



February 10, 2023

Representative Adrian Tam, Chair
Representative Rose Martinez, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs

Conference Room 309
Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, 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, 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

HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

TO: Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Representative Rose Martinez., Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts & International Affairs (CAI)

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner
Executive Director, Historic Hawaii Foundation

Committee: Friday, February 10, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference & Conference Room 309

RE: HB 474 Relating to the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History

On behalf of Historic Hawaii Foundation, I am writing in **support for HB 474**. The bill would appropriate funds to the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History (aka Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum).

The Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum campus is a designated historic district that is significant for its cultural, architectural, educational, scientific and historical contributions to the Hawaiian Islands. The first building of the museum was constructed in 1889. It was founded by Charles Reed Bishop as a memorial to his wife, Pauahi, who was the last of the royal Kamehameha line.

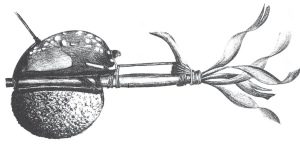
The Hawaiian Hall complex, built to house the founding collections of Bishop Museum, was constructed in three building phases from 1888 to 1903. Its buildings established a construction style and use of materials that was used through the early 1930s in Hawai'i. Particularly notable was its precedent-setting use of cut basalt stone, most of which was quarried on the grounds. Today, the complex is regarded as a masterwork of late Victorian museum design. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of Hawai'i's most significant and iconic buildings.

The impact and importance of Bishop Museum is incalculable, not only for the people of the Hawaiian Islands, but also throughout the Pacific. The buildings, operations, research and exhibits all need to be supported for the education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment of the public. The proposed appropriation will assist the Museum in its stewardship and trusteeship for both present and future generations.

The historic, cultural and natural resources of Hawai'i are a great legacy and irreplaceable treasures. Historic Hawai'i Foundation strongly supports measures that lead to investments in Hawaii's historic places and that help keep their stories alive for present and future generations. Bishop Museum is an important icon for Hawai'i residents and visitors, adding to the enjoyment, education, and understanding of Hawaii's history and inspiration for the future.

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Historic Hawai'i Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historic buildings, sites and communities on all the islands of Hawai'i. As the statewide leader for historic preservation, HHF works to preserve Hawai'i's unique architectural and cultural heritage and believes that historic preservation is an important element in the present and future quality of life, environmental sustainability and economic viability of the state.



SOCIETY FOR HAWAIIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

P.O. BOX 22458 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96823

TO: Representative Adrian K. Tam, Chair
Representative Rose Martinez, Vice Chair
Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs (CAI)

FROM: Mara Mulrooney, Ph.D.
President, Society for Hawaiian Archaeology
membership@hawaiianarchaeology.org

HEARING: February 10, 2023, 9:30AM, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

SUBJECT: Testimony regarding HB 474, Relating to the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History

I am Mara Mulrooney, President of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA). We have over 150 members including professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation. On behalf of SHA, **we support HB 474.**

The intent of HB 474 is to appropriate funding to support the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum. The museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop, in honor of his wife Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop, who was the last descendant representing the royal Kamehameha Dynasty.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum was originally established to house an extensive collection of irreplaceable Native Hawaiian artifacts and cultural material in connection to Pauahi's royal family legacy. The museum quickly expanded to include millions of cultural artifacts, scientific specimens, documents and photographs relating to Hawai'i and other Pacific Island cultures, flora, and fauna. Today, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum is the largest museum in the State of Hawai'i and is the premier natural history institution in the Pacific. The museum is also recognized throughout the world for its unique Native Hawaiian and Pacific cultural collections, research projects, and public educational programs.

HB 474 recognizes the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum as an agency tasked with the responsibility of preserving and protecting Hawai'i's invaluable collections of cultural materials and natural science specimens. The museum has also established itself as the leading research institution for more than a century throughout the Pacific region. HB 474 ensures the protection of these irreplaceable collections that are housed within the museum with appropriate funding.

Should HB 474 pass out of this committee, we request to be consulted as a stakeholder in future deliberations on an amended bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above email.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

<https://hawaiianarchaeology.org/>

The Society for Hawaiian Archaeology is a registered tax-exempt organization established in 1980 to promote and stimulate interest and research in the archaeology of the Hawaiian Islands, encourage a more rational public appreciation of the aims and limitations of archaeological research, serve as a bond among those interested in Hawaiian archaeology, both professionals and non-professionals, and aid in directing their efforts into more scientific channels as well as encourage the publication of their results, advocate and assist in the conservation of archaeological data, discourage unethical commercialism in the archaeological field and work for its elimination.

HB-474

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:13:26 PM

Testimony for CAI on 2/10/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support culture, science, natural history and the arts. Bishop Museum is a phenomenal resource, but we need more museums/educational centers.

Thank you for considering my views.

HB-474

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 7:32:42 AM

Testimony for CAI on 2/10/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheena Lopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In a time where we should be advancing and spreading the truth about our history, this bill is needed. Considering the History of Hawai'i and the Federal Government, Hawai'i SHOULD be getting the reparation it deserves, and if it is sustaining the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, then it is something that we should be moving forward on. Do not let this bill die, the preservation of Hawai'i's unique natural and cultural history deserves to be a priority.