



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
February 4, 2020, 2:50 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian

S.B. 2452 Relating to Government Publications

TO: Chair Laura H. Thielen
Vice Chair Lorraine R. Inouye
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment for S.B. 2452, which amends provisions relating to the distribution of government publications to require deposit of electronic or digital copies, unless printed copies are requested.

We appreciate the desire to decrease the number of physical copies of government publications in order to reduce paper waste.

HSPLS is responsible for ensuring public access to government publications not only as a means of transparency, but also as a way to document the discussions, reports and work of government agencies for future generations. While HSPLS appreciates the desire to decrease paper waste, in order for HSPLS to meet its mission, we must continue to receive two print copies and one digital copy of each government publication for the following reasons:

- 1) The reports and publications produced by governmental agencies are produced in a wide range of formats, from memos to simple documents to multi-set bound documents to maps, and sometimes documents contain a mix of formats. Sometimes the digital format of these publications is not the best method for readability or use by the public. For example, someone researching tsunami maps from multiple years will lay them out side by side on a table to read and compare differences and changes. These maps are also quite large, making digital research much more difficult. Our staff report that when people are seeking government publications in the Hawaii State Library, the overwhelming preference continues to be paper. There is still an important role for the paper copy.

- 2) HSPLS takes our role of preserving access to government publications from the past, now and into the future very seriously. Should there be a day when our online world is disrupted, the paper copies ensure that we still have access to the work of our government. We also note that digital copies also degrade from use over time and formats change.

In order for the State to more effectively decrease the use of paper and increase the production of digital copies of government publications, more work needs to be done to define the standards by which we produce them. This includes, but is not limited to: 1) identifying methods for securing the digital documents so that they cannot be tampered with after the report is issued; 2) identifying accessibility standards for the creation of digital documents for individuals who cannot read standard print; 3) determining standards for creating metadata for all documents so that digital documents are searchable; and 4) ascertaining the best format for digital files and be accessible in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this measure and your continued support of the Hawaii State Public Library System.

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Written Comments

SB2452 RELATING TO GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 225

Chair Thielen and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Thielen and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on S.B. No. 2452, Relating to Government Publications.

The purpose of this measure is to amend provisions of law relating to the distribution of government publications to require the deposit of electronic or digital copies of such publication, unless printed copies are requested.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

With regard to the amendments to section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Bureau library would prefer to continue to receive printed copies of reports to the Legislature, in addition to also being sent an electronic or digital form of the report. Should the current practice of sending printed copies of the reports to the library cease, this would create additional work for the library staff, since they would then have to request a printed copy of all reports submitted to the Legislature from each submitting agency every time a report is issued.

The Bureau library is a depository for legislative reports, one of the few remaining locations available with access to legislative reports. If only digital reports are made available, the Bureau library will need to periodically explore new electronic applications and incur additional costs to keep up with constantly changing technology to ensure that our digital files can be opened and used in the future.

The Bureau library's current practice is to download the electronic or digital form of the report to add to its online library catalog. However, should the electronic or digital form of the report become inaccessible to open and read, a paper copy ensures that the library will always have access to the contents of the report. In addition to when the internet may be down, the library experiences many instances when a patron prefers to view or borrow a print copy of the report despite being informed that the report is available online.

For these reasons, the Bureau respectfully requests that the amendments proposed to be made to section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in section 5 of the bill be amended to provide that, with regard to the Bureau, agencies provide printed, electronic, and digital copies of their reports to the Bureau library.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.

January 29, 2020

Aloha, Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair; Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair; and members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations:

I am writing to express my **support** of SB 2452 Related to Government Publications.

This bill, and specifically the expansion of the definition of "publication" to include electronic or digital information, is long overdue, uncontroversial, and immensely practical.

It is incredible to me that two paper copies of every state government publication needed to be generated and stored, and further kept on file for public reference. Hardcopy publications require physical space and manpower to manage, and are also subject to damage, decay, and destruction. I would be further willing to submit that public requests for these publications were inhibited by the fact that access to the information within required in-person action and physical handling.

That this bill calls for publications to be both archived digitally, and provided to the public digitally, is a rare win-win for government and the public.

Mahalo for your consideration.