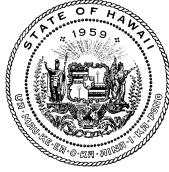


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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
SENATE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND
LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020, 2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 225, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 2533, HD1

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE STATE ARCHIVES

Chairs Thielen and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Inouye and Ihara, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2533, HD1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports 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 Based on current archival practice and public access needs, this facility is severely outdated in form and function.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, there is extended interest in the addition of a potential Information/Visitors Center, Museum, Conference Center, and even a Preschool to form a Hawaiian History Learning Center, Public Works 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 and ideas form stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter



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Senate Committee on Government Operations
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Time: 2:45 p.m.

Date: March 12, 2020

Room: State Capitol Room 225

To: Chair Thielen, Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committees

RE: 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 initiative and **PASS** HB2533, HD1.

HB-2533-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:31:39 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/12/2020 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Hawaii State Archives enables civic engagement and an informed democracy by maintaining and sharing governmental information and and by facilitating governmental transparency. The Archives' government records date from the early 1800s and will eventually include information from today.

As a cultural treasure, the Hawaii State Archives maintains and shares the history of the people in Hawaii, which gives meaning to their lives in Hawaii. I have used many of the Archives' documents to research my significant other's Japanese and Okinawan genealogy, and my significant other learned a lot about his 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 resulting 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.

As a repository for our local people's history, the Archives allows the people of Hawaii to discover their past and develop their sense of belonging and pride in our local community. As a center of social and cultural life, the Archives encourages economic activity, lifelong learning, and research. As a facilitator of governmental transparency, the Archives enables an informed democracy by preserving and disseminating governmental and political information. Enhancing the Archives' facility will increase the Archives' social, cultural, and economic impact on society and will encourage civic engagement and governmental transparency for a better society. Hence, I support HB2533 HD1.

HB-2533-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 3:19:37 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/12/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter H Kawaiaea Jr	Testifying for Honolulu Remote Operation Center/Family Search	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Walter H Kawaiaea Jr. I am here today to offer my Leo (voice) in full support of HB2533. I currently serve as Mission Lead for the Honolulu Remote Operation Center/ Family Search, a division of the Family History Department for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As an organization we have been working very closely with Dr Adam Jansen and the Hawaii State Archives in a long term agreement involving volunteers who serve as church service missionaries to help Digitize or image capture all of the State Archives original records. Through this process we are helping to both preserve and make available these records online to the general public. Our continued working relationship with Dr Jansen and the staff at the State Archives has become more than just a church service Mission. We have come to learn of and fully support Dr Jansen's vision of Gathering, Discovering and Connecting Hawaii's people with It's rich cultural and community history. This proposal, HB2533, to fund the creation of a Discovery and Learning Center, which is part of the expansion of the Hawaii State Archives, will truly bring and allow our future leaders, the next generation of youth, our grand grandchildren and great grandchildren to learn and see Hawaii's past history through all of the displayed records that have been kept silent for to long and must now be allowed to take on a life if it's own through Dr Adam Jansen's long term vision in HB2533. Again I offer both my personal and Organizations full support in favor of this action.

Walter H Kawaiaea Jr.,

Honolulu Remote Operation Center/Family Search

Mission Lead

Aloha,

My name is Terri Gavagan and I am submitting my testimony in support of HB2533, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects For The State Archives. The Hawai'i State Archives is an irreplaceable resource of knowledge for the people of Hawai'i regarding their history and by extension their present and future. It has been made clear in the last couple of years that primary resources must be safeguarded and preserved for future generations.

Please approve this bill so that the State Archives can move forward in its mission to preserve the history of Hawai'i and its people.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2533-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 2:52:57 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/12/2020 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Tilton	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

I am in **strong support of HB2533**. I serve as a volunteer at the Archives and I am very fortunate to be able to view such a valuable treasure trove of primary source documents that speak of and to the rich history of our Kingdom, Republic, Territory and State of Hawai --- ma ka 'Ā• lelo Hawai'i and in English. I feel it of utmost importance that this information be more accessible to all in Hawai'i nei and worldwide. It is quite simple -- but it does require funding. I believe that the capital improvements outlined in HB2533 will benefit current and future users of the State Archives, by improving access to these irreplaceable materials.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Committee on Government Operations

The Honorable Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Committee on Government Operations



Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts

The Honorable Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts

February 11, 2020

Support for S.B. No. 2959/ HB 2533: Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives

Aloha e Senator Thielen and Senator Taniguchi,

We are Nā Hawai‘i ‘Imi Loa Hui Haumāna, a Library and Information Science Student organization at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. We urge your support for H.R. 2533 and S.B. 2959 which will provide funding to address the current and future facility needs of the State Archives.

As an organization, we aim to serve and uplift the Hawaiian community by strengthening the Native Hawaiian presence in the Library and Information Sciences profession and by building up the capacity of the Hawaiian community in Library and Information Sciences practices. These bills would greatly affect the community which we serve, as well as whom you serve. Built on the grounds of ‘Iolani Palace, the State Archives has been in existence since 1905 and houses many important documents and unique collections which provide many services that empower our communities: genealogy, historical accounts, accountability for events that have occurred in the past, access to cultural resources, ancestral knowledge, and more.

This bill would allow the State Archives to continue its mission and kuleana (responsibilities) to the people of Hawai‘i to strengthen and improve its services to our community, to preserve and make accessible the historic records of state government, and to partner with state agencies to manage their records.

Thank you for your consideration of our viewpoint on this matter. We believe it is an important issue and would like to see the legislation concerning S.B. no. 2959 and H.R. 2533 pass.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Nā Hawai‘i ‘Imi Loa Hui Haumāna