3281 – Relating to Culture and the Arts

RE: Comments on SB 3281

March 13, 2024

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) offers the following comments on SB 3281, which would change the state designation of Bishop Museum from the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History to the Museum of Natural and Indigenous History. While we appreciate the significance of honoring the history of Native Hawaiians and other Indigenous Pacific communities, there is no reason for it to supplant the totality of Hawai'i's cultural history.

Bishop Museum is one of the greatest points of pride in Hawai'i. The museum is renowned worldwide for its focus on preserving and sharing a comprehensive history of Hawai'i and the Pacific, fulfilling its mission to “inspire our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific.” It is one of the most prominent centers of research in Pacific and Hawaiian archeology, ethnology, and cultural heritage. The museum also plays a significant present and future role in educating learners of all ages and backgrounds to interweave traditional knowledge with modern techniques to preserve and protect our pae 'āina. Bishop Museum has a tremendous kuleana, but it more than meets its responsibility every step of the way.

The current designation of Bishop Museum as a place of natural and cultural history is an accurate reflection of the museum's mission and purpose. As it stands, the museum already features and honors the Indigenous history of Hawai'i and the Pacific prominently; there is no reason to change its designation. Indigenous history is an integral piece of Hawai'i's history, but it is not the only piece. It is critical to feature the substantial contributions represented in the rich cultural tapestry of Hawai'i. As a state history museum, it ought to portray the full composition of the state's history. We ask that this committee keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

**Madelyn McKeague**  
Policy Manager, CNHA

**About the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement**

CNHA is a member-based 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians. For more information, visit [www.hawaiiancouncil.org/](http://www.hawaiiancouncil.org/).

Chairman Adrian Tam

House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs

Testimony on Senate Bill 3281

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill, and in particular in strong support of the changes made by the culture and arts committee clarifying the official state designation of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum as the official State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Indigenous History.

Hawaii is a small place and everyone knows everyone, especially in our small museum industry. We are writing today on behalf of our experience with the six organizations we have collectively worked for over the last forty years, and while we must do so anonymously, please understand we do so only to make sure we protect our organizations and colleagues who are all working so hard to promote our unique history and culture here in Hawaii. We would hate for them to be singled out because we spoke up and made waves.

The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum is a wonderful institution, and our organizations work with them from time to time. We know many colleagues who have worked there over the years, members of the board, and leaders who have come and gone. However, Bishop is the 800 pound gorilla in Hawaii among history museums and institutions. They are able to command and control funding that is available to countless other small museums, institutions, non-profits. They choose who they will collaborate with, who gets opportunities for partnerships with third parties like prominent companies and government projects. Because we often compete for the same streams of grants, they sometimes -and often do- make or break smaller organizations. So you can understand why we wish to be cautious as we raise these issues.

There are dozens, even hundreds, of smaller museums, non-profits and institutions dedicated to events and perspectives on moments or themes in Hawaii's culture and history. You are probably familiar with some of these institutions on each of your own islands. Unfortunately, most don't get direct support or funding from the state and must compete for grants and funding.

Often third parties such as schools, private companies, or community organizations present ideas or opportunities to Bishop. Bishop frequently turns many of these down because it doesn't fit their mission or may be controversial and so those ideas end up presented to another smaller local organization. But when that smaller institution begins moving on it and starts working on grants and sponsorships, Bishop can sometimes throw their weight around to ultimately collect the funding or sponsor for themselves. It can be incredibly frustrating for smaller organizations and museums who must invest the time, energy, and most of all staffing into projects that depend on grants and contributions that Bishop Museum always has the edge to receive.

Everyone applauded when Bishop won their official state designation decades ago. The state designation has done two things for Bishop. It allows them to receive direct state funding, and



because it is broad and encompasses all of “culture” in Hawaii, it is often used as a catch-all official designation to intervene and get the edge to collect funding for projects that smaller local museums or institutions are sometimes better positioned with a dedicated mission to execute and present.

Despite this, it was fantastic that Bishop was able to leverage their state designation to receive the millions of dollars from the state it has been getting recently. It's great that more support is available for history and culture in Hawaii. I think we can speak for many others when we say that having that funding available is a good thing. However, we are writing today to support the changes to this bill made in the culture and arts committee that clarify the state designation of Bishop Museum, which will give many other smaller museums and institutions who don't receive state funding a better chance to compete for grants and opportunities.

We strongly support the clarification in the state designation making Bishop Museum the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Indigenous History. This clarification reflects and reinforces Bishop's core mission, and will allow Bishop to continue receiving the millions of dollars in state funding that it is now receiving. It will not limit Bishop's activities or broad focus on whatever it chooses to pursue, as it is the museum's own mission which dictates what it does and chooses to focus on, not a state designation.

However, this clearer state designation will importantly make it easier for Hawaii's smaller museums and institutions to compete for grants and other private funding in each of the niche areas they may specialize and focus on because there isn't one large institution that can leverage a broad state designation as the museum of all “culture” to dominate every single grant or other opportunity. If Bishop or any museum wishes to compete for funding for any project or purpose, it should do so on a level playing field with all of Hawaii's other institutions that have an equally legitimate mission and benefit for our local community. It is unfair to all of Hawaii's other local institutions to both provide Bishop with millions of dollars in support that others do not get, and then also grant it the broadest of state designations that gives it the edge to outcompete everyone else for private grants, partnerships, and non-state funding opportunities in every possible category.

We are happy to see Bishop Museum receive the state funding it is now getting and we wish it the best success. We just hope others will be given a fair opportunity to compete in their own areas of specialty for the other limited funds and resources out there.

Mahalo for your time and attention, from our other local organizations.

J.A.

B.T.

K. K.

R. T.

House Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs  
March 13, 2024  
TESTIMONY RE: SB3281, SD2 RELATING TO CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Good morning Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the committee,

My name is Dee Jay Mailer and I am the President and CEO of Bishop Museum.

I am writing to COMMENT on Senate Bill 3281 which would change the state designation of Bishop Museum to the museum of “natural and indigenous history,” instead of the State Museum of Natural and Cultural history. We object to the removal of the word “cultural” from the state’s designation of Bishop Museum and request that you restore its original designation.

Bishop Museum’s original designation is an accurate reflection of our mission and purpose and one that many in Hawai’i, the Pacific and the world rely upon. To exclude “culture” from the official designation disregards the substantial contributions in knowledge of the museum and its stewardship of our stories that represent the rich diversity of the people and history that are Hawai’i and the Pacific.

The museum’s focus on preserving and sharing the comprehensive history and cultural heritage of Hawai’i and the Pacific is known worldwide. It has a significant historic role as one of the most prominent centers of research in the field of Pacific and Hawaiian archeology and ethnology and a significant current and future role in educating learners of all ages and backgrounds to use ancient wisdom with new explorations to preserve and protect our fragile archipelago.

We ask the committee to keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai’i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Bishop Museum’s broad purpose is captured in the Museum’s mission statement: “Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai’i and the Pacific. Please ensure that the Museum’s designation does not omit the word “cultural.”

We would be remiss if we did not offer our very deep gratitude to the legislature for ongoing operational funding support, as well as the proposed additional CIP support to begin the phased renovation of Bishop Hall in this bill. Your support of our operations allows us to continue many of the programs that protect Hawai’i’s fragile ecosystem and unique environment, including the annual Hawai’i Biological survey, the Pacific Center for Molecular Biodiversity and the work done to identify and protect against invasive species that threaten our native habitats. Know that we continue to work with State partners on restoring our native snails and birds, as honored by State recognitions in 2023 and soon in 2024.



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Having said that, we acknowledge the necessary focus on providing financial support for those impacted by the Lahaina wildfires and appreciate your need to create a balanced budget that supports a wide range of needs. We are committed to working with state lawmakers on this issue as the session continues.

Mahalo piha for the opportunity to comment.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

Dee Jay Mailer

President & CEO



March 12, 2024

Chair Adrian Tam  
Chair Kyle Yamashita  
Members of the House Committee on Culture & The Arts  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Senate Bill 3281, Relating to Culture & The Arts

We are writing to **COMMENT** on Senate Bill 3281 which would change the state designation of Bishop Museum to the museum of “natural and indigenous history,” instead of the State Museum of Natural and Cultural history. We object to the removal of the word “cultural” from the state’s designation of Bishop Museum and request that you restore its original designation.

This is an accurate reflection of the museum’s mission and purpose and one that many in Hawai‘i, the Pacific and the world rely upon.

To exclude “culture” from the official designation disregards the substantial contributions in knowledge of the museum and its stewardship of our stories that represent the rich diversity of the people and history that are Hawai‘i.

The museum’s focus on preserving and sharing the comprehensive history and cultural heritage of Hawai‘i and the Pacific is known worldwide. It has a significant historic role as one of the most prominent centers of research in the field of Pacific and Hawaiian archeology and ethnology and a significant current and future role in educating learners of all ages and backgrounds to use ancient wisdom with new explorations to preserve and protect our fragile archipelago.

We ask the committee to keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Bishop Museum’s broad purpose is captured in the Museum’s mission statement: “Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

Please ensure that the Museum’s designation does not omit the word “cultural.”

March 11, 2024

C. Manu Ka'iama  
1486 Akeke Place  
Kailua, Hawai'i 96734

Chair Adrian Tam  
Vice-Chairman Rose Martinez, and  
Members of the House Committee on Culture & the Arts

In Regards To: Senate Bill 3281, Relating to Culture & the Arts

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 3281. I am concerned specifically about the proposed change of our beloved Museum from the "State Museum of Natural and Cultural History" to the "Museum of Natural and Indigenous History."

I implore you to keep the current name intact.

"Indigenous" is a controversial term, especially here in Hawai'i. It is commonly misused and misappropriated, even in intelligent circles, to describe anyone or any culture that emanates from a "brown" people.

"Indigenous" simply is not an accurate description of what the Bishop Museum cares for, and more importantly, not an accurate description of Kanaka 'Ōiwi. At the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, they attempt to define the term "indigenous" as applied to "peoples." I encourage all of you to read this report before applying it to Hawai'i and more importantly to us, Kanaka 'Ōiwi. Examples of indigenous peoples that they cite include: Lakota in USA, the Mayas in Guatemala and the Aymaras in Bolivia. They also list the Inuit, Aleutians, Saami, Maori, etc. as additional examples. None of these groups have a history like Hawai'i. You will not find "Hawaiians" on this list.

This is so, because the Constitutional Monarchy and Government under Kamehameha III's leadership secured treaties (formal agreements) beginning on November 28, 1843, at the Court of London, with the British and French Governments that recognized the Kingdom of Hawai'i's independence. After this monumental feat, over 40 other recognized, independent countries, including the United States of America, signed similar treaties declaring our independence to the world.

Keep in mind, ours, like other countries, is not limited to a race of people. Aboriginal people of Hawai'i, along with immigrants and missionary families that were born in Hawai'i at this point were nationals of the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

“Indigenous” is more commonly used to refer to a people who may have “nations”, “tribes” etc. in their own homeland, but are not or have not been recognized by other Nation States on an international forum through the use of treaties. As aboriginals, I see them as our cousins, but as a Kanaka ‘Ōiwi Hawai‘i, I am fully aware of the sacrifices that occurred to our people to secure those treaties and be recognized as an independent Nation/State throughout the world. By changing the name of this museum, you will place us in a category that we do not belong and is inaccurate.

Charles Reed Bishop, the founder of the Bishop Museum did so in honor of his wife, Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Being royalty, she is also infamous for leaving much of her estate to resurrect the Kamehameha Schools. In her will, she identifies us, Kanaka ‘Ōiwi, as follows in codicil 1, article 13: “giving the preference to Hawaiians of pure or part aboriginal blood...” This is an interesting sentence. Who are Hawaiians then, that are not of pure or part aboriginal blood? Hawaiian nationals. Please note that she does not refer to us, Kanaka ‘Ōiwi, as “indigenous.”

Mahalo for your time and thought in this very important matter.

Aloha,

*C. Manu Ka‘iama*

C. Manu Ka‘iama

Board member  
State Museum of Natural and Cultural History

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:44:16 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monte McComber	Helumoa, Royal Hawaiian Center managed by The Festival Companies	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUBMITTED ON: March 10, 2024

FROM: Monte M. McComber II, Cultural Director

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF: SB3281 SD2, Relating to Culture and Arts

SUBMITTED TO: The State of Hawai‘i House of Representatives Committee on Culture, Arts, and International Affairs (CAI)

HEARING: March 13, 2024, 10:00 AM, Conference Room 309

TO: The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Chair

The Honorable Rose Martinez, Vice Chair

The Honorable Andrew Takuya Garrett

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela

The Honorable Jeanne Kapela

The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi

The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama

The Honorable David Alcos III

Dear Honorable Mesdames and Sirs:

I write in opposition of SB3281 SD2, Relating to Culture and Arts, specifically to Page 3 Line 3: Museum of Natural and [Cultural] Indigenous History.

My concern echoes the testimony submitted by Dee Jay Mailer on behalf of Bishop Museum. Namely, that the removal of the word ‘cultural’ and the insertion of the word

‘indigenous’ in its place creates an inaccurate reflection of the museum’s history, mission and purpose: Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

I join others in requesting that the bill be revised to reinstate the word ‘cultural’ into the museum’s designation: Museum of Natural and Cultural History or Museum of Natural, Cultural, and Indigenous History.

As a whole, and to the credit of those who clearly put much thought and effort into this legislative document, SB3281 SD2 takes clear, decisive, and important steps towards enhanced management and accountability. Mahalo nui!

It is also clear that the legislature is working diligently to address the needs of the broader arts and culture organizations whose work, given their struggles, is impressive and equally important. The struggle for funding, patrons, members, and guests is ever ongoing. This is underscored in the testimony.

I submit that this issue is complex, that Bishop Museum is worthy of support and funding, that the broader arts and culture organizations are worthy of support and funding, and that changing Bishop Museum’s designation only adds to the complexity and does little to uplifting all the important work that will be inherited by our children and grandchildren.

As a museum member and volunteer, I thank you for considering my testimony.

Me Kealoha Pumehana, *Warmest Regards*



**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 4:52:06 PM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Helen Nahoopii Takata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Helen Nahoopii-Takata

PO Box 36

Kamuela, Hi 96743

March 8, 2024

Chair Adrian Tam

Chair Kyle Yamashita

Members of the House Committee on Culture & The Arts

Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Senate Bill 3281, Relating to Culture & The Arts

Aloha Kakou!

I am writing to COMMENT on Senate Bill 3281 which would change the state designation of Bishop Museum to the museum of “natural and indigenous history,” instead of the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

We object to the removal of the word “cultural” from the state’s designation of Bishop Museum and request that you restore its original designation.

To exclude “culture” from the official designation disregards the substantial contributions in knowledge of the museum; its stewardship of OUR stories; the kama’aina, that represent the rich diversity of the people and history that is Hawai‘i.

The museum’s focus on preserving and sharing the comprehensive history and cultural heritage of Hawai‘i and the Pacific is known, worldwide.

Recently, my own personal application to compete in a prestigious local art exhibit was challenged, due to confusion that surrounds the definition of the word “indigenous.”

After a serious discussion with decision makers, I was deemed a lifetime Pacific Islander, as opposed to being an “indigenous person” and allowed to compete.

It’s premature to move forward since there is no universal agreement about the definition of the word “indigenous.”

Before the committee rushes to judgment to narrow the title, please take into consideration how this will impact the mission of the Bishop Museum which currently represents ALL peoples of our Hawaiian Island archipelago.

We ask the committee to keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Bishop Museum's broad purpose is captured in the Museum's mission statement: "Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Please ensure that the Museum's designation does not omit the word "cultural."

Mahalo plenty!

Helen Nahoopii-Takata

Htakata96743@gmail.com

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 8:38:58 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharlene Chun Lum	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a maka`āinana and alumnus of Kamehameha Schools, i appreciate Bishop Museum as a memorial to Bernice Pauahi Bishop by her husband Charles Reed Bishop.

Bishop Museum’s broad purpose is captured in the Museum’s mission statement: “Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

Please keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Mahalo nui loa.

Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs  
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Chair  
Rep. Rose Martinez, Vice Chair  
SB 3281, SD2  
Relating to Culture and the Arts

March 11, 2024

By Heather Haunani Giugni

Email: [hgiugni@gmail.com](mailto:hgiugni@gmail.com)

**IN OPPOSITION OF THE WORD "CULTURAL"  
BEING ERASED FROM THE PRESENT TITLE.**

Honorable Chair Tam, Honorable Vice Chair Martinez, Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am writing as a private citizen but also an independent filmmaker, former House Representative and former board member of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.

*While I am in support of most of this legislation*, I am opposed to Section 1 (4) which states the following:

"Redesignate the Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History as the Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Indigenous History."

I sincerely believe the word "cultural" should remain a part of the title. Replacing it with the word "indigenous" restricts the museum's broad purpose.

As the Executive Producer of Family Ingredients, a PBS series that airs nationwide, celebrating our multi-racial community, and as a supporter of the museum which highlights the many cultures of the Pacific for a global audience, I strongly oppose this name change. **However, I am not opposed to adding the word "indigenous" to the title.**

Mahalo for your time.

Heather

Kathy Suter  
81-1038 Keopuka Heights Rd  
Kealahou, HI 96750

March 8, 2024

Chair Adrian Tam  
Chair Kyle Yamashita  
Members of the House Committee on Culture & The Arts  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Senate Bill 3281, Relating to Culture & The Arts

Aloha!

I am writing to **COMMENT** on Senate Bill 3281 which would change the state designation of Bishop Museum to the museum of “natural and indigenous history,” instead of the State Museum of Natural and Cultural history. I object to the removal of the word “cultural” from the state’s designation of Bishop Museum and request that you restore its original designation.

This is an accurate reflection of the museum’s mission and purpose and one that many in Hawai‘i, the Pacific and the world rely upon.

To exclude “culture” from the official designation disregards the substantial contributions in knowledge of the museum and its stewardship of our stories that represent the rich diversity of the people and history that are Hawai‘i.

The museum’s focus on preserving and sharing the comprehensive history and cultural heritage of Hawai‘i and the Pacific is known worldwide. It has a significant historic role as one of the most prominent centers of research in the field of Pacific and Hawaiian archeology and ethnology and a significant current and future role in educating learners of all ages and backgrounds to use ancient wisdom with new explorations to preserve and protect our fragile archipelago.

Before retiring to Hawai‘i, I was on the staff for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian from 2000 to 2012. While not Native myself, I was lucky enough to be mentored and guided in Native ways of thinking and ways of life by multiple Native staff and elders. For the Native cultures in the Western Hemisphere there are multiple ways they self-identify. The term “indigenous” is not universally accepted and can carry a good deal of negative baggage. In addition it would misrepresent the scope of the museum’s collections and research.

I ask the committee to keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Bishop Museum’s broad purpose is captured in the Museum’s mission statement: “Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

Please ensure that the Museum’s designation does not omit the word “cultural.”

March 11, 2024

TO: Representative Adrian Tam, Chair  
Representative Rose Martinez, Vice-Chair

FROM: Prof. Patrick V. Kirch

RE: Testimony Relating to SB3281, Relating to Culture and the Arts

Aloha Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez and members of the Committee on Culture and the Arts,

My name is Patrick V. Kirch, a kama'āina of Mānoa born and raised in Hawai'i nei, and currently Professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum (since 2017). I am submitting this testimony in relation to certain aspects of SB3281 SD2 that pertain to the Bishop Museum.

I first became associated with the Bishop Museum at the tender age of 13 when, as a Punahou student, I was privileged to be part of a summer program for students in the Malacology department. After receiving my PhD in Anthropology at Yale I became a member of the museum's staff from 1975-1984. Although I spent many years on the continent (teaching primarily at the University of California at Berkeley), I maintained my association with Bishop Museum, and upon moving back home to Hawai'i nei have proudly served on the museum's Board of Directors.

First and foremost, I want to gratefully acknowledge the critical monetary support that the Legislature has recently allocated to Bishop Museum, which since its founding has been the primary institution responsible for collecting, preserving, researching, and advancing our knowledge of the unique cultural and natural heritage of Hawai'i and more broadly of Polynesia and the Pacific Islands. The museum's staff works tirelessly to bring in substantial grant funds to continue this work and augment the limited endowment, but Legislative and State support is essential if the museum is to achieve its potential.

That said, there is one issue with the current language of SB3281 that I would like to comment on, which is the proposed change in the designation of Bishop Museum as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History, to the "State Museum of Natural and Indigenous History." This proposed change mystifies me, as I see no reason stated in the bill to justify this change. The Bishop Museum has been the "State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History" since 1988. Act 398 describes the Museum as the "primary repository of Hawaiian and Pacific region artifacts," and notes the Museum's many years of service in "gathering, preserving, storying and sharing the tangible evidence of Hawai'i's natural and cultural history." Narrowing the state designation fails to recognize the Museum's decades of devotion to preserving and amplifying broad knowledge of Hawaiian and Pacific culture for local and worldwide audiences.

Moreover, the term "Indigenous" is ambiguous in the proposed context. Is this name change supposed to narrow the Bishop Museum's scope to Native Hawaiian culture? I would hope not, because the

museum has always seen its mission as extending to the broader Polynesian region. (The original name of the museum was actually “The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum of Polynesian Ethnology and Natural History.”) On the other hand, however, “indigenous” could refer to the native peoples and cultures of the Americas, or Australia, or Asia. Are we to believe that the proposed name change is to make Bishop Museum responsible for ALL indigenous cultures around the Pacific Rim? That would seem an inappropriate overreach.

My point is really quite simple. The current designation of Bishop Museum as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History has served very well since 1988, succinctly and clearly encapsulating the museum’s mission. There is no need to change it.

Mahalo piha for considering my testimony, and for your aloha for our great museum.

Me ka ha’aha’a,

Patrick V. Kirch



D. R. J. Kapalikūokalani Maile

1030 Luna'ai Place  
Kailua, HI 96734

March 11, 2024

Chair Adrian Tam  
Chair Kyle Yamashita  
Members of the House Committee on Culture & The Arts  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Re: Senate Bill 3281, Relating to Culture & The Arts

Aloha mai kākou,

I am writing to **COMMENT** on Senate Bill 3281 which would change the state designation of Bishop Museum to the museum of “natural and indigenous history,” instead of the State Museum of Natural and Cultural history. I strongly object to the removal of the word “cultural” from the state’s designation of Bishop Museum and request that the original designation be restored.

The inclusion of the term “cultural” is an accurate reflection of the museum’s mission and purpose, which many people in Hawai’i, across the Pacific, and elsewhere in the world have come to rely upon.

Excluding “culture” from the official designation disregards substantial contributions made by the museum to the stewardship of stories, objects, and specimens that have come to represent the diversity of the people and history of Hawai’i.

The museum’s broad purpose is captured in its mission statement: “Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai’i and the Pacific.” This mission encapsulates the idea that, while Hawai’i is the piko, or center, of Bishop Museum’s history and collections, its scope and responsibilities reach across Oceania and many other parts of the world.

The museum’s focus on preserving and sharing the cultural heritage and natural history of Hawai’i and the Pacific is known worldwide. It has a significant historic and current role as one of the most prominent centers of research in the fields of archaeology and ethnology for Hawai’i and Oceania. The museum also has a significant continuing and future role in educating learners of all ages and backgrounds, inspiring rising generations to take up the preservation and perpetuation of culture, alongside the stewardship and conservation of our natural environment.

While I am writing this **COMMENT** as an individual, I have worked at Bishop Museum for almost nine years. In that time, I have witnessed firsthand many changes in administration, overall institutional direction, fluctuating resources (financial and otherwise), and challenges to staff morale.

Bishop Museum is still recovering from the hurdles imposed on it in the past four years, rebuilding relationships with communities in Hawai'i and elsewhere. As the current Education Programs Manager, I see this work being done from the ground up, with local students and teachers coming back to the Kaiwi'ula campus who are excited to learn and inspired to make a difference when they depart the museum grounds.

Museum leadership is also now making headway in addressing long-standing issues with ethical returns of cultural objects, repatriation of ancestors, along with going beyond token representation of Kānaka 'Ōiwi voices in important decision making. In exhibit development and public programming, department leaders are pushing for robust, community-focused and culturally grounded experiences that bring people together and celebrate the uniqueness of Hawai'i and Oceania.

I believe the momentum that continues to build towards a more just and accessible future for the museum will be stymied by changes to its current designation. As a Kanaka 'Ōiwi, I recognize that different terms for indigenous and/or native peoples provide important pathways for support from local and federal government entities. However, the language currently employed in this bill to redesignate Bishop Museum lacks important context. Without clear context to support the use of "indigenous," this proposed redesignation appears weak and ill-fitting.

I respectfully urge the committee to keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Please ensure that the Museum's designation does not omit the word "cultural."

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. R. J. Kapalikūokalani Maile'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'D.' being the most prominent.

D. R. J. Kapalikūokalani Maile

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 12:21:49 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victoria Takamine	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB3281 which changes Bishop Museum's designation as the "State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History" to Indigenous History.

Culture is the key to defining a peoples. The Bishop Museum is a repository of thousands of cultural artifacts. I suspect that the introduction of this bill and its purpose has a deeper intention to undermine the importance of the Bishop Museum's status as the keeper of the traditional and cultural history of our lāhui.

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 7:28:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lance Genson Mahi La Pierre	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lance Genson Mahi La Pierre

361 Kekupua Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

I oppose SB3281 in its present form, specifically the omission of the word "Cultural".

I am in support in keeping Bishop Museum's current designation as the "*State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History*". SB3281 changes Bishop Museum's designation to the "State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Indigenous History". I do not oppose the inclusion of the word "Indigenous". What we do oppose is the exclusion of the word "Cultural".

Mahalo!

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 9:58:45 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Therese Perez Hattori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings,

I am writing to **comment** on SB 3281 which would change the state designation of Bishop Museum to the State Museum of Natural and Indigenous History, instead of the State Museum of Natural and Cultural history. As a native Chamorro of the Island of Guam in the Pacific Islands region, scholar, cultural practitioner, and community organizer of Micronesian and other Pacific Islander groups in the Hawai'i, I strongly object to the removal of the word "cultural" from the state's designation of Bishop Museum and request that the original designation be preserved. I also caution against the use of the term "indigenous" which can be quite contentious; replacing "cultural" with "indigenous" may have unforeseen negative consequences and does not accurately reflect the purpose of Bishop Museum.

Bishop Museum's current designation as a museum of natural and cultural history **does** accurately reflect the museum's mission and purpose. The Museum's mission statement is: "Bishop Museum inspires our community and visitors through the exploration and celebration of the extraordinary history, culture and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific.

In addition to the problematic term "indigenous," excluding "culture" from the official designation disregards the substantial contributions made by the museum, as knowledge-holder and steward of stories that represent the rich diversity of the people and history that are Hawai'i. The museum's focus on preserving and sharing the history and cultural heritage of Hawai'i and the Pacific is known worldwide. Bishop Museum is a valued resource that many people, organizations, and communities in Hawai'i, the Pacific and the rest of the world rely upon.

It has a significant role as one of the most prominent centers of research in the field of Pacific and Hawaiian archeology and ethnology and a significant current and future role in educating learners of all ages and backgrounds to use ancient wisdom with new explorations to preserve and protect our fragile archipelago and other island environments.

The museum is a respectful and collaborative steward of the natural and cultural histories of many islanders; as such, the museum ensures we can sustain our heritages into the future. Many islands lack the infrastructure and capacity to serve such purposes and rely on Bishop Museum as an important partner.

I humbly ask the committee to keep the current and original designation of Bishop Museum as the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and **Cultural** History.

**SB-3281-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 10:47:01 AM

Testimony for CAI on 3/13/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Williams	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tam and Members of the Committee:

I write in objection to the removal of the word "cultural" from the State's designation of Bishop Museum.

While the addition of the word "Indigenous" is worthy of merit, concurrently striking the word "cultural" from the designation effectively narrows the legacy and mission of Bishop Museum.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,  
Keoni Williams