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**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ**  
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
OF  
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, ARTS & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024, 10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S. B. 2710 S. D. 2

RELATING TO CULTURE AND ARTS.

Chair Tam, Vice Chair Martinez, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S. B. 2710 S. D. 2.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** S. B. 2710, S. D. 2 which establishes a Hawaii Leadership Awards Program. DAGS appreciates the language in this measure that allows for a true archives of their works and achievements within the State Archives so that their deeds will be readily accessible in a centralized location for generations to come. This archive would include photographs, videos, oral histories, documents, writings, and examples of their work to ensure that their good deeds never fade from public memory. Too often, individuals who are recognized for their sacrifices fade into the obscurity of time once those who directly knew them and their deeds depart this Earth. If we are to truly honor these

individuals, it is proper that we emblazon their deeds upon the public memory in an indelible and easily accessible way, overseen by trained, trusted professionals, in a repository properly designed to provide the finest protection for irreplaceable documentary heritage materials. An archives that serves everyone equally and encourages the public to explore the past to shape a better future.

Please consider providing appropriate funding and staffing to the State Archives so that they may collect, arrange, preserve, and make accessible the permanent record of these most deserving individuals – not only for this award but for all awards issued by any State or Federal agency in recognition of Hawai'i citizens or organizations (e.g., Aloha Award of Merit, National Heritage Fellowship, and Hawai'i Poet Laureate) for their excellence and contributions to the State and its people. Given the number of awards that are presented annually by the State (including the twelve that are added to this bill), to properly honor these individuals and document their work on behalf of the State of Hawai'i, this new workload on the State Archives would require a new position. We would suggest to the committee to add one (1.00) permanent civil service position to this bill (Archivist III, SR-20, \$59,000/year) to oversee the collection and organization of the records of the recognized individuals, plus an additional \$40,000 in equipment, software, and supplies to create a publicly accessible archives and various commemorative displays. The department requests these additional resources to support this measure as long as it does not adversely impact priorities identified in the executive supplemental budget request for FY 2025.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our suggestions on this measure and appreciate the opportunity to address any concerns our testimony raises.

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