REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS

Voting Members:
Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair; Andria Tupola, Vice Chair;
Radiant Cordero, Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Esther Kia'āina,
Val A. Okimoto, Augie Tulba, Tommy Waters, Matt Weyer

Committee Meeting Held
September 24, 2026

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on International & Legal Affairs, which considered Resolution 26-201 entitled:

"RESOLUTION ITIATING 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,"

transmitted by Mayor's Message 110(26), dated August 26, 2026, from the Office of the Mayor, introduced on September 1, 2026, reports as follows:

The purpose of the Resolution is to approve the Mayor's proposal to amend 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.

The Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts was present to answer questions from the Committee.

ADOPTED ON OCT 7 2026

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 278(26)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS

Voting Members:
Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair; Andria Tupola, Vice Chair;
Radiant Cordero, Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Esther Kia'āina,
Val A. Okimoto, Augie Tulba, Tommy Waters, Matt Weyer

Your Committee approved a proposed CD1 version that makes the following amendments:

1. Amends the title of the resolution (by adding a period) to read as follows:

   "INITIATING AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE CITY ANDCOUNTY 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."

2. In the third and fourth WHEREAS clauses, clarifies that the proposed Charter amendments seek to reorganize and codify the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts as an office directly under the Managing Director, rather than a "distinct executive department."

3. In the BE IT RESOLVED clause:

   a. Designates a Charter section number ("Section 6-110") for the proposed Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts; and

   b. Deletes subsection (d) from the proposed Charter Section 6-110, which would have required the Executive for Culture and the Arts to manage the Sister City Program and international relations.

4. Adds a new BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED clause to list the recipients to whom a copy of the resolution will be transmitted.

5. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS

Voting Members:
Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair; Andria Tupola, Vice Chair;
Radiant Cordero, Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Esther Kia'āina,
Val A. Okimoto, Augie Tulba, Tommy Waters, Matt Weyer

Your Committee on International & Legal Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 26-201, as amended herein (Ayes: Cordero, Kia'āina, Nishimoto, Tulba, Tupola, Waters, Weyer – 7; Noes: None; Absent: Dos Santos-Tam, Okimoto – 2.), and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 26-201, CD1. (Ayes: Nishimoto, Weyer – 2;
Aye with reservations: Cordero, Kia'āina, Tulba, Tupola, Waters – 5; Noes: None;
Absent: Dos Santos-Tam, Okimoto – 2.)

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

At the 10/7/26 Council meeting, the Resolution was further amended and was subsequently adopted as Resolution 26-201, CD1, FD1.

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON OCT 7 2026

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 278(26)

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **26-201, CD1**

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 ("City") may propose to the City Council ("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 and codify MOCA as an office directly under the Managing Director to provide greater clarity of purpose, operational alignment, and capacity to carry out its Citywide cultural mandate; and

WHEREAS, the reorganization is intended to clarify and elevate the role of the Executive Director as the executive of the office, 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 in its advisory and programmatic capacities; and

WHEREAS, the reorganization of MOCA will promote and preserve the City's movable and permanent works of art and the City's Art in City Buildings Program; and

WHEREAS, the reorganization will also support the City's Sister City Program, which allows the City to connect with other cities that share a direct historical, cultural, or ethnic relationship with the people of Honolulu; and

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Mayor retains broad and flexible powers to effectuate an executive reorganization under Charter Section 4-202, 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, to implement and achieve these broad goals in the exercise of the Mayor's executive reorganization authority, the Mayor proposes the specific amendments to the Charter set forth in the first BE IT RESOLVED clause hereinafter set forth; 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 hereby approves the Mayor's proposal to amend the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended, 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 6-110 to read as follows:

"**Section 6-110. 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 the arts who shall be appointed and may be removed by the mayor. The executive for culture and the 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.

(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."; and

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; and

RESOLUTION

2. That 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 (Amended 2017 Edition), as amended, the Revisor of the Charter need not include 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 the 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; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Corporation Counsel.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters (br)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

September 1, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:
Charter Amendment; Mayor's Executive Reorganization; Office of the Managing Director ("MDO"); Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts ("MOCA")

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.