



BISHOP MUSEUM

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\$17.5 Million in State Funding directed to Bishop Museum for Operations and Capital Improvement Projects

**The restoration of operational funds will be instrumental in supporting Bishop Museum's
core function as the Hawai'i State Museum of Natural and Cultural History**

Honolulu, Hawai'i — Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum will receive \$17.5 million in funding from the State of Hawai'i for the coming year. The \$7.5 million for operations, and \$10 million for capital improvement projects, will be instrumental in supporting the Museum's core function as the Hawai'i State Museum of Natural and Cultural History: to secure irreplaceable collections and associated data, which serve dozens of state agencies, departments, and affiliated organizations, as well as the community and public at large.

"We are enormously grateful to the State of Hawai'i for recognizing the essential work that we do. This is the first time in over a generation that funding is commensurate with the core function that's performed by the State Museum," said Melanie Ide, Bishop Museum president and CEO. "It's not a very well known fact that Bishop Museum has the 'forever job' of stewarding over half of the world's primary source material of Hawai'i and the Pacific."

The restoration of operational funding will help Bishop Museum protect, care for, and make accessible more than 22 million biological specimens, over two million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and one million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the cultures and biodiversity of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Together, they provide an ongoing public resource for biological and ancestral knowledge that support an expansive range of programs and initiatives in education, resource management, and cultural practice.

In addition to protecting and preserving physical collections in perpetuity, Bishop Museum is responsible for securing digital collections, which include digital material as well as data associated with the physical collections, all of which are held in the public's trust. With the State of Hawai'i's funding Bishop Museum will be able to actively pursue the inventorying, digitizing, and cataloging of collections to make information publicly accessible.

"These collections are critical resources for the work of many local and international organizations and individuals who are seeking to preserve and perpetuate the natural and cultural heritage of Hawai'i and the

Pacific,” Ide added. “We are very appreciative of this support and look forward to providing an ongoing resource for our partners and constituents in Hawai‘i and around the world.”

The \$10 million in funding for capital improvements will be used to reduce risks from hazards and address long-standing, deferred maintenance across Bishop Museum’s 15-acre campus and buildings. Protecting and preserving irreplaceable collections and data require facilities that have fire protection, HVAC stability, modern infrastructure, and security from all forms of infiltration, whether from cyber, human, animal, or natural forces. Bishop Museum maintains buildings that are as old as 130 years, many of which lack proper building systems and suffer from infiltration. Both front-of-house treasures such as Hawaiian Hall and back-of-house research and collections spaces have been at risk. Having performed a full facilities condition assessment across the campus, Bishop Museum will proceed with addressing as many of the risks as possible with the distribution of capital improvement funding that has been dedicated for this purpose.

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About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum’s mission is to inspire our community and visitors through the exploration, celebration and perpetuation of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai‘i and the Pacific. The Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a royal descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the Museum thrives as an educational center for the community and is widely regarded as the world’s premier institution for Hawaiian and Pacific content. Its vast collections of more than 25 million objects and specimens represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, over two million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and one million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the cultures and biodiversity of Hawai‘i and the Pacific as well as the proud legacy of scholarly research spanning 130 years. Bishop Museum proudly serves more than 200,000 visitors each year, including 20,000 children on school visits. To learn more about the Museum’s research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit BishopMuseum.org, follow [@BishopMuseum](https://twitter.com/BishopMuseum) on Twitter and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/bishopmuseum/), become a fan of Bishop Museum on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bishopmuseum/), visit Bishop Museum’s [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3v3), or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.