

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 15**, 2024

RE: S.B. No. 3281  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2024  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 3281, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CULTURE AND THE ARTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Redesignate the Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History as the Hawaii Museum of Natural and Indigenous History;
- (2) Require that the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Indigenous History and the State of Hawaii Museum of Monarchy History boards of directors each include two ex officio, nonvoting members, to be selected by each board, representing state agencies that are in direct partnership with each museum on projects that benefit the State;
- (3) Require the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Indigenous History to submit an annual report to the Legislature;



- (4) Establish standards and conditions that the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Indigenous History must meet to receive state funds; and
- (5) Appropriate funds for the renovation of Bishop Hall.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from eight individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement; Bishop Museum; Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that pursuant to Act 398, Session Laws of Hawaii 1988, the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum was designated as the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History and pursuant to Act 291, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, the Friends of Iolani Palace was designated as the State of Hawaii Museum of Monarchy History. Your Committee further finds that the intent of these designations was to provide the museums with a reliable funding source so that they would no longer be dependent on grants and private donations. Since both museums received millions of dollars in state funding in 2022, your Committee believes that there needs to be increased transparency and established standards for the operation of the museums to ensure that the museums are operated in alignment with the State's vision.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Retaining the existing statutory designation of the Bishop Museum as the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History;
- (2) Requiring the Comptroller, rather than the respective boards, to select the two ex officio, nonvoting members of the boards of directors of the Iolani Palace and Bishop Museum; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Culture, Arts, & International Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the



intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3281, S.D. 2, as amended herein,  
and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached  
hereto as S.B. No. 3281, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Culture, Arts, &  
International Affairs,



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ADRIAN K. TAM, Chair



