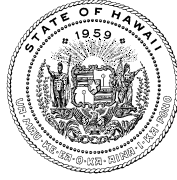


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
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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 LAWELAWÉ LAULĀ
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

MARCH 25, 2025, 3:20 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.C.R. 169 / S.R. 138

REQUESTING THE STATE ARCHIVES TO EXPAND PUBLIC OUTREACH, SHARE HAWAII'S HISTORY THAT MAY PROVE RELEVANT TODAY, CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND EVALUATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION.

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.C.R 169 / S.R. 138

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

- 1) As keepers of public memory, the State Archives has been actively collecting Hawai'i's history since 1905 and has amassed a significant treasure trove of documentary history dating back to before the formation of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Many of these treasures lie dormant in the Archives' vault awaiting researchers to breathe life back into these voices of the past.

- 2) While the Archives has always welcomed and served researchers who come to the facility or search for record's online, they have lacked the resources needed to proactively educate the public regarding carefully curated historical records from its holdings that are relevant to contemporary issues and topics around the history, society, cultures, and the laws of Hawai'i. Providing this direct call to action will enable the Archives to develop timely and relevant educational sessions and supplementary materials through hosting speaker series, academic lectures, and other similar outreach events; supplementing these educational opportunities with digitized primary source documents.
- 3) As with most memory institutions across the globe, Archives' funding is often a limited to expanding the dissemination of knowledge and providing direct user experience with the documentary heritage of Hawai'i. We welcome the opportunity to find ways to create additional revenue streams in order to offset the cost of providing increased services and outreach opportunities to the public.
- 4) Understanding revenue opportunities in a new facility will great aid the Archives in determining the most appropriate, sustainable course forward in programming opportunities, outreach efforts, enhanced archival services, facility size, and staffing levels should such a facility be approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

To: Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Tuesday, March 24, 2025

Aloha Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Members of the Committee:

RE: Testimony in Support of SR138 related state archives; study; public outreach; and civic engagement

My name is Melissa Terada, and I am a master of social work student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. The views I will express are mine and do not necessarily reflect those of the university. Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of Senate Resolution 138**, which requests that the state archives expand public outreach, share Hawai'i's history, open public discussion and civic engagement spaces, and evaluate funding opportunities.

As someone who has lived in Hawai'i for 19 years, I recognize the importance of preserving and uplifting the island's history. Hawai'i's history is far greater than dates and documents, it tells a story of people's culture and traditions, and how sovereignty has been shaped through injustices. The State Archives holds valuable information, but due to a lack of outreach, information on the archives is unknown and knowledge on how to access this information is not recognized. Increasing outreach will educate and empower individuals, address their needs and issues, and build trust within the community.

While I support this resolution, I believe certain amendments can be made to prioritize Native Hawaiian representation:

- Incorporate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in outreach and education opportunities and ensure that these narratives align with Hawaiian perspectives.
- Ensure that Native Hawaiian individuals and communities are closely working with the Archives and have a prominent role in shaping outreach and discussion. Doing so will elevate Native Hawaiian voices.

In conclusion, I support Senate Resolution 138, and I urge you to consider the proposed amendments to incorporate within the resolution to increase the Native Hawaiian representation.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to share my testimony,
Melissa Terada