



IOLANI PALACE

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‘Iolani Palace Receives Highest National Recognition Awarded Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums



Honolulu, HI — The Friends of ‘Iolani Palace is excited to announce its recent accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). Accreditation recognizes high standards in individual museums and ensures that museums continue to uphold their public trust responsibilities. Alliance accreditation signifies excellence and credibility to the entire museum community, to governments and outside agencies and to the museum-going public.

“This represents the completion of a very long journey,” said ‘Iolani Palace Executive Director Kippen de Alba Chu. “In fact, back in 2004, the board of directors approved a long-term strategic goal of becoming accredited by 2014. Meeting AAM’s standards has taken a decade of hard work and dedication and we’ll continue to strive for excellence as the guardians of ‘Iolani Palace, a living restoration of a proud Hawaiian national identity.”

Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 35 years, AAM’s Museum Accreditation program strengthens the profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and to provide the best

possible service to the public. AAM Accreditation is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation and public accountability, and earns national recognition for a museum for its commitment to excellence in all that it does: governance, collections stewardship, public programs, financial stability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement.

"Accredited museums have met and exceeded the highest standards of the museum field, in everything they do," said Ford W. Bell, Alliance president. "Accreditation is clearly a significant achievement, of which both the institutions and the communities they serve can be extremely proud."

Of the nation's 35,144 museums, only 1,033 are currently accredited. 'Iolani Palace now joins just four other accredited museums in Hawai'i (Bishop Museum, Hawaiian Mission Houses, Lyman Museum, and Honolulu Museum of Art). Accreditation is a rigorous process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, review and evaluate the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation. While the time to complete the process varies by museum, it generally takes three years.

About the 'Iolani Palace

'Iolani Palace is the only official residence of royalty in the United States. King Kalākaua was the first reigning monarch to travel around the world and built 'Iolani Palace in 1882 to enhance the prestige of Hawai'i overseas and to mark Hawai'i's status as a modern nation. For more information, please call 'Iolani Palace at 522-0822 or visit the website at www.iolanipalace.org

About the American Alliance of Museums

The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. With more than 17,000 individual, 3,000 institutional, and 300 corporate members, AAM is dedicated to ensuring that museums remain a vital part of the American landscape, connecting people with the greatest achievements of the human experience, past, present and future. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org.

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