

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, STATE COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020, 11:00A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 2533, HD1

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE STATE ARCHIVES

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2533, HD1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of H.B. 2533, HD1 and offers the following comments:

1. The current archives facility was designed 70 years ago. Based on current archival practice and public access needs, this facility is severely outdated in form and function.
2. The facility is capable of storing approximately 14,000 cu ft of records which is at 94% capacity. At the current rate of growth of approximately 200 cu ft of records per year, the State Archives will reach capacity in less than five years; after that time, it will no longer be able to execute on its Legislative mandate to collect, arrange, describe and make accessible the Public Archives of the State of Hawaii.
3. The Public Research Room is limited in the number of patrons it can accommodate, diminishing its utility classroom activities at the high school and university levels.

4. The electrical grid within the facility cannot accommodate the preservation of the millions of electronic records being created.
5. There are no provisions to display more than a few of the over 1000 artifacts the State Archives holds in the Public Trust. These artifacts are among the most important objects in Hawaii's rich and diverse history, and includes: The Buke Mahele, Royal Hawaiian seals, flags from all of Hawaii's Governments, moon rocks from Apollo 11 and 17, and numerous treaties and documents signed by Foreign Heads of State.
6. These limits on space severely impinge upon the ability of the State Archives to conduct educational and outreach efforts to the public and school groups while simultaneously serving patrons conducting archival research.
7. Physical space constraints are also impacting the staff through a lack of facilities to conduct proper archival processing and conservation of the materials; and limiting our ability to engage more volunteers to assist staff, thereby reducing the number of possible records that could be made available online. With additional physical space to harness the additional resource of volunteers and interns, it would save the archives expending the funds necessary to hire additional staff in order to execute on our mandate.
8. The space constraints of the Public Archives severely impinge on its ability to collect the archives of the many, diverse subgroups within the Hawai'i community that have added to our shared history and culture. As such, archives that document the contributions and struggles of aging, under-represented, and marginalized segments of the community are lost; and with these losses, so are the collective memories of a people that these records document.
9. With an increase in the number of partners and stakeholders becoming interested in this project discussing the addition of a potential Information/Visitors Center, Museum, Conference Center, and even a Preschool to form a Hawaiian History Learning Center,

DAGS recommends — based on similar Master Plans they have worked on — that the funding be increased to \$1M in order to enable a wider study of this potential facility and address all the concerns that have been raised to date.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter



**THE QUEEN'S
HEALTH SYSTEMS**



**COUNCIL for
NATIVE HAWAIIAN
ADVANCEMENT**



**NATIVE HAWAIIAN
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**



Kamehameha Schools®



BISHOP MUSEUM



Papa Ola Lōkahi



**PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION**

House Committee on Finance

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Date: February 24, 2020

Room: State Capitol Room 308

To: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee

RE: In Support of HB2533, HD1, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives

The listed organizations write in **SUPPORT** of HB2533, HD1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance plans for a state archives master plan and appropriates funds.

Established in 1906, the Hawai‘i State Archives has preserved and made available to the public government records, private collections of individuals and organizations, photographs, maps, artifacts, and library collections dating back to the Hawaiian monarchy.

The records and private collections stewarded by the Hawai‘i State Archives provide tangible links to Hawai‘i’s past that are critical to the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture and knowledge. In addition, its genealogical indexes, cemetery records, newspapers, and personal correspondences provide invaluable information to the identity of those who have and continue to call Hawai‘i home.

State funds are critical to ensuring the care, protection and preservation of the priceless cultural and historic collections, all of which are of tremendous importance to the State and the uniqueness of Hawai‘i’s history and people.

We ask you to support this bill and urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2533, HD1.

HB-2533-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2020 1:14:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alice Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii State Archives maintains and shares memories and the history of the people in Hawaii, which give meaning to their present and future. I have used many of the digital documents from the Archives to research my significant other's Japanese and Okinawan genealogy. Okinawan was once a stigmatized culture, and his father did not speak very much about his Okinawan heritage and died when my significant other was young. Hence, my significant other did not know very much about his Okinawan roots until we got a lot of information from the Archives' resources. Thanks to the Archives, my significant other learned a lot about his father's ancestral roots.

Unfortunately, the State Archives' current facility is outdated and is running out of space for archival work and storage of materials. The facility barely has enough space to fit in all of the patrons, employees, contractors, and patrons. Incoming items are stored in boxes in the break area, and even that space is limited.

The renovated Archives can attract more people to our state capitol and even encourage economic activity in the area. Famous libraries and archives have served as attractions and centers of social and cultural life. Nearby businesses can benefit from the additional foot traffic.

As archives and libraries facilitate lifelong learning and research, the Archives can use more space to host school groups and lectures and introduce the Archives' resources to students, researchers, local groups, and the public.

The Archives serves as a repository for our local people's history and a center of social and cultural life and encourage economic activity, lifelong learning and research. Enhancing the Archives' facility will increase the Archives' social, cultural, and economic impact on society. Hence, I support HB2533 HD1