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**David Y. Ige**  
*Governor*

**Chris Tatum**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Statement of  
**CHRIS TATUM**



Hawai'i Tourism Authority  
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**AND**

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 12, 2019  
9:30AM  
State Capitol, Auditorium

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL NO 1375, H.D. 1 PROPOSED**  
**RELATING TO THE STATE OF HAWAII**  
**MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY.**

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Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Holt, members of the House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs, and Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and members of the House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs: The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **strongly supports** House Bill 1375 H.D. 1 Proposed, which provides funding for the State of Hawai'i's museum of natural and cultural history which would allow the museum to hire additional staff and enhance their operations.

Residents and visitors alike appreciate and cherish the memories gained through experiencing firsthand the beautiful, unique, and significant natural and cultural history that Hawai'i has to share. Funding for the museum to support operations will allow the museum to continue their mission and ensure a bright future for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of this measure.



Chair Richard H.K. Onishi  
Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

Chair Ryan I. Yamane  
Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

Micah Alike Kāne, Chair  
Charles Reed Bishop Trust  
587 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 9:30 AM

**SUPPORT for HB1375/Proposed HD1, RELATING TO THE STATE OF HAWAII MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY**

Aloha kākou. On behalf of the trustees of the Charles Reed Bishop Trust, I'm writing to support a significant increase in Bishop Museum's annual appropriation as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. As our State Museum, Bishop Museum's work is of great cultural, scientific, and intrinsic value to the State of Hawai'i and must be supported at a much higher level than it is today. Bishop Museum stewards the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic materials, including unique and irreplaceable materials that are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge. Its natural history collections provide information crucial to protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating invasive species. In addition, the Museum provides vital educational programs and resources to support the educational development of Hawai'i's school age children. These activities are of tremendous importance to the State, and I wholeheartedly support this bill to increase the Museum's annual appropriation.

**Bishop Museum: the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History**

Bishop Museum serves the people and State of Hawai'i through its ongoing work to explore, celebrate, and perpetuate Hawai'i's rich natural and cultural history. As the premier resource for Hawaiian and Pacific materials, Bishop Museum houses the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic cultural artifacts as well as over 22 million biological specimens from Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Museum's cultural collections contain unique and irreplaceable materials of Hawai'i and the Pacific, which are essential to perpetuating the Hawaiian culture and innovating from a base of knowledge. The Library and Archives, one of three main Pacific libraries in the world, is an unparalleled resource of Hawaiian and Pacific rare source materials. The natural history collections represent a "library of life" that document changes in Hawai'i's environment over time and provide information crucial to protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating invasive species.

Over the past 130 years, Bishop Museum has preserved, translated and published key Hawaiian language and cultural resources; founded fields of study and performed research leading to countless discoveries; provided the foundational knowledge for such achievements as the rediscovery of Polynesian celestial navigation and the renaissance of hula; mounted major exhibitions that have celebrated the nature, culture and history of Hawai'i and the Pacific; served State and Federal resource managers and agencies; and produced a wide range of educational and public programs for Hawai'i's community. It was designated the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History in 1988.

Bishop Museum is recognized worldwide for its signature historic buildings and newly renovated gallery spaces dedicated to Hawaiian and Pacific culture, a robust daily schedule of educational programs and tours, and its planetarium, which serves more visitors per year than any other planetarium in the United States. Dynamic original exhibits and public programs are offered regularly and leverage the Museum's unrivaled resources—cultural artifacts and biological specimens, knowledge of Hawai'i's heritage and complexities of our natural world, and excellence in exhibits and educational programming—to create an array of unique opportunities to inspire community engagement, learning, and discovery for over 200,000 students, teachers, scholars, cultural practitioners, visitors and Hawai'i residents each year. And, while the Museum's programmatic activities are grounded in its Kalihi-Pālāma campus, its impact extends far beyond the Hawaiian Islands and across the Pacific through its outreach programs, strategic partnerships in research and education, and an expanding database of digitized artifacts, specimens, stories and resources which allow for increased global access to Hawaiian and Pacific knowledge.

Today, Bishop Museum is the world's premier institution for Hawai'i and the Pacific, recognized internationally for its natural and cultural collections. This “library of life” and archive of our cultural heritage connects us to our ancestors and chronicles changes in Hawai'i's environment over time. It provides a global resource of primary source material that enables us to perpetuate our culture and face ever-changing environments based on information and knowledge.

### **Current State Funding**

Bishop Museum is significantly under-resourced. While it is one of the top ten museums in the world by collections size, scope, and significance, it functions at less than a quarter to the tenth of the budget of its peer institutions. It is estimated that the Museum is under-staffed by at least a factor of four. Currently, at its minimum levels of funding, the Museum spends approximately \$3.2 million a year to care for its collections, including the cost of staffing, securing, and maintaining the collections and providing proper environmental controls. These materials are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge as well as our understanding of how Hawaii's environment has changed over time. They are essential to understanding long-term cultural and environmental sustainability for the State and our broader Pacific communities. In addition, the Museum spends another \$500,000 each year to support its educational programs serving Hawai'i schoolchildren, families, and visitors. In total, the Museum spends approximately \$3.7 million annually—more than a quarter of its operating costs—to support these critical programs.

## **Bishop Museum Collections Services**

Bishop Museum's collections and scientific expertise are regularly accessed by State agencies, including the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and the University of Hawai'i. In fact, various State entities account for approximately one-quarter of all collections usage at the Museum, and Museum staff record a minimum of two months' worth of cumulative staff time per year to support various State agency requests at no charge. The Museum also provides training to State personnel in entomology, botany, malacology, species identification, taxonomy and other areas at no charge.

Bishop Museum biologists work closely with State scientists to provide assistance in identifying weeds, insects, snails, reptiles, and other intercepted, potentially invasive species. For example, during the Christmas season when large numbers of trees are imported from the Pacific Northwest, Bishop Museum identifies all intercepted snails and slugs from the tree shipments for the Department of Agriculture. Last year, the Museum identified more than 20 potential new invasive slugs and snails through the tree shipments and helped to prevent their establishment in Hawai'i. The Museum also identifies all snakes and other reptiles and amphibians that are intercepted by HDOA's Plant Quarantine officials—all at no cost to the State. Museum biologists are also working with the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, University of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, and others to conduct field surveys and screen snails and slugs for the parasite that causes rat lung worm disease. These are but a few examples of the ways that Museum scientists support various State agencies in their environmental work, and these identifications are only possible because of the Museum's vast collection of terrestrial, marine and freshwater specimens from the Hawaiian Islands—the largest such collection in the world.

In 1992, the Museum was designated by the State Legislature as the Hawai'i Biological Survey. The Hawai'i Biological Survey (HBS) was created to locate, identify, document, and evaluate all native and non-native species of plants and animals within the State. This essential information helps State resource managers to protect endangered species, maintain native ecosystems, and prevent the establishment of agricultural and garden pests. As the HBS, Bishop Museum is committed to the research and documentation of the endemic and invasive flora and fauna within the State of Hawai'i, and maintains the world's largest collection of terrestrial, marine and freshwater specimens representing Hawai'i. The collections are a representation of Hawai'i's flora and fauna over time and geographic distribution and are critical for understanding changes to our natural environment for the protection of endemic species and habitats.

In coordination with related activities with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and other federal, state, and private agencies, Bishop Museum disseminates this knowledge to ensure wise stewardship of Hawai'i's fragile ecosystems and rich natural heritage. Annually, the Museum responds to more than 200 inquiries from the State of Hawai'i, University of Hawai'i, and related agencies regarding HBS, taxonomic queries, nomenclature, staff training in entomology and botany, and other needs. An increase in the state subsidy will positively impact both the Museum's ability to conduct field surveys throughout the islands to gather pertinent data and its ongoing work to increase access to these resources through the digitizing of information from its collections and associated scientific literature into comprehensive computerized

databases. Increased access to this information will aid natural resource agencies in the proper management of Hawai'i's endemic resources for future generations.

Bishop Museum's Hawai'i Biological Survey is also a vital resource to support the continued development and implementation of projects like the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP), an interagency effort to control the detrimental impacts of invasive species in Hawai'i. The Museum's collections, scientific knowledge, and research can be instrumental in mitigating the negative impacts of invasive species—fruit flies that cause losses to our state's agricultural revenues, the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like Zika, dengue, and malaria, and impacts to our native ecosystems and watersheds.

### **Bishop Museum Educational Programs**

Bishop Museum provides vital educational programs and resources to students and teachers of the Department of Education, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs that address the HCPS III Science Standards. Cultural programs are used to connect students in meaningful ways to Hawai'i's rich history and culture, and to help them explore the important relationship between Hawaiian culture and environmental sustainability. Planetarium programs and guided visits through the Museum's exhibits and signature galleries expose students to varied topics, ignite curiosity and inspire learning. These educational experiences ultimately help to create inquisitive, grounded, life-long learners who will eventually grow to make meaningful contributions to our community, environment, and State. Bishop Museum's educators serve more than 25,000 students per year through various on-site educational programs.

### **Subsidy History and Impact**

Bishop Museum was officially designated as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1988. The State has supported this designation through an annual appropriation of general revenues to support the Museum's operational activities, which are of great cultural, scientific, and intrinsic value to the State of Hawai'i. In 1992, the subsidy was \$2.47 million (\$4.5 million in today's dollars), representing 22% of the Museum's annual budget—relatively similar to the funding level of other State museums. Today, the Museum's annual appropriation is \$626,000, covering just 4% of the Museum's operating budget.

In recent years, this reduction, combined with economic shifts and a \$2.8 million reduction in federal earmark funds in 2012, have necessitated significant reductions in the Museum's staff and programs. The Museum has managed its resources carefully to ensure that its most essential services continue. However, sustained, increased support is critical for the Museum to ensure its collections are properly stewarded, as well as build the foundation necessary to grow and expand its services.

State funds are critical to ensuring the continued growth and success of the Hawai'i State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. An increase in the subsidy will provide essential resources the Museum needs in order to provide the appropriate level of care for its priceless cultural and scientific collections. It will also provide

resources to support the Museum's vital research and education programs that directly benefit the people of Hawai'i.

Increasing the subsidy will allow the Museum to continue to provide direct support to various State agencies, and will allow the Museum to waive its bench and access fees for State agencies. The Museum will be able to direct resources towards digitizing information from its collections into comprehensive computerized databases, aiding State agencies in the proper management of Hawai'i's endemic resources for future generations. This support will also enhance the Museum's ability to educate and empower increasing numbers of school children, residents and visitors while contributing to the protection of our State's most precious cultural and natural resources.

Mahalo for your commitment to care for the cultural artifacts of our ali'i, Hawai'i, and the Pacific.



February 12, 2019

Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair  
Representative Daniel Holt, Vice Chair  
Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

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

**LATE**

RE: Testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of **HB1375**, proposed House Draft 1,  
Relating to the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum

Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Holt, Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Committee Members:

My name is Melanie Ide and I am the President and CEO of the Bishop Museum, Hawai'i's State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. I strongly support HB1375, proposed HD 1, which appropriates funds to support the work of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, officially designated as the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

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 in the world. 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. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

Me ka ha'a ha'a,

Melanie Y. Ide  
President & CEO



NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION

**LATE**

February 9, 2019

To: **The House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs**  
c/o Chair: Representative Richard Onishi and Vice Chair: Representative Daniel Holt

From: **John De Fries /JDF**  
Executive Director

cc: **Melanie Ide**

Subject: **HB1375 - Testimony of Strong Support**  
– Relating to the State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History

**Aloha Chair Onishi, Vice Chair Holt and Distinguished Members of the Committee:**

The Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association respectfully asserts its vigorous support for HB1375 and the prudent means by which the Bill stipulates three interlocking elements:

- 1) Requires increases in the amount of the transient accommodations tax revenues that will be allocated for the tourism special fund.
- 2) Provides an allocation of \$1,500,000.00 of the tourism special fund for the operation of Bishop Museum for FY2019-2020.
- 3) Assigns the responsibility to DBED&T (effective March 31, 2020) of calculating and adjusting the allocation of funding to Bishop Museum for FY2020-2021; and on March 31 of each year, thereafter (with funding to be made effective on July 1 of the same year that the calculated adjustment is made).

Essentially, HB1375 proposes a level of systems-coordination between the legislature and the administration in support of the growth and success of Bishop Museum and its designation in 1988, as the “State of Hawaii Museum of Natural and Cultural History”.



NATIVE HAWAIIAN  
HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATION

In closing, I share with you a well-known Hawaiian proverb - '**Ōlelo No'eau**:

**I ka wā mamua, ka wā ma hope** - our future is in the past

This proverb underscores a Hawaiian perspective that the past is filled with knowledge, experience and wisdom; which in turn has the capacity to inform our decisions, actions and intended outcomes, for the future. Given that Bishop Museum is a repository for Hawaii's natural and cultural history, this proverb reminds us that this institution will continue to play a vital role – as a center of knowledge, discovery, innovation and collaboration; to support the State of Hawaii and its leaders in charting our pathways toward a future that is sustainable.

**Your committee's unanimous support of HB1375 is requested and much appreciated.**

**Mahalo!**

TO: Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair  
House Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs



FROM: Angus Raff-Tierney, M.A., Legislative Committee Chair,  
Society for Hawaiian Archaeology  
angusrafftierney@yahoo.com

SUBJECT: Testimony in SUPPORT of **HB1375** RELATING TO THE STATE OF HAWAII MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY.

The Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA) has over 150 members that include professional archaeologists and advocates of historic preservation in general. I am writing this testimony in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) FY19 Supplemental Budget, as it relates to the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). I'm writing in **SUPPORT** of **HB1375**, which will significantly increase the Bishop Museum's annual appropriation as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. As our State Museum, Bishop Museum's work is of great cultural, scientific, and intrinsic value to the State of Hawai'i and must be supported at a much higher level than it is today. Bishop Museum stewards the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic materials, including unique and irreplaceable materials that are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge. Its natural history collections provide information crucial to protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating invasive species. In addition, the Museum provides vital educational programs and resources to support the educational development of Hawai'i's school age children. These activities are of tremendous importance to the State and to the work of my organization, and I wholeheartedly support this bill to increase the Museum's annual appropriation.

Mahalo for considering our testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above email address.

**LATE**

11 February 2019

Hawaii State Legislature

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Increased Funding for the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Bills HB1375 and SB699**

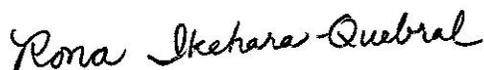
Aloha,

I have been a professional archaeologist in Hawai‘i for over 30 years, and advocate the protection and preservation of our island’s dwindling cultural resources. In order to do this, more funding is needed to properly restore and curate these resources. I support a significant increase in Bishop Museum’s annual appropriation as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. As our State Museum, Bishop Museum’s work is of great cultural, scientific, and intrinsic value to the State of Hawai‘i and must be supported at a much higher level than it is today.

Bishop Museum stewards the world’s largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic materials, including unique and irreplaceable materials that are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge. Its natural history collections provide information crucial to protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating invasive species. In addition, the Museum provides vital educational programs and resources to support the educational development of Hawai‘i’s school age children. These activities are of tremendous importance to the State and to the work of my organization, and I wholeheartedly support this bill to increase the Museum’s annual appropriation.

Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (808) 946-2548 ext. 103 or by e-mail at [rikehara@iarii.org](mailto:rikehara@iarii.org) if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,



Rona Ikehara-Quebral, Ph.D.  
International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.



**IARII**

**INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.**

**LATE**

February 11, 2019

Hawai'i State Legislature

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Increased Funding for the Bishop Museum's Annual Appropriation as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History; Bills HB1375 and SB699.**

Aloha:

I am writing to support a significant increase in Bishop Museum's annual appropriation as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. I am a professional archaeologist who has been working in Hawai'i for 38 years. In fact, my first professional experience as an archaeologist in Hawai'i was with the Bishop Museum for two years. As such I have first hand knowledge of the Bishop Museum and understand its immense value to the public.

As our State Museum, Bishop Museum's work is of great cultural, scientific, and intrinsic value to the State of Hawai'i and must be supported at a much higher level than it is today. Bishop Museum stewards the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic materials, including unique and irreplaceable materials that are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge. Its natural history collections provide information crucial to protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating invasive species. In addition, the Museum provides vital educational programs and resources to support the educational development of Hawai'i's school age children. These activities are of tremendous importance to the State and to the work of my organization, and I wholeheartedly support this bill to increase the Museum's annual appropriation.

Please feel free to contact me by telephone at (808) 946-2548 ext. 104 or by e-mail at [JSAthens@iarii.org](mailto:JSAthens@iarii.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Athens, PhD  
General Manager/Senior Archaeologist  
International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc.

**HB-1375**

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 6:14:41 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1375**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 11:31:19 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2019 9:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Cowie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Tourism and International Affairs and the Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

**Tuesday, February 12 at 9:30 am**

House Conference Room Auditorium

By Robert Cowie

**HB 1375/Proposed HD1 – RELATING TO THE STATE OF HAWAII MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY**

I provide this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1375 that relates to an increase in annual State funding to the Bishop Museum. In my professional capacity I am a faculty member in the Pacific Biosciences Research Center at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, and for 11 years prior to that I was a researcher/curator at the Bishop Museum. I have been a researcher in Hawaii for 29 years.

The Bishop Museum is the premier museum in the world, by far, regarding both cultural artifacts and natural history specimens from Hawaii and the islands of the Pacific that are held in its wonderful collections. It is among the ten museums globally in terms of the size of its natural history collections. These collections are of huge cultural and scientific importance, as I can attest from being responsible for the Museum's mollusk collections for 11 years.

Yet the Museum has suffered for decades from being seriously underfunded and therefore understaffed and unable to adequately develop the collections from the perspective of interpreting them to the public and making them available to researchers from around the world.

Additional funding from the State would go some way to permitting the Museum to better address its goals, ambitions and responsibilities to the Hawaiian public, visitors to the islands, and global research community.

**LATE**

**HB-1375**

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 1:08:38 PM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meleanna Meyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HB1375**

**RELATING TO THE BERNICE PAUAAHI BISHOP MUSEUM- STATE OF HAWAI'I  
MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY**

**Dear Legislators;**

**Aloha mai kakou! Greetings one and all. We, each and every one of us, have the kuleana, the responsibility to support the best efforts of our institutions and others here in Hawai'i-nei, institutions for the people--like the Bishop Museum.**

As a life-time educator and artist who is fully invested in having our young ones enjoy the remarkable benefits of attending exhibitions and viewing world-class collections at the Bishop museum, my wholehearted support of this bill is to remind all of you that we have great responsibilities to our youth in Hawai'i, to do whatever possible and in our power, to augment and support education and enrichment in their lives— in all forms and capacities.

**Supporting an Increase in the Museum's Annual Appropriation FY2019-2020 and 2020-2120 in addition to the Museum's base subsidy is what I am in full support of.** We all know that Hawai'i's assets are many; it's natural beauty, the kindness of its' people and what we as various cultures and peoples of this place have produced and share amongst ourselves and with others throughout the world. What we support as a community regarding some of these important values and material culture is a direct reflection of who we are as a people— must we give greater financial support to our State's Museum of Natural and Cultural History? The answer is a resounding YES!

The Bishop Museum is a cultural wellspring for all of us, and as such needs our continued and full support, financially, emotionally and communally. **I'm writing to support a significant increase in Bishop Museum's annual appropriation as the State Museum of Natural and Cultural History. As our State Museum, Bishop**

**Museum's work is not only of great cultural, scientific, and intrinsic value to its residents in the State of Hawai'i , but to the Pacific and most broadly, to the world.**

Increased funding must be supported at a much higher level as the Bishop Museum stewards the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic materials, including unique and irreplaceable materials that are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge. Did you know that its natural history collections also provide information crucial to protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating invasive species? As an artist-educator participant, the Museum provides vital educational programs and resources to support the educational development of Hawai'i's school age children. These activities are of tremendous importance to the State and to my work as an artist and community educator— I wholeheartedly support this bill to increase the Museum's annual appropriations at a level that is commensurate to what they were funded at earlier--22% of their operating budget (1992) of more.

**Our Museum serves the people and State of Hawai'i through its ongoing work to explore, celebrate, and perpetuate Hawai'i's rich natural and cultural history.** I'm sharing what has been written about the museum; As the premier resource for Hawaiian and Pacific materials, Bishop Museum houses the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Oceanic cultural artifacts as well as over 22 million biological specimens from Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Museum's cultural collections contain unique and irreplaceable materials of Hawai'i and the Pacific, which are essential to perpetuating the Hawaiian culture and innovating from a base of knowledge. The Library and Archives, one of three main Pacific libraries in the world, is an unparalleled resource of Hawaiian and Pacific rare source materials. The natural history collections represent a "library of life" that document changes in Hawai'i's environment over time and provide information crucial to protecting native species and habitats, as well as combating invasive species.

**Our Bishop Museum was designated as our State Museum of Natural and Cultural History in 1988.** It has mounted major exhibitions that have celebrated the nature, culture and history of Hawai'i and the Pacific; served State and Federal resource managers and agencies; and produced a wide range of educational and public programs for Hawai'i's community. This museum functions as one of most prized resources here in Hawai'i, and for that reason alone, needs to support from not just the Legislature, but from other institutions and organizations as well.

**Our Museum, over the past 130 years,** has been on the cutting edge of many important and significant projects; preserving, translating and publishing key Hawaiian language and cultural resources; founding fields of study and performing research leading to countless discoveries; providing foundational knowledge for such achievements as the rediscovery of Polynesian celestial navigation and the renaissance of hula; mounting major exhibitions that have celebrated the nature, culture and history of Hawai'i and the Pacific; serving State and Federal resource managers and agencies; and producing a wide range of educational and public programs for Hawai'i's

community. I have been an active participant in many of the exhibitions at the Bishop museum and want to assure you all that this kind of inclusion has also brought a significant awareness and care from the artist community towards the museum, as we have finally felt welcome and part of what goes on there.

**Our Museum** is recognized worldwide for its signature historic buildings and newly renovated gallery spaces dedicated to Hawaiian and Pacific culture, a robust daily schedule of educational programs and tours, and its planetarium, which serves more visitors per year than any other planetarium in the United States. Dynamic original exhibits and public programs are offered regularly and leverage the Museum's unrivaled resources—cultural artifacts and biological specimens, knowledge of Hawai'i's heritage and complexities of our natural world, and excellence in exhibits and educational programming—to create an array of unique opportunities to inspire community engagement, learning, and discovery for over 200,000 students, teachers, scholars, cultural practitioners, visitors and Hawai'i residents each year. And, while the Museum's programmatic activities are grounded in its Kalihi-PÄ• lama campus, its impact extends far beyond the Hawaiian Islands and across the Pacific through its outreach programs, strategic partnerships in research and education, and an expanding database of digitized artifacts, specimens, stories and resources which allow for increased global access to Hawaiian and Pacific knowledge.

**Our Museum is the world's premier institution for Hawai'i and the Pacific, recognized** internationally for its natural and cultural collections. This is a really big deal. It provides a global resource of primary source material that enables us to not only perpetuate our culture and face ever-changing environments based on information and knowledge, but continue to imagine, create and meet many of the pressing needs of this time.

**Our Museum is significantly under-resourced.** While it is one of the top ten museums in the world by collections size, scope, and significance, it functions at less than a quarter to the tenth of the budget of its peer institutions. It is estimated that the Museum is under-staffed by at least a factor of four. Currently, at its minimum levels of funding, the Museum spends approximately \$3.2 million a year to care for its collections, including the cost of staffing, securing, and maintaining the collections and providing proper environmental controls. These materials are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge as well as our understanding of how Hawaii's environment has changed over time. An increase in the subsidy will provide essential resources the Museum needs in order to provide the appropriate level of care for its priceless cultural and scientific collections. It will also provide resources to support the Museum's vital research and education programs that directly benefit the people of Hawai'i.

**Our Museum provides vital educational programs and resources** to students and teachers of the Department of Education, including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs that address the HCPS III Science Standards. Cultural programs are used to connect students in meaningful ways to Hawai'i's rich history and

culture, and to help them explore the important relationship between Hawaiian culture and environmental sustainability. Planetarium programs and guided visits through the Museum's exhibits and signature galleries expose students to varied topics, ignite curiosity and inspire learning. These educational experiences ultimately help to create inquisitive, grounded, life-long learners who will eventually grow to make meaningful contributions to our community, environment, and State. Bishop Museum's educators serve more than 25,000 students per year through various on-site educational programs.

**Subsidy History and Impact** The State has supported this designation through an annual appropriation of general revenues to support the Museum's operational activities, which are of great cultural, scientific, and intrinsic value to the State of Hawai'i. In 1992, the subsidy was \$2.47 million (\$4.5 million in today's dollars), representing 22% of the Museum's annual budget—relatively similar to the funding level of other State museums. Today, the Museum's annual appropriation is \$626,000, covering just 4% of the Museum's operating budget.

In recent years, this reduction, combined with economic shifts and a \$2.8 million reduction in federal earmark funds in 2012, have necessitated significant reductions in the Museum's staff and programs. The Museum has managed its resources carefully to ensure that its most essential services continue. However, sustained, increased support is critical for the Museum to ensure its collections are properly stewarded, as well as build the foundation necessary to grow and expand its services.

Increasing the financial support and subsidies for the Museum will allow it to continue to provide direct support to various State agencies, and will allow the Museum to waive its bench and access fees for State agencies. The Museum will be able to direct additional resources towards digitizing information from its collections into comprehensive computerized databases, aiding State agencies in the proper management of Hawai'i's endemic resources for future generations. This support will also enhance the Museum's ability to educate and empower increasing numbers of school children, residents and visitors while contributing to the protection of our State's most precious cultural and natural resources.

Because State funds are critical to ensuring the continued growth and success of the Hawai'i State Museum of Natural and Cultural History, I fully support HB1375 and all other efforts throughout our community to help the museum not only to survive but to thrive! Thank you for your serious support and consideration of our beloved State Museum of Natural and Cultural History, the Bishop Museum. Please know that this vital cultural and arts resource is so unique and precious as warrants our continued support in all areas. With the new director, we are confident that our beloved Museum will make the needed changes and improvements that will allow it to prosper in the future. Many thanks for your time and attention.

Sincerely, Meleanna Aluli Meyer, Artist, Educator and friend of the Museum



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1375 AND SB699  
TO ENHANCE STATE FUNDING TO BISHOP MUSEUM**

Professor Brian R. Bowen

February 9, 2019

I am a research professor at Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB). While I write this as a private citizen, I have first-hand knowledge of how Bishop Museum interacts with the University of Hawaii to provide cost-effective scientific and cultural services to the state. I have personally witnessed that the Bishop Museum is severely underfunded.

Legislators know the value of the Bishop Museum as an educational resource, when their children or grandchildren come home with bright eyes and great stories about a day at the Museum.

Legislators know the value of the Bishop Museum as the primary repository for the cultural history of Hawaii, safeguarding priceless artifacts that reveal the rich traditions and creativity of the first people of Hawaii.

Legislators may be less aware of the role the Bishop Museum plays in documenting and conserving the tremendous biodiversity of the Hawaiian Archipelago. With 22 million biological specimens, it is the premier trove of information about the Hawaiian species that occur nowhere else. My specialty is reef fishes, and about 25% of fish biodiversity here is endemic, existing solely in our archipelago. In the last decade, HIMB has partnered with the Museum and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration to document this biodiversity in the Papahânaumokuâkea Marine National Monument. The Bishop Museum is the leader in describing these species, a process that continues today. Unfortunately the present level of funding is not sufficient to properly catalog and preserve these biological treasures. The Museum simply doesn't have the resources in terms of both personnel and facilities.

I have visited biological repositories all over the world, and while Bishop Museum is one of the world's best by reputation, it's looking kind of shabby. Valuable specimens are getting neglected and the Museum is severely understaffed. I know many museums in the developing world that have better funding and support. For this reason, increased state contribution to the Museum is an urgent priority.

Finally, I would like to note that for facilities like the Bishop Museum, funding begets funding. From experience at HIMB, I know that bringing potential donors through a run-down facility is a recipe for failure. The new director of Bishop Museum, Melanie Ide, is a dynamic leader with fund-raising plans to enhance the Museum's core strengths. If she can show that the state is invested in this renewal, it will greatly enhance her prospects for funding from private sources. Therefore the increased subsidy from the state will likely be a multiplier of resources for the Bishop Museum. Please support HB1375 AND SB699, to provide urgently needed financing for the proud repository of Hawaiian culture and biodiversity.



**HB-1375**

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 10:53:49 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noa Lincoln	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our tourism dollars need to go into protecting and preserving our cultural and environmental resources (and NOT serving as a collective marketing fund for more tourism). This is exactly the type of project that the tax funds should be used for. I strongly support.

**HB-1375**

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 11:18:07 AM

Testimony for TIA on 2/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mele Look	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Waimanalo, O'ahu and Vice-President of the Bishop Museum Association Council. I strongly and completely support the increase of State support for the Museum. The Bishop Museum Association is an organization representing the membership of Bishop Museum. Besides being a noted as a world-class Museum for its Pacific Collections, and a visitor attraction to thousands each year, the Museum is a deep resource for understanding our past and our future in this our island home. Kumu hula, historians, scientists, and thousands of school children learn each day from our only natural history musuem. Through their work they make Hawaii a more enriched place.

Please Support House Bill 1375