

JAN 15 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN CULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Native Hawaiian
2 culture is the foundation of all aspects of life in Hawaii.
3 This culture influences Hawaii's government, businesses, tourism
4 industry, families, and individuals. The legislature recognizes
5 that despite the prevalence of this cultural foundation, there
6 are no public spaces dedicated to the practice and perpetuation
7 of Hawaiian culture.

8 The legislature believes that Native Hawaiian cultural
9 centers may serve as places where residents and visitors may
10 learn about Hawaiian culture, history, tradition, and practices.

11 The purpose of this Act is to:

12 (1) Require the office of Hawaiian affairs to establish
13 and maintain no fewer than Native Hawaiian
14 cultural centers within the State;

15 (2) Require the office of Hawaiian affairs to submit
16 reports to the legislature regarding the office's
17 compliance with this Act; and



1 (3) Appropriate moneys for the planning and design of the
2 first Native Hawaiian cultural center.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
4 by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§10- Native Hawaiian cultural centers; statewide. (a)
7 No later than , the office of Hawaiian affairs shall
8 establish and maintain no fewer than Native Hawaiian
9 cultural centers within the State.

10 (b) Each Native Hawaiian cultural center shall:

11 (1) Focus on elevating and uplifting the Native Hawaiian
12 people;

13 (2) Be dedicated to Hawaiian culture and history,
14 emphasizing the particular geographic location of the
15 center;

16 (3) Contain both static and interactive displays and
17 exhibits;

18 (4) Offer classes in Hawaiian chanting, dancing, music,
19 language, and other cultural practices on a regular,
20 ongoing basis; and



1 (5) Serve as a place where the public may gather and hold
2 celebrations."

3 SECTION 3. No later than twenty days prior to the
4 convening of the regular sessions of 2026 and 2028, the board of
5 trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs shall submit to the
6 legislature reports that include:

- 7 (1) The status of the office's compliance with this Act;
- 8 (2) The estimated costs of the planning, design, and
- 9 construction of Native Hawaiian cultural centers;
- 10 (3) Any proposed legislation; and
- 11 (4) Any other relevant information.

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2026-2027 for the planning and design of one Native
17 Hawaiian cultural center.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the office of
19 Hawaiian affairs for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Kurt Favelle



S.B. NO. 199

Report Title:

OHA; Native Hawaiian Cultural Centers; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to establish and maintain Native Hawaiian cultural centers within the State. Requires the Office to submit reports to the Legislature regarding the Office's compliance with this Act. Appropriates moneys for the planning and design of the first Native Hawaiian cultural center.

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