



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 10:10 a.m.

By

Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1509 SD1 – RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 1509 SD1, relating to the State Archives.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) recognizes the importance of the Hawai'i State Archives' (HSA) work, and UH supports this bill's intent to provide resources to the Hawai'i State Archives' efforts to manage the operational records of Hawai'i's governments, which are invaluable resources our students and researchers regularly utilize.

The University appreciates the revisions to the prior draft of the bill, noting that the UH Libraries support the educational and research needs of the University community and serve as a resource for the community at large. As part of this mission, the UH Libraries build collections that support and enrich UH's commitment to being a Native Hawaiian place of learning and have preserved and maintained audiovisual, archival, and book collections relating to Hawai'i's diverse ethnic and indigenous cultures for decades. One poignant example of this may be found in 'Ulu'ulu: The Henry Ku'uloha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai'i which was created statutorily.

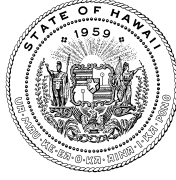
Along with the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), UH respectfully requests a revision on page 3, line 2, so that it may read: "for the preservation of and long-term access to government records and other materials preserved at the State Archives."

The inclusion of this language will help to avoid competition between the University and the State Archives while honoring the original intent of the bill, which is to support the digitization and preservation of materials currently held at the State Archives in order to increase public access.

With this revision, we support the flexibility this bill affords the State Archives' preservation and long-term access special fund and the expansion of potential funding sources for its core functions.

Thank you for the consideration of this amendment and the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 1, 2023, 10:10AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S. B. 1509, S.D. 1

RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 1509, S.D. 1.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) strongly **supports** this bill and offers the following comments:

1. As one of the only memory institutions among the libraries, archives, and museums of Hawai'i that stayed open throughout the pandemic, the State Archives received a number of significant donations that provide a great benefit to the People of Hawai'i. Among these donations are two large donations of Hawaiian Music from the Michael Scott Hawaiian Music Collection, a self-taught British-born steel guitarist, and the Harry B. Soria, Jr. Territorial Airwaves Hawaiian Music Archives. Between these two

collections, there are approximately 35,000 music recordings including phonographic records, 1/4" reel-to-reel tape, cassettes, and CDs. In addition to music records, the Andy Andrews donation contained not only 137 ukuleles, but also 12 banker boxes worth of ukulele sheet music. All of these historic music records and artifacts are preserved at the Hawai'i State Archives for free public access.

2. As these recordings and sheet music date as far back as 1901, they contain some of the earliest recordings of the Hawaiian language that were commercially accessible. The impact that these early Hawaiian musicians had on the continental music scenes at the beginning of the 20th century cannot be overstated. According to the Smithsonian Institution, in 1916 Hawaiian music outsold every other genre of music in the United States. Digitizing these recordings and making them accessible to the public and educators anywhere in the world will be an invaluable resource for informing the public about these amazing Hawaiian musical performances that shaped jazz and rock music as we know it today, as well as providing a language resource for scholars and speakers of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.
3. In addition to the above referenced music collections, the State Archives has a collection of over 1 million historic photographs, 14,000 boxes of historic records, over 500 personal manuscript collections from important Hawaiians and Organizations, and over one thousand artifacts. Digitizing these historic records for free, online public access would provide an unprecedented equity of access to the documentary heritage of Hawaii. Anyone anywhere would be able to access Hawaii's (and their own) history free of charge, without any artificial impediments.
4. To honor the original intent of this bill -- which is to authorize additional expenditures of

moneys in the State Archives Preservation and Long-term Access Special Fund to be used to digitize materials and preserve materials held at the State Archives in order to increase public access – while also addressing concerns raised in prior bill testimony regarding confusion of roles with archives held elsewhere for educational and research needs, DAGS respectfully requests revising the language on page 3, line 2 as follows:

“for the preservation of and long-term access to government records and other materials collected and held at the State Archives.”

5. The staff at the State Archives dearly wants to do more outreach, provide more content, and serve more public and government stakeholders. They humbly request the resources needed to connect the People of Hawai'i with their documentary and musical heritage -- regardless of their location, ability to travel, hours of employment, or economic status -- through expanded access and services to address their needs in the 21st century and beyond. As such, we respectfully request that the committee consider increasing the preservation fee authorized under §94-8, HRS, from \$1 to \$3, with authorization of five additional permanent special-funded FTE staff: one Software Developer (IT Band B), one Digital Archivist (Archivist III), and three Digitization Specialists (Library Tech V), with an expected annual personnel costs of \$250,000 salary and \$134,000 for corresponding fringe benefits. The remainder of the funds from the increased preservation fee would be used for acquisition of additional contract services, equipment needs, and acquisition of private Hawaiian History related materials for placement into the Public Trust at the State Archives.
6. Lastly, the State Archives has the unique opportunity to acquire two significant Hawaiian Music related collections that are relevant to the purpose of this Bill. These collections

will greatly aid in educating the public about the history, evolution and impact of Hawaiian Music and enriching our existing holdings. As such, we are requesting a one-time general fund appropriation of \$100,000 in FY 2024: \$75,000 for the purchase of a large (61) collection of historic ukuleles from the 1920s to custom current manufacture to add to our existing library of historic instruments that are accessible to the public, and \$25,000 to acquire the Malcolm Rockwell Hawaiian Record Collection. The Ukulele collection contains pieces by well-known luthiers and is being offered to the State at a significant discount off the commercial value. Mr. Rockwell is the author of the Discography "Hawaiian and Hawaiian Guitar Records, 1891-1960" and this collection was the basis of that seminal work and would allow the Archives access to a wealth of searchable metadata on the recordings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

SB-1509-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 3:40:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Keao NeSmith | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this bill.

The State Archives needs more resources to digitize more historic material to place online so they can be used by people everywhere as they learn about and document Hawaiian history.

Providing the Archives the ability to acquire historic collections as they become available makes it so that those collections are in the public trust and accessible to everyone.

Mahalo,

Keao NeSmith

SB-1509-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 9:41:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Shawn Yacavone | Testifying for Ukulele Friend, LLC | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Shawn Yacavone and I am a small business owner of “Ukulele Friend”, a company that specializes in historical ‘ukulele that date back to the first generation of instruments handcrafted in Hawaii during the Hawaiian Kingdom period. I am writing on this occasion in strong support of funding SB SB1509 and thank you in advance for your sincere consideration on this matter.

The importance of establishing the Hawaii State Archives as the foremost repository of Hawaiian music and related artifacts, inclusive of historical compositions, sheet music, recordings, and the like documents, photos, and instruments etc specific to the history and development of music in Hawaii, its impact on the people and culture of Hawaii, and it’s impact on the world cannot be overstated. It serves the best interest of the State and the people of Hawaii not only through archival means in sourcing, storing, and documenting this relatively unexplored history; but it remains a necessary investment into ensuring a strong tradition of future composers, researchers, musicians, and instrument makers in Hawaii for generations to come.

I strongly support funding the Hawaii State Archives for this reason and humbly ask that you pass bill SB1509.

Sincerely,
Shawn Yacavone

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1509: **RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF DR. ANDREW WERTHEIMER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION STUDIES, UHM**

28 Feb. 2023

Dear Honorable State Legislators:

I am writing to you in **strong support of SB 1509**. I do so as a state citizen, local researcher, archivist, and educator of Library and Archival Studies. I teach Library and Archival Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, although I am not speaking for my employer. I’m writing to you in my personal professional opinion.

I appreciate that the Legislature is willing to invest more in our Public Archives in order to gather our state’s history as well as to help them to increase their efforts to digitize our amazing cultural legacy.

I’m excited about the bill for several reasons. As a researcher, I appreciate how this will make it easier for historians, genealogists, and others to have access to our history regardless of residence. We know how important this story is for our People. Another part of the intent of the bill is to offer our graduate students in the UHM Library and Information Science Program a chance to gain professional experience with digitizing Hawai‘i’s cultural heritage. Many people imagine that digitizing is easy – simply feed papers into a scanner and presto – one can access the information online. In reality, archivists and librarians make that possible because they gather collections, organize them, and add metadata so that they can be searched. They also check materials so that we don’t upload private information that could be misused. Having paid positions at the Public Archives would allow our students to gain practical experience in working at the State Archives. Our graduates will take those skills to other archival repositories in the state, which also have precious cultural heritage materials.

So, this bill is not only an investment in our public archive, but also is an investment in our people. It develops technical and professional knowledge among your constituents, and builds professional skills so these graduates can contribute to our community for years to come.

I should add that watching the hearings I saw some discussion about transferring materials from materials, like UHM Library's Special Collections. I'm not sure where this confusion emerged from, but the reality is that it would be impossible for any one archival repository to have enough staff, physical space or afford server space to be able to gather the entire history of our state. Each organization has our own mission and collection plans. We all cooperate where we can to afford savings and materials access, and truly learn together.

Rather, this bill will make it possible for the State Archives to take a leadership role on making many key collections available to users in the state and beyond. Our professional community of archivists and librarians work together to locate, secure, process, preserve, and provide access to collections.

In conclusion, this bill is a win-win for everyone in the community. It's a strong, fiscally responsible, and wise investment in developing technical (and ethical) skills among our people, and helping to provide access to materials in the world.

Thank you for considering my very strong support for this bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew B. Wertheimer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew B. Wertheimer, MLS, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Library and Information Science
Coordinator, Archival Studies, UHM

LATE

SB-1509-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 6:15:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angus Raff-Tierney | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB 1509. As a historic preservation professional I rely on the state archives regularly for their expansive and well ordered documents. The are in need of additional funding to support necessary requirements of their assigned governmental responsibilities.

LATE

SB-1509-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2023 10:30:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2023 10:10:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bronson K. Silva | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

As a resident of Hawaii and a Native Hawaiian, I am writing to express my strong support for SB1509 SD1, RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES.

The State Archives plays a critical role in preserving the history of Hawaii and its native people. The Archives contain a wealth of historical records, including government documents, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and artifacts. These records provide invaluable insights into the Kingdom of Hawaii, the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii and serve as vital legal and administrative references.

SB1509 SD1 will allow the Archives to undertake new preservation projects and enhance access to its collections. With an ever-increasing demand for online access to historical records, continuous investments in technology and infrastructure are crucial. Furthermore, it is imperative for the Archives to acquire historic collections as they become available so that these private collections can become part of the public trust and be made accessible to all.

I believe that SB1509 SD1 is an important step forward in ensuring the preservation of Hawaii's rich and vibrant cultural heritage. I urge you to support this bill and to ensure that the State Archives receives the funding and support it needs to continue its essential work.

Me ka haahaa,

Bronson K. Silva