
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE ARCHIVES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the state archives
3 contains records and primary source documents relating to the
4 rich culture and history of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians. As the
5 State's largest memory institution, the state archives is open
6 to the public and offers various services, including requests
7 from other government agencies. While shifts in technology
8 reduced the need for certain positions in the archives division,
9 the mission and services of the state archives have not changed,
10 and the need for staff has grown due to a backlog of transferred
11 and acquired materials and an increase in public contact.

12 Therefore, the purpose of this part is to appropriate funds
13 for additional staff positions in the state archives to assist
14 with its mission and increase public access to historical
15 documents and artifacts.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$720,000 or so much



thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the establishment of staff positions in the Hawaii state archives as follows:

- (1) One assistant Hawaiian language specialist position;
- (2) Two processing and acquisitions archivist positions;
- (3) One audio-visual archivist position;
- (4) One objects curator position;
- (5) One acquisitions position;
- (6) One registration and public services position;
- (7) Two assistant digital specialist positions; and
- (8) One security guard position.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of accounting and general services for the purposes of this part.

PART II

SECTION 3. The legislature finds that the original state archives building, known as the Kanaina building, was built in 1905 on the Iolani Palace grounds within the Hawaii capital historic district to house the public archives of Hawaii. After many years of collecting the most important records and artifacts from the Hawaiian kingdom through statehood, the state archives eventually outgrew the Kanaina building and in 1952, a



1 new building adjacent to the Kanaina building was constructed as
2 the new home of the state archives and named after Kekauluohi.

3 The legislature further finds that there exists a need to
4 promote citizen engagement in the documentary and tangible
5 artifact heritage of the government, provide greater education
6 of the history of Hawaii's governments and its people, and
7 assist the people of Hawaii in connecting with their personal
8 history, as well as the history of Hawaii, for the state
9 archives to fulfill its role as the keeper of the public memory.

10 There also exists a need to have dedicated exhibition space
11 to highlight the many historic records and artifacts preserved
12 in the public archives that document the vibrant and diverse
13 history of Hawaii, its public institutions, and its people.

14 An additional challenge is presented when aging,
15 underrepresented, and marginalized segments of the community
16 seek to donate important historical documents and artifacts to
17 the state archives, but a lack of storage space in the current
18 state archives building requires the state archivist to be very
19 selective in accepting donations.



1 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for the
2 construction of an additional building to address the current
3 and future facilities needs of the state archives.

4 SECTION 4. The director of finance is authorized to issue
5 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$50,000,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
7 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2022-2023
8 for the purpose of financing an additional building for the
9 state archives to expand and create new spaces for collections
10 processing, storage, administrative use, public research,
11 exhibitions, listening, learning, and community engagement.

12 SECTION 5. The sum appropriated for the capital
13 improvement project set forth in section 4 shall be expended by
14 the department of accounting and general services for the
15 purposes of this part.

16 SECTION 6. The appropriation made for the capital
17 improvement project authorized by this part shall not lapse at
18 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
19 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
20 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

21 PART III



SECTION 7. The legislature finds that many of the state departments, offices, and agencies possess records and primary documents related to the culture and history of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians. Housing all of these precious records and documents in the state archives would ensure that these records and documents are properly archived and handled by trained specialists.

The purpose of this part is to:

- (1) Require all departments, offices, and agencies of the State to conduct an inventory of all documents in their possession related to the culture and history of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians and submit a report on the inventory to the legislature; and
- (2) Require the state archives to develop a plan to acquire those documents and submit the plan to the legislature.

SECTION 8. (a) Each department of the State shall conduct an inventory of all records and primary source documents in its possession, including all records and primary source documents in the possession of any office or agency under its administrative control or supervision, that relate to the



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1 culture and history of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians and submit a
2 report on the inventory to the legislature and to the state
3 archives no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
4 regular session of 2023.

5 (b) The state archives shall review the inventory reports
6 submitted by each department and work with each department to
7 prepare a transfer plan for all records and primary source
8 documents related to the culture and history of Hawaii and
9 Native Hawaiians in its possession, or in the possession of any
10 office or agency under its administrative control or
11 supervision, to the state archives. The state archives shall
12 submit one consolidated transfer plan consisting of the transfer
13 plans for all departments to the legislature, with any proposed
14 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
15 the regular session of 2024.

PART IV

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17 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 26 2022



H.B. NO. 2449

Report Title:

State Archives; Staff Positions; Capital Improvement Project;
Records Inventory; Transfer Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to establish staff positions in the Hawaii state archives to assist with its mission and increase public access to historical documents and artifacts. Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the construction of an additional building to address the current and future facility needs of the state archives. Requires all departments, offices, and agencies of the State to conduct an inventory of all documents in their possession related to the culture and history of Hawaii and Native Hawaiians. Requires the state archives to develop a transfer plan to acquire those documents.

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