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**Bishop Museum Receives \$100,000 Award
from the Institute of Museum and Library Services**

*The award will support the Museum's project,
Ka Makaiwa: Strengthening Digital Access for Native Hawaiian Futures*

Honolulu, Hawai'i — Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum has been awarded \$100,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support its project, Ka Makaiwa: Strengthening Digital Access for Native Hawaiian Futures.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency, will administer the grant through its Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services program. The Institute's mission is to advance, support and empower America's museums, libraries and related organizations, and is the primary source of federal support for the country's libraries and museums.

Ka Makaiwa: Strengthening Digital Access for Native Hawaiian Futures, creates a model for Bishop Museum original exhibits to have a permanent presence online, extending the life and reach of an exhibit beyond its temporary physical existence on Bishop Museum's campus in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Beginning with one of the Museum's most compelling exhibitions in its 130-year history, [*\(Re\)Generations: Challenging Scientific Racism in Hawai'i*](#), this project seeks to capture the exhibit for online audiences and permanent archiving through a high-quality, thoughtfully designed, and user-friendly online platform, and to use this platform as a model for the sharing of future Museum exhibits.

"Increasing and improving access to our cultural and natural sciences collections, particularly for Native Hawaiians and communities with ties to Hawai'i and the Pacific, is of great importance to Bishop Museum," said Melissa Tulig, Bishop Museum director of informatics. "The importance of this has never been more evident than the recent months affected by COVID-19. It is our responsibility to develop and steward pathways to knowledge and knowledge accessibility through community engagement in well-researched and impactful ways, and we are very appreciative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services for the opportunity to pilot a project towards this effort."

Currently, access to Bishop Museum’s collections is primarily limited to those who live on or have the ability to travel to the island of O’ahu. In 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic saw an expansion in digital reach at the Museum, highlighting a desire for content to be accessible online. The development of this online exhibit platform provides the Museum a space to share the elements of the physical exhibit, and increase access for those who are unable to visit the Museum or who want to dive deeper into the subject matter.

The Ka Makaiwa: Strengthening Digital Access for Native Hawaiian Futures project to develop an online exhibit platform, featuring *(Re)Generations: Challenging Scientific Racism in Hawai‘i*, centers user experience and will be used as a model for future Bishop Museum online exhibits. In two years, the Museum plans to document and digitize all aspects of the *(Re)Generations* exhibit, as well as research and add primary resources that could not be included in the exhibit; develop a back-end framework that connects to its digitized collections; create a user interface that is seamless and aligns with Bishop Museum’s visual brand; and test the model with other exhibits.

“While Bishop Museum has experimented with virtual exhibit tours during the COVID-19 pandemic, and while we have experience with digitized collections, this is the first time a comprehensive effort of this scope will be realized,” said Tulig. “This project will be more than just an online collections portal, but also a storytelling platform that uses narration to explain the history and meaning behind our collections, providing a more immersive and meaningful experience.”

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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 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](https://www.bishopmuseum.org), follow @BishopMuseum on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/BishopMuseum) 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/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8), or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services:

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit www.ims.gov and follow IMLS on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IMLS) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/IMLS).