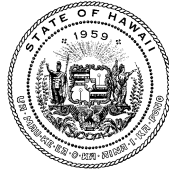


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
AND
TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020, 9:00A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 2533

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE STATE ARCHIVES

Chairs Johanson and Onishi, Vice Chairs Eli and Holt, and Members of the Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2533.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports H.B. 2533 to provide funding for the development of a master plan to address the current and future facilities needs of the State Archives. State Archives is an operation for eternity to preserve history and artifacts to educate and serve as a reference for future generations. Maintaining and upgrading the current facility will help to preserve and sustain this resource for the future. State Archives supports the bill to officially document and prioritize which initiatives listed below should shape the future direction and road map to preserve our past.

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 Based on current archival practice and public access needs, this facility is severely outdated in form and function.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 Great Mahele, Royal Hawaiian seals, flags from four 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter



IOLANI PALACE

Post Office Box 2259 Honolulu, HI 96804-2259 Telephone (808) 522-0822 FAX (808) 532-1051

**Testimony of
PAULA AKANA
Executive Director**

**Before the House Committee on
LAB/TIA**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2533
RELATING TO HAWAII STATE ARCHIVES**

Aloha,

I am Paula Akana, Executive Director of The Friends of Iolani Palace and am writing in regard of House Bill 2533.

The Friends support the planning for enhanced management for the Palace Grounds. We understand the importance of the Hawaii State Archives, and can relate to the frustration over building issues and lack of space.

As neighbors, we do ask that The Friends of Iolani Palace be included in the planning process.

Aloha,
Paula Akana
Executive Director, The Friends of Iolani Palace.



February 10, 2020

TO: Representative, Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair,
Representative, Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Representative, Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair,
Representative, Daniel Holt, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Tourism and International Affairs

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

FROM: Nā Hawai'i 'Imi Loa Board (NHIL)
Erica Dias, Michiko Joseph, Keahiahi Long, Kīna'u McKeague,
Mahealani Merryman, Keikilani Meyer, & Annemarie Paikai
P. O. Box 61608
Honolulu, HI 96839-1608
nahawaiiimiloa@gmail.com

**Re: TESTIMONY in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2533
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE STATE
ARCHIVES**

Nā Hawai'i 'Imi Loa's Board of Directors would like to say mahalo for your time and mana'o in reviewing our testimony.

Our board (NHIL) supports the proposal to provide funding for capital improvement projects for the State Archives, to include development of a state archives master plan that will allow for the expansion and creation of new collections processing and storage, administrative, public research, exhibition, and community engagement spaces.

NHIL is a nonprofit organization consisting of Kanaka Maoli and non Kanaka Maoli library professionals and community members. We formed to address an existing gap between Kanaka Maoli communities and the information science sector (inclusive of libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions). Our mission is to advance Hawaiian Knowledge



systems, services, and research in the library and information science profession, and our vision is empowering our lāhui (nation) through ‘ike (knowledge). We work towards this mission and vision by creating and supporting opportunities for cultural competency and professional development, as well as community engagement and service.

Historically, libraries and archives have been sites of colonialist and imperialist attitudes, and Kanaka Maoli communities and perspectives have been symbolically annihilated in the State Archives. The State Archives was an unwelcoming place for Kanaka Maoli, where many witnessed kūpuna disrespected and shamed for trying to access the knowledge of our ancestors.

You now have an opportunity to bring parity for Hawaiian language and Kanaka Maoli worldviews to the State Archives. Imagine a Hawai‘i where Hawaiian children feel a sense of belonging at the State Archives, engaging in critical conversations about our past in order to help move us forward. With the passing of HB 2533 and the creation of instruction rooms to host school groups and lectures, this vision could become a reality.

Another part of the aforementioned gap that exists between Kanaka Maoli communities and the information science sector is the lack of equitable service from the State Archives to the Kanaka Maoli community. For example, service hours are limited to weekdays from 9 a.m to 4 p.m., when most people work. In order to access information at the State Archives, one must take time off work and lose a day’s pay or more. Fiscal support to extend service hours to evenings or weekends would have a tremendously positive impact on the Kanaka Maoli community and the public at large.

Additionally, increased online access to archival materials would help to fulfill this service gap, especially for Kanaka Maoli community members living outside of O‘ahu - of which there are many, dispersed across Hawai‘i, the Pacific, the continental U.S., and beyond - who must pay for airfare, ground transportation, parking, etc., in addition to losing pay for taking time off when physically visiting the State Archives.

Furthermore, a key example of how increased funding for the State Archives could help address the gap between the Archives and the public is by providing additional bilingual support to the public (i.e. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i), thereby providing greater support for Article 15 of the State Constitution, which recognizes two official languages of Hawai‘i. The State Archives is home to one of the largest collections of Hawaiian language primary source materials - a corpus that remains largely untapped but that could prove invaluable to the histories, stories, and genealogies of all of Hawai‘i's communities.



There are many ways in which additional funding for the Archives could help bridge the gap between library communities and the Kanaka Maoli community, and at the heart of each are access and service to the public. Increased funding for the Archives will help increase support for the public, whether that be in the form of online access, increased service hours, additional bilingual support, or the creation of instructional spaces to host classes and display historical items. All of these endeavors aim to empower and engage the Kanaka Maoli community, and advance Hawaiian Knowledge systems. We humbly ask that you vote in support of HB 2533 to provide additional funding for capital improvement projects for the State Archives.

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Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives
Hearing Tue. Feb. 11, 2020, 9am, Rm. 309

Aloha, Chairs and Committee Members,

My name is Ruth Horie and I am testifying as an individual in support of HB2533.

I began using the State Archives in 1979 when I graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a B.A. in Hawaiian Studies. Among several other UH students I was hired to work on a grant project "The Social Role of the Courts in the Hawaiian Kingdom" led by principal investigator Jane Silverman. My duties included coding data from court case reports held at the State Archives. I also translated official correspondence written by Chief Justice William Lee from Hawaiian to English.

My interest in primary source materials from the Hawaiian Kingdom continues. I consider the State Archives a vital repository and resource for such materials.

I believe that the capital improvements outlined in HB2533 will benefit current and future users of the State Archives, by improving access to the irreplaceable materials held in the public trust.

Mahalo,
Ruth Horie

HB-2533

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:57:30 PM

Testimony for LAB on 2/11/2020 9:00:00 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. Unfortunately, the State Archives' current facility is outdated and is running out of space for archival work and storage of materials. As archivists introduce the Archives' resources to students, researchers, local groups, and the public, the Archives will need space to host school groups and lecture. Hence, I support HB2533.

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Representative Richard H. K. Onishi, Chair
Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

Alyssa Purcell

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Support for H. B. NO. 2533, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives

My name is Alyssa Purcell, and I am testifying in support of H. B. NO. 2533, relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives, which would help fund the development of a State Archives Master Plan to address the current and future needs of the repository.

The Hawai‘i State Archives has served as a potent path to power for Kānaka Maoli since its inception in 1906. With its rich and unique collections and its close proximity to ‘Iolani Palace, the State Archives is a place where Kānaka Maoli relearn their histories, reconnect with their ancestors, and use that ancestral knowledge to shape their futures.

However, there is a desperate need for stronger bilingual support when it comes to navigating the repository’s policies, collections, and access tools. As a State agency, the Hawai‘i State Archives has an obligation to uphold Article 15 of the State Constitution, which recognizes both English and Hawaiian as the official languages of Hawai‘i. More support in the Hawaiian language is also needed to maintain the agency’s mission of ensuring “open government by preserving and making accessible the historic records of state government.”

As a carrier of both communication and culture, the Hawaiian language helps situate and center Kānaka Maoli in their perceptions of themselves, their people, and the universe. Incorporating more use of Hawaiian in the access tools, policies, and physical space of the State Archives will improve approachability and, in turn, accessibility for Kānaka Maoli.

This bill would help hold the State Archives to its mission and the State Constitution, strengthen and improve its relationship with Native peoples, and further aid in the empowerment of Kānaka Maoli. Because of these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to pass H. B. NO. 2533.

Mahalo nui loa me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Alyssa Purcell

Late Testimonies



TO: Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
Rep. Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Chair
Rep. Daniel Holt, Vice Chair
Committee on Tourism & International Affairs

FROM: Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director
Historic Hawai'i Foundation

Committee: Tuesday, February 11, 2020
9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 309

RE: HB2533, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives

On behalf of Historic Hawaii Foundation, I am writing in **support for HB2533**. The bill would appropriate funds to develop a master plan for the State Archives, including assessment of collections processing and storage, administrative, public research, exhibition and community engagement spaces.

The Hawai'i State Archives preserve the records of the State and its predecessor governments (including the Territory, Republic and Kingdom of Hawai'i). It provides permanent protections for irreplaceable historic materials and artifacts, and is a priceless resources for researchers, educators, policy-makers, historians and all those who have an interest in the cultural legacy of the Islands. The Archives outgrew its original building (the 1905-era Kanaina Building) and has reached the limits of its current building (the 1952-era Kekauluohi Building). To continue to be successful in its mission to preserve and make available the records of the State, the Archives needs to have an appropriate facility. The Master Plan is a necessary first step to assess the needs and evaluate alternatives.

Historic Hawai'i Foundation does caution that any proposed demolition and/or new construction located within the Hawai'i Capital Historic District needs to be consistent with standards and guidelines for the treatment of historic properties. Although the Kekauluohi Building is of a later vintage than the original Archives, it may still be historical significant in its own right for association with the post-World War II era of Mid-Century Modern design. The Master Plan should address options for rehabilitation and expansion, as well as potential relocation, of the Archives among the alternatives considered. HHF also recommends that the Master Plan consider integrating the original Archives (the Kanaina Building) into the Master Plan, to assess whether it provides opportunities for exhibit space and public programming or other related-functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.