

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII THEATRE CENTER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii Theatre
2 Center is the second largest proscenium performance facility in
3 the State and is the only remaining theatre of its type in
4 Hawaii. Established in 1922, the Hawaii Theatre Center has
5 operated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization since 1984.

6 The legislature also finds that the Hawaii Theatre Center,
7 listed on both the Hawaii and national registers of historic
8 places, has been recognized nationally for its historic,
9 architectural, and community significance. In 2005, the Hawaii
10 Theatre Center was recognized as the 2005 Outstanding Historic
11 Theatre in America by the League of Historic American Theaters.
12 The Hawaii Theatre Center was awarded the 2006 National
13 Preservation Honor Award by the National Trust for Historic
14 Preservation.

15 The legislature recognizes that, throughout its many years
16 of service, the Hawaii Theatre Center has established critical
17 areas of expertise and provides significant intangible benefit



1 to Hawaii and its people by offering the community an historic
2 performing arts facility with exceptional technical capacity.

3 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii Theatre
4 Center has served the community for nearly a century as Hawaii's
5 theatre without the benefit of regular, predictable support from
6 state sources to assist in the preservation of its irreplaceable
7 facility, staff its programs, and plan and present its events
8 and educational programs.

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Officially designate the Hawaii Theatre Center as the
11 Hawaii State Theatre;
- 12 (2) Implement this status through an annual appropriation
13 from the general revenues of the State; and
- 14 (3) Appropriate funds to support the work of the Hawaii
15 Theatre Center.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
17 by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:

19 "§6E- Hawaii Theatre Center. (a) The official
20 designation of the Hawaii Theatre Center shall be the Hawaii
21 State Theatre. This status shall be implemented by the



1 department of land and natural resources historic preservation
2 program through an annual appropriation from the general
3 revenues of the State.

4 (b) This designation shall not impinge on the autonomy of
5 the Hawaii Theatre Center, nor imply state control over its
6 programs or policies, except as specifically provided in this
7 section.

8 (c) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in
9 chapter 42F, the qualifying standards and conditions related to
10 the receipt of funds contained in chapter 42F shall not apply to
11 funds received by the Hawaii State Theatre; provided that if the
12 theatre in turn contracts with a recipient or provider, then the
13 qualifying standards, conditions, and other provisions of
14 chapter 42F shall apply to the recipient or provider and the
15 contract.

16 (d) The comptroller and the auditor shall have the
17 authority to examine the Hawaii Theatre Center's use of state
18 funds and shall report any findings to the legislature.

19 (e) The chair of the Hawaii Theatre Center board of
20 directors shall submit an annual report to the legislature no
21 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular



1 session. The annual report shall include, at minimum, an
 2 explanation of any facility maintenance and other functions
 3 accomplished by state fund expenditures in the previous fiscal
 4 year."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
 8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 9 year 2024-2025 for to support the work of the Hawaii Theatre
 10 Center.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 12 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

15

INTRODUCED BY: 

S.B. NO. 985

Report Title:

Hawaii Theatre Center; Hawaii State Theatre; Appropriation

Description:

Designates the Hawaii Theatre Center as the Hawaii State Theatre. Appropriates funds.

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