
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO
ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY CONCERNING THE
CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF THE STATE ARCHIVES.

1 WHEREAS, the original State Archives Building, known as the
2 Kana'ina Building, was built in 1905 on the 'Iolani Palace
3 grounds, within the Hawai'i Capital Historic District, to house
4 the Public Archives of Hawai'i; and
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6 WHEREAS, after many years of collecting and acquiring into
7 the Public Archives the most important records and artifacts of
8 the governments of Hawai'i from the Hawaiian Kingdom through
9 Statehood, the State Archives eventually outgrew the Kana'ina
10 Building; and
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12 WHEREAS, in 1952, a new building adjacent to the Kana'ina
13 Building was constructed as the new home of the State Archives
14 and named after Kekāuluohi; and
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16 WHEREAS, there exists a need to promote citizen engagement
17 in the documentary heritage of the government, provide greater
18 education on the history of Hawai'i's governments and its people,
19 and assist the people of Hawai'i in connecting with their
20 personal history as well as the history of Hawai'i; and
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22 WHEREAS, there exists a need to have a dedicated display
23 space to highlight the many historic records and artifacts
24 preserved in the Public Archives that document the vibrant and
25 diverse history of Hawai'i, its public institutions, and its
26 people; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Capital Historic District has been the
29 center of Hawai'i's government for over a century, now consists
30 of twenty buildings and structures, and was added to the
31 National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1978; and
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33 WHEREAS, the buildings and structures within the Hawai'i
34 Capital Historic District have distinct architectural styles,



1 ranging from the nineteenth century adaptations of New England
2 homes to the Italianate Renaissance Revival and Neoclassic
3 edifices of the Hawaiian Monarchy; and
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5 WHEREAS, the current State Archives Building does not fit
6 architecturally with the other buildings of the Hawai'i Capital
7 Historic District; and
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9 WHEREAS, the current State Archives Building not only
10 appears outdated, but is also outdated in function with
11 electrical and elevator problems requiring expensive repair
12 along with a lack of stable backup power, which puts the secure
13 storage of the records at risk; and
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15 WHEREAS, the historical records of Hawai'i held at the State
16 Public Library, which is near the current State Archives
17 Building, should be stored in the same location and with the
18 same archival standards as the historical records held at the
19 State Archives; and
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21 WHEREAS, aging, underrepresented, and marginalized segments
22 of the community seek to donate important historical documents
23 and artifacts to the State Archives, but a lack of storage space
24 in the current State Archives Building requires the State
25 Archivist to be very selective in accepting donations; now,
26 therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
29 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the
30 Department of Accounting and General Services is requested to
31 establish a task force to conduct a study concerning the current
32 and future needs of the State Archives; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members be
35 selected as follows:
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- 37 (1) Three members to be selected by the President of the
38 Senate; provided that at least one member is a member
39 of the Senate;
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(2) Three members to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; provided that at least one member is a member of the House of Representatives;

(3) Three members to be selected by the Governor; and

(4) Four members to be selected by the Comptroller; provided that at least two members be Archives Division employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to select a chairperson from among its members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a vacancy on the task force shall be filled by the same selection authority that appointed the vacating member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that seven members of the task force shall constitute a quorum; provided that an affirmative vote of five members shall be necessary for decision-making; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force meeting schedule shall be determined by the members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawai'i Revised Statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall not be considered state employees for the purposes of chapter 84, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, due solely to their service on the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to include in its study an analysis of the:

(1) Requirements of the State Archives to continue to acquire the documentary and artifactual history of Hawai'i and its people for the next fifty years;

(2) Expected suitability of the current Archives facilities over the next fifty years;



- (3) Space requirements to create a museum quality display space for the Public Archives to educate the public and visitors on the documentary and artifactual history of Hawai'i, its public institutions, and its people through exhibitions, educational seminars, and interpretive displays;
- (4) Suitability of renovating Kekāuluohi to conform to the architectural style of the Hawai'i Capital Historic District while updating its infrastructure to conform to archival standards and meet the Archives' needs for the next fifty years; using existing State facilities to house or extend the operations of the State Archives, or both; or constructing a new, suitable facility to house the Public Archives and State Archives' operations, or both;
- (5) Capability of current and projected new facilities to digitize the records of the Public Archives and provide the necessary infrastructure to support the Digital Archives;
- (6) Feasibility of combining the historical documents or archival records currently located at the State Library into the records of the State Archives; and
- (7) Utility of a Hawai'i Capital Historic District Visitor Center in conjunction with any display space for the Archives' holdings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller,



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1 President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives, State Archivist, and State Librarian.
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OFFERED BY:

RS. O. O. J. L.

