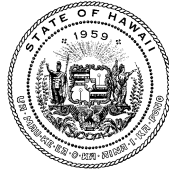


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020, 2:51 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 225, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2959

RELATING TO CAPITOL 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 S.B. 2959.

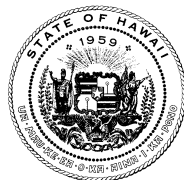
The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports S.B. 2959 to provide funding for the development of a master plan to address the current and future facilities needs of the State Archives. State Archives is an operation for eternity to preserve history and artifacts to educate and serve 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 Based on current archival practice and public access needs, this facility is severely outdated in form and function.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



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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
February 11, 2020, 2:51 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 225**

**By Stacey A. Aldrich  
State Librarian**

**S.B. 2959 Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives**

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

Chair Brian T. Taniguchi  
Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr.  
Members of the Senate Committee  
on Labor, Culture and the Arts

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **strongly supports** S.B. 2959, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance plans for a state archives master plan.

The State Archives plays a vital role in ensuring that Hawaii preserves, curates, and makes accessible powerful collections that connect us to our past, present and future. In order to do so, the State Archives needs a facility that can safely and efficiently house a growing collection of a variety of materials from paper to ephemera, and spaces to make them accessible to the public in a variety of methods.

The future of Hawaii depends on our ability to connect with our memories, stories, culture and each other. Planning for a new State Archives facility is the first step toward building a state of the art facility that creates these opportunities. HSPLS looks forward to continuing to work with and support the State Archives.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.



**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**

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

Time: 2:51 p.m.

Date: February 11, 2020

Room: State Capitol Room 225

To: Chairs Thielen and Taniguchi, Vice Chairs Inouye and Ihara Jr., and Members of the Committees

**RE: In Support of SB2959, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives**

The listed organizations write in **SUPPORT** of SB2959, 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** SB2959.



# 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 Senate Committee on  
GVO/LCA**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
2:51 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In Consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2959  
RELATING TO HAWAII STATE ARCHIVES**

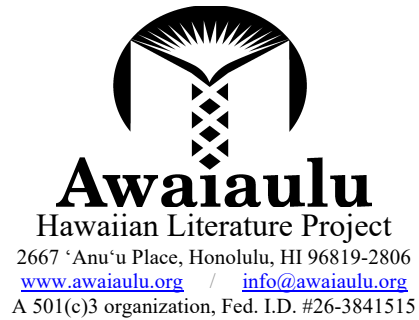
Aloha,

I am Paula Akana, Executive Director of The Friends of Iolani Palace and am writing in regard of Senate Bill 2959.

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.



Re: SB 2959

Aloha to the Honorable Members of the Senate,

Awaiaulu, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to training Hawaiian translators and developing historical Hawaiian resource, has collaborated with the Hawai‘i State Archives for over fifteen years. In recent years that collaboration has expanded and we look forward to ongoing growth in our work with the institution.

We recognize the need for a master plan that will safeguard the HSA’s incomparable collections and guide the administration as it moves to improve management, development and accessibility for those collections. Awaiaulu is mainly involved with the large Hawaiian-language repository of the HSA, but we see the importance of overall planning to provide the tools for effective administration.

On behalf of Awaiaulu, I offer our full support of the funding requested through SB2959 and encourage passage of the Bill.

Me ke aloha,

Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier

Executive Director, Awaiaulu Inc.



Hawaii State Legislature  
RE: SB2959 and HB2533

Dear State Senators and State Representatives:

5 February 2020

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding the State Archives' request for support of a proposed Master Plan to accommodate the public's growing needs.

The Archives has been that rare sole public conduit providing free access to important historical assets used by students, families, scholars, historians, researchers, writers, publishers, and filmmakers like myself. We are keenly aware of the Archives' limited physical space for storage, research, preservation activities, and few options for public display worthy of our state's world class collection of historical materials of which much remains obscured due to their limited resources.

For the past twenty years, my colleagues and I have produced several films disseminated throughout the state with distribution to national and international partners. These films have focused on different themes and subject matter, but all were created in and about Hawaii with distribution that has garnered attention to cultural Hawaii and to the myriad achievements and contributions made by Hawaii's people to mainstream American culture. In the process we hope to have also contributed to preservation of history in film. These films:

Papakolea - Story of Hawaiian Land  
Paniolo O Hawaii - Cowboys of the Far West  
Waikiki in the Wake of Dreams  
The Hawaiians - Reflecting Spirit  
Liliuokalani - Reflections of our Queen  
Waikoloa the Gathering Place (to be released 2020)

received national and international film awards and/or what the HTA and HVCB gauges as "valued return", that is, press and media coverage in magazines, reviews, newspapers, museum exhibits, radio and television programs. This kind of return is not advertising, it is considered "editorial" contributions to increasing the number of informed viewers and potential visitors who choose cultural Hawaii as a destination.

Because the majority of historical assets that comprise our films and help to bring Hawaii's unique stories alive reside in the State Archives, access to these priceless materials is essential. These films could never have been created without access to the Archives and without expansion of their current facility and without improved access to digitized content the next generations will suffer. The State of Hawaii Archives is the only free public resource we have. They provide visual images, letters, diaries, records of our great greats, and access to a vast collection of photographs, paintings, journals, early 19th century phone books, contracts, land maps, newspapers on micro- fiche, items that document the thoughts and dreams of our ancestors, objects that preserve our past forever and reflect the diversity of our ethnic communities and histories.

cont.



Your support will increase public awareness, public access, public donations and greater understanding of why preservation of and accessibility to our own history is vitally important. The Archives belongs to the people. We are the people and the Archives belongs to each and every one of us. It has been a depository and home to our precious heritage and now it's 2020 and our home is in need of major renovations.

Please support SB2959 and HB2533 to ensure that the state of Hawaii leads the way as an example for our corporate community, small businesses, and individuals — providing a path toward cultural preservation. A healthy citizenry begins with honoring our past and understanding that confidence and self-esteem can be awakened and reinforced through learning about one's heritage, perpetuating pride in who we are, and preserving our collective history on behalf of the greater public.

Thank you and

Best regards,

*Edgy J. Lee*

Edgy Lee  
Film Works Pacific

**SB-2959**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 11:47:52 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2020 2:51:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Reese K Sako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a former employee of the Hawaii State Archives, I am in support of this bill. From my time working there, I realized the importance of access for the outer islands. As someone from the Big Island, I was not fully aware of the resources that the archives had, and in many ways I would have never known unless I was able to travel there personally. While that may be feasible for someone already on Oahu, it would not be for someone in my position, and as the State archives, it is important to be able to serve all the community.

In addition, because of my time there, I was also able to see what we were able to preserve and what we would like to be able to preserve. Again, as the State Archives, we should be able to receive materials, resources and artifacts from the outer islands, and for that to be feasible, we would need more space. Space allows more people to benefit from the archive's resources and allows the archive to fulfil its purpose for more than just Oahu. More space would also allow more opportunities to interact and invite the public in for open houses and other displays.

Overall, the archives houses many important resources and invaluable information that will only benefit the state if given the chance to expand.

**SB-2959**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 2:28:05 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2020 2:51:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Park	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha pā«mehana kā• kou e nā• lawelawe aupuni o ka MokuŹ»Ä• ina o HawaiŹ»i,

Eia nā• kahi leo kā«KOŹ»O i nā• pila Ź»o [HB2533](#) IÄ• ua Ź»o [SB2595](#). He waihona Ź»ike launa Ź»ole nā• ka Hale Waihona Palapala Kahiko o ka MokuŹ»Ä• ina o HawaiŹ»i ma Honolulu nei ma muli o nā• lau meheu ponoŹ»Ä« i waiho Ź»ia e nā• aliŹ»i, nā• kā«puna, a me nā• mea hanohano Ź»Ä“ aŹ»e o kā“ia Ź»Ä• ina kamahaŹ»o Ź»o HawaiŹ»i nei. A aia nā• ka pono o IÄ• hui HawaiŹ»i i ka mā• lama pono Ź»ana i ua Ź»umeke kāŹ»eo nei, a he kuleana nā• ke aupuni e mā• lama pono ai ia waihona Ź»ike, Ź»a Ź»o ka Ź»oiaŹ»io he mau pila maikai loa Ź»o [HB2533](#) IÄ• ua Ź»o [SB2595](#) e kā“kua ia i ka hoŹ»okÄ“ Ź»ana i ko kā• kou kuleana.

Ź»Ä“lelo Ź»ia nā• hoŹ»i ma ka Mahele XV, paukā« 4 ma ke KumukÄ• nā• wai o HawaiŹ»i, he Ź»Ä“lelo kā«helu nā• ka Ź»Ä“lelo HawaiŹ»i, Ź»oia ma kā“ia manaŹ»o he kuleana nā• hoŹ»i ka mokuŹ»Ä• ina e mā• lama pono ai ka Ź»Ä“lelo HawaiŹ»i a me nā• mea i pili i ua Ź»Ä“lelo nei. He ala nā• hoŹ»i kā“ia mau pila e kā“ ai kā“ia kuleana.

A Ź»oia au he haumā• na laeoŹ»o Ź»Ä“lelo HawaiŹ»i kā“ia kanaka e kā• kau nei ma ke Kulanui o HawaiŹ»i ma MÄ• noa, ua minamina nui Ź»ia ka hale palapala kahiko, Ź»oia he kā“kua ia e holomua pono ai kaŹ»u mau Ź»imi noiŹ»i.

E HOŹ»OHOLOMUA KÄ«KOU I NÄ« PILA Ź»O [HB2533](#) A ME [SB2595](#).

Me ka mahalo,

Kamuela Park - Hawaiian Language Graduate Student at the Univeristy of HawaiŹ»i at MÄ• noa

**SB-2959**

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:20:18 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2020 2:51:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sunyeen Pai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I am in full support of SB2959 because the history of Hawai'i is an invaluable and irreplaceable treasure for our citizens and future generations of this state and the rest of the world. The work of collecting, curating, and sharing, with the public, this knowledge is based on the great traditions and vision of all remembered cultures throughout the ages. Although we may sometimes think our state has little to offer of historical importance, it in fact has much to teach regarding Hawaiian indigenous culture and the ongoing work of creating a fair, culturally diverse, and respectful community. An investment in archival storage space and the ability to share the archive's holdings with the public will benefit everyone and will show the world that Hawai'i values its unique culture and history.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to submit my testimony,

Dr. Sunyeen Pai

Librarian, Kapi'olani Community College

**SB-2959**

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 9:55:49 PM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2020 2:51:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 SB2959.**

**SB-2959**

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 11:03:55 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2020 2:51:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Elizabeth Yuen, a supporter for this bill - SB2959. I am currently a volunteer missionary for the FamilySearch organization and I have been working with digitization of records since 2006. Most recently I have been working with the Archives in the digitization of historical records. The State Archives is the historical center for Hawaii and this bill would help with the to the historical records and preservation of these artifacts. It can be a center where discoveries are made and a center for a rich education of our heritage, people, history and land. Discoveries are impotant to enable our youth connect with their Kupuna's and our Kupuna's connect with their children. In the ever changing times, this is an avenue that will utilize digital technology, equipment and resources that will provide the people with a center to learn. I know that this vision would help the people of Hawaii to connect with their roots intimately and know that their children can do so also. Thank you for your time and assistance to help with the progress of SB2959

The Pacific Arts Foundation  
P.O. Box 61281  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96839

February 5, 2020  
Dr. Adam Jansen, State Archivist  
Department of Accounting and General Services  
Archives Division  
364 S. King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Via email: [adam.jansen@hawaii.gov](mailto:adam.jansen@hawaii.gov)

Dear Dr. Jansen:

re: 2/11/20 Public Hearing SB2959 - Capital Improvement Projects for State Archives”

I am writing on behalf of the Pacific Arts Foundation (“PAF”), a 501C3 non-profit organization, to support greater funding for capital improvement projects for the State Archives. Why?

In his opening address to the 2020 State Legislature, Speaker Scott Saiki intoned, “As a community, we are, at best, treading water. At worst, we are drowning.”

The State Archives provide an invaluable, indispensable, and irreplaceable resource of our history, which can help us find our way out of the undertow, by helping us learn who we are. Only when we know our roots, can we plan where to send our branches.

“Archive material is a fabulous starting point - individual documents are like signposted roads, heading to a variety of intriguing possibilities.” - Sara Sheridan, activist and author

An example of the Archives’ value is the film and book sponsored by PAF: “Waikiki in the Wake of Dreams.” These works, which drew heavily on letters, posters, and visuals from the Archives, garnered both local and national awards:

2004 Pacific Business News Leadership Award, Non Profit Category to The Pacific Arts Foundation (first recipient in a non -profit category given by Pacific Business News)

2003 Honolulu City Council Award for Outstanding Community Service - for various public service films

2002 National Geographic Society - premiere presentation Washington D.C.  
New York Pier 1 open air screening sponsored by HVCB

2002 New York International Independent Film& Video Festival - Best Cinematography

2002 New York International Independent Film & Video Festival Best Editing

HVCB Literary Award for the illustrated hard cover book “Waikiki in the Wake of Dreams”.

Page Two  
Capital Improvement Projects for State Archives”  
February 5, 2020

The “Waikiki In the Wake of Dreams” film premiered in Hawaii before it premiered nationally at the National Geographic Society in Washington D.C. The film also received much favorable press for Hawaii and equally important, helped to bring our community together:

In collaboration with the Hawaii Tourism Authority, the Hawaii Visitors & Convention Bureau, the Sheraton Luxury Collection Hawaii, The Moana Sheraton and with other partners — the Honolulu City & County approved TPAF’s proposal and design for what is known as the “Sunset on the Beach” Waikiki venue on Kuhio beach. The concept was meant to serve as a designated free public venue to be utilized for viewing Hawaii-produced films, music events, and short films; and to facilitate local residents coming in to Waikiki and mingling with visitors in an open air venue. The first film to utilize the venue, which continues to this day, was “Waikiki in the Wake of Dreams”.

The “Waikiki” premiere attracted 5,000 residents and visitors on a clear moonlit evening where local families brought their children and mingled with visitors sitting on the beach, perched atop parked cars, on two fire trucks, in beach chairs, in hotel rooms, folks watching from floatation devices in the water; while further down Waikiki at the Sheraton Moana a second screen had been erected for 150 press and visitors. The iconic Don Ho appeared to celebrate the event honoring Waikiki’s great history and the people who made it world famous.

This film and the ensuing event would never have been possible had it not been for the precious archival photographs, letters, posters and archival visuals the production had secured from the Hawaii State Archives. This is just one example of the importance of supporting our State Archives.

At present time, the Archives has minimal space for researchers and no space to feature parts of the collection or host public events for school kids. We cannot underscore the importance of supporting the State Archives’ request to expand services and its public outreach. Thank you for this opportunity to share PAF’s unequivocal support of greater funding for CIP projects for the State Archives.

Sincerely,



William C. Lum  
President  
Pacific Arts Foundation





February 10, 2020

TO: Senator, Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair,  
Senator, Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts

Senator, Laura H. Thielen, Chair,  
Senator, Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Government Operations

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
TIME: 2:51 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 225, 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](mailto:nahawaiiimiloa@gmail.com)

**Re: TESTIMONY in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2959  
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 SB 2959 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 SB 2959 to provide additional funding for capital improvement projects for the State Archives.



**TO:** Senator Laura Thielen, Chair  
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair  
Committee on Government Operations

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara Jr., Vice Chair  
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

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

**Committee:** Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
2:51 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

**RE: SB2959, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives**

On behalf of Historic Hawaii Foundation, I am writing in **support for SB2959**. 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.

**SB-2959**

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:26:09 AM

Testimony for GVO on 2/11/2020 2:51:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Martha Torney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a volunteer at the Hawaii State Archives, I urge your support of this measure. It is clear the current space is inadequate for the volume of records and artifacts the Archives is responsible for. Newly donated materials are stacked in staff areas as there is no longer space available on the shelves located in the basement and on the second floor. Those who regularly augment the work of the professional staff through volunteering occupy every space available for that purpose. There is very little space for displaying the historic treasures entrusted to the Archives. Please protect our past by investing in the future of the Hawaii State Archives. Thank you for considering my comments on this important issue.

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
Committee on Government Operations



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

Alyssa Purcell

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Support for S.B. NO. 2959, Relating to Capital Improvement Projects for the State Archives

My name is Alyssa Purcell, and I am testifying in support of S.B. NO. 2959, 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 S.B. NO. 2959.

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