

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KE KE'ENA O KA MEIA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 300 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-4141 • FAX: (808) 768-4242 • WEBSITE: honolulu.gov

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



KRISHNA F. JAYARAM
MANAGING DIRECTOR
PO'O HO'OKELE

IAN SCHEURING
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

August 26, 2026

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Resolution Initiating Amendments to the Revised Charter of
the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition)
Relating to the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts

The administration is strongly committed to expanding Honolulu's diverse cultural landscape; therefore, it is our position that proposing the inclusion of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts ("MOCA") in the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition) ("Charter") is essential in carrying out its core mission of supporting local artists, honoring Native Hawaiian traditions, and uplifting diverse communities.

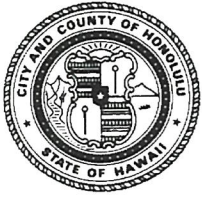
Thus, pursuant to Section 4-202 of the Charter, I am formally submitting the attached draft resolution to include MOCA in the Charter for the Council's consideration and approval. Adoption of this proposal will provide MOCA with more visibility, organizational stability, and continuity across future administrations and beyond changes in leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Blangiardi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Blangiardi
Mayor

Attachment



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. _____

RESOLUTION

INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU 1973 (AMENDED 2017 EDITION), AS AMENDED, PURSUANT TO THE MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION AUTHORITY, RELATING TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS

WHEREAS, pursuant to the executive reorganization powers set forth in Section 4-202 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Charter"), the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu may propose to the City Council that the duties and functions of existing departments or agencies of the executive branch be changed and that executive departments or agencies be rearranged; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts (MOCA) is currently established as a program within the Office of the Mayor and administratively situated under the Managing Director; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments seek to reorganize MOCA as a distinct executive department in order to provide greater clarity of purpose, operational alignment, and capacity to carry out its citywide cultural mandate; and

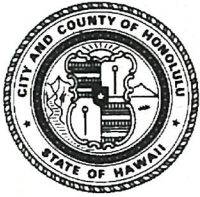
WHEREAS, such reorganization is intended to clarify and elevate the role of the Executive Director as the administrative head of the department, responsible for strategic leadership, operations, and coordination of the City's arts and culture initiatives, while maintaining alignment and collaboration with the Commission on Culture and the Arts (COCA) in its advisory and programmatic capacities; and

WHEREAS, the creation of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts ("MOCA") would promote and preserve the City's movable and permanent works of art including the City's Art in City Buildings Program; and

WHEREAS, the Sister City Program allows the City to connect with other cities that share a direct historical, cultural or ethnic relationship with people of Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, this resolution and the creation of the MOCA would assure the continuity, authority, and accountability across administrations, thereby enabling long-term cultural planning, strategic investment, and stewardship of the City's public art collection and cultural assets; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor retains broad and flexible powers to effectuate an executive reorganization under Section 4-202 of the Charter, which reorganization shall become



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WHEREAS, the Mayor retains broad and flexible powers to effectuate an executive reorganization under Section 4-202 of the Charter, which reorganization shall become effective upon approval by the Council or unless rejected by a two-thirds vote of the Council's entire membership in accordance with the terms of said provision; and

WHEREAS, the Council is in accord with the Mayor's proposal; now, therefore,

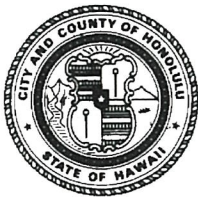
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Council approves the Mayor's proposal to amend the Charter as follows:

That Article VI, Chapter 1 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended ("Managing Director"), be amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of the Charter and to read as follows:

"Section 6- . Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts –

There shall be a Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts headed by an executive for culture and arts who shall be appointed and may be removed by the mayor. The executive for culture and arts shall:

- (a) Administer and coordinate the city's programs, activities, and initiatives relating to culture and the arts.
- (b) Encourage, develop, and promote cultural and artistic activities throughout the City and County of Honolulu.
- (c) Work with the Commission on Culture and the Arts on the Art in City Buildings Program and the inspection, inventory, and maintenance of the City's art collection.
- (d) Manage the Sister City Program and international relations to provide cultural and knowledge exchange while enhancing business relations and ideation.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu:

1. That the Revisor of the Charter is directed to prepare a supplement of the Charter containing this reorganization language;
2. That Charter material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken and new Charter material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing these Charter provisions for inclusion in the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (2017 Edition), as amended, the Revisor of the Charter need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring. If these Charter provisions are amended by any other Charter amendment, the Revisor of the Charter, in revising, compiling, or printing the Charter: (1) may designate or redesignate articles, chapters, sections, or parts of sections and rearrange references thereto and (2) shall, except as otherwise expressly provided in this resolution or in other resolution(s) amending these Charter provisions, give effect, to the extent possible, to all of the amendments approved. The Revisor of the Charter may also change capitalization or the form of numbers and monetary sums for the sake of uniformity.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers