



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Friday, March 15, 2024

3:15 p.m.

Conference Room 229

**By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian**

H.B. 2399 H.D.1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

To: Sen. Michelle Kidani, Chair
Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** H.B. 2399 H.D.1, which exempts an additional administrative assistant position in the Hawai'i State Public Library System from civil service.

Act 88, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, created a new administrative assistant position in HSPLS. The new administrative assistant position was intended to be permanently exempt from civil service, but the corresponding statutory amendment, as proposed in this measure, was not completed.

The duties and responsibilities of this position are to oversee and manage all HSPLS facilities-related issues statewide. Due to the immense responsibility and expectations, exempt status for this position is necessary to ensure that the individual has the necessary skill set and experience necessary to manage our facilities statewide.

While the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) provides HSPLS a substantial amount of support to repair and maintain our buildings, DAGS is short-staffed and must also service all other State buildings. A dedicated facilities position at HSPLS helps us to track, prioritize, and ensure that our building needs are met, including ensuring that all facilities

funding appropriated to HSPLS are expended. H.B. 2399 H.D.1 has no budgetary impact, as funding for the position is already in HSPLS' base budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supporting testimony on H.B. 2399 H.D.1.