



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony
Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor & Government Relations
Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

By
Debora Halbert
Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 1509 SD2 – RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1509 SD2, relating to the State Archives.

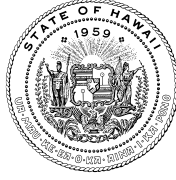
The University of Hawai'i (UH) recognizes the importance of the Hawai'i State Archives' (HSA) work, and UH supports this bill's intent to provide resources to the Hawai'i State Archives' efforts to manage the operational records of Hawai'i's governments, which are invaluable resources our students and researchers regularly utilize.

The University appreciates the revisions to the prior draft of the bill, noting that the UH Libraries support the educational and research needs of the University community and serve as a resource for the community at large. As part of this mission, the UH Libraries build collections that support and enrich UH's commitment to being a Native Hawaiian place of learning and have preserved and maintained audiovisual, archival, and book collections relating to Hawai'i's diverse ethnic and indigenous cultures for decades. One poignant example of this may be found in 'Ulu'ulu: The Henry Ku'uloha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai'i, which was created statutorily.

We support the flexibility this bill affords the State Archives' preservation and long-term access special fund and the expansion of potential funding sources for its core functions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1509 SD2 as currently drafted.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
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 LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

S. B. 1509, S.D. 2

MARCH 23, 2023, 9:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 309 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES.

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 1509, S.D. 2.

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

1. As one of the only memory institutions among the libraries, archives, and museums of Hawai'i that stayed open throughout the pandemic, the State Archives received a number of significant donations that provide a great benefit to the People of Hawai'i. Among these donations are two large donations of Hawaiian Music from the Michael Scott Hawaiian Music Collection, a self-taught British-born steel guitarist, and the Harry B. Soria, Jr. Territorial Airwaves Hawaiian Music Archives. Between these two collections, there are approximately 35,000 music recordings including phonographic

records, 1/4" reel-to-reel tape, cassettes, and CDs. In addition to music records, the Andy Andrews donation contained not only 137 ukuleles, but also 12 banker boxes worth of ukulele sheet music. All of these historic music records and artifacts are preserved at the Hawai'i State Archives for free public access.

2. As these recordings and sheet music date as far back as 1901, they contain some of the earliest recordings of the Hawaiian language that were commercially accessible. The impact that these early Hawaiian musicians had on the continental music scenes at the beginning of the 20th century cannot be overstated. According to the Smithsonian Institution, in 1916 Hawaiian music outsold every other genre of music in the United States. Digitizing these recordings and making them accessible to the public and educators anywhere in the world will be an invaluable resource for informing the public about these amazing Hawaiian musical performances that shaped jazz and rock music as we know it today, as well as providing a language resource for scholars and speakers of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.
3. In addition to the above referenced music collections, the State Archives has a collection of over 1 million historic photographs, 14,000 boxes of historic records, over 500 personal manuscript collections from important Hawaiians and Organizations, and over one thousand artifacts. Digitizing these historic records for free, online public access would provide an unprecedented equity of access to the documentary heritage of Hawaii. Anyone anywhere would be able to access Hawaii's (and their own) history free of charge, without any artificial impediments.
4. The staff at the State Archives dearly wants to do more outreach, provide more content, and serve more public and government stakeholders. They humbly request the

resources needed to connect the People of Hawai'i with their documentary and musical heritage -- regardless of their location, ability to travel, hours of employment, or economic status -- through expanded access and services to address their needs in the 21st century and beyond.

5. We would respectfully request that the committee consider funding this initiative to digitize and place online the records donated to the State Archives by increasing the Preservation and Long-Term Access Special Fund fee authorized under HRS94-8 (d) (in the proposed SD2) from \$1 to \$3 with authorization of five additional permanent special funded FTE staff: one Software Developer (IT Band B), one Digital Archivist (Archivist III), and three Digitization Specialists (Library Tech V) with an expected annual personnel costs of \$250,000 salary and \$134,000 for corresponding fringe benefits. The remainder of the funds would be used for acquisition of additional contract services, equipment needs, and acquisition of private Hawaiian History related materials for placement into the Public Trust at the State Archives.

6. Lastly, the State Archives has the unique opportunity to acquire three significant Hawaiian Music related collections that are relevant to the purpose of this Bill. These collections will greatly aid in educating the public about the history, evolution and impact of Hawaiian Music and enrich our existing holdings. As such, we are requesting a one-time general fund allotment of \$160,000 to acquire these key pieces to add to our existing Hawaiian Music Archives: \$75,000 for the purchase of a large (61) collection of historic ukuleles from the 1920s to custom current manufacture to add to our existing library of historic instruments that are accessible to the public, \$60,000 to purchase the Ukulele collection of a professional Steel Guitarist, and \$25,000 to acquire the Malcolm

Rockwell Hawaiian Record Collection. The Ukulele collections contains pieces by well-known luthiers and being offered to the State at a discount off of their appraised value in order to maintain the collections intact and to place them in the public trust. Mr.

Rockwell is the author of the Discography "Hawaiian and Hawaiian Guitar Records, 1891-1960" and this record collection was the basis of that seminal work and would allow the Archives access to a wealth of searchable metadata on the recordings.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1509: **RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES to the** House Committee on Labor & Government Operations

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF DR. ANDREW WERTHEIMER
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION STUDIES, UHM**

22 March 2023

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and Committee Members Kapela, Martinez, Sayama, Tam, and Alcos:

I am writing to express my **strong support** for **SB 1509**. I do so as a state citizen, local researcher, archivist, and educator of Library and Archival Studies. I teach Library and Archival Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, although I am not speaking for my employer. I'm writing to you in my personal professional opinion.

I appreciate the Legislature's willingness to invest more in our Public Archives in order to gather our state's history as well as to help them to increase their efforts to digitize our amazing cultural legacy.

I'm excited about the bill for several reasons. As a researcher, I appreciate how this will make it easier for historians, genealogists, and others to have access to our history regardless of residence. We know how important this story is for our People, especially Kānaka Maoli in the Diaspora and on neighbor islands. Another part of the intent of the bill is to offer our graduate students in the UHM Library and Information Science Program a chance to gain professional experience with digitizing Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Many people imagine that digitizing is easy – simply feed papers into a scanner and presto – one can access the information online. In reality, archivists and librarians make that possible because they gather collections, organize them, and add metadata so that they can be searched. They also check materials so that we don't upload private information that could be misused.

Having paid positions at the Public Archives would allow our students to gain practical experience in working at the State Archives. Our graduates will take those skills to other archival repositories in the state, which also have precious cultural heritage materials.

So, this bill is not only an investment in our public archive, but also is an investment in our people. It develops technical and professional knowledge among your constituents, and builds professional skills so these graduates can contribute to our community for years to come.

I should add that watching the hearings I saw some discussion about transferring materials from materials, like UHM Library's Special Collections. I'm not sure where this confusion emerged from, but the reality is that it would be impossible for any one archival repository to have enough staff, physical space or afford server space to be able to gather the entire history of our state. Each organization has our own mission and collection plans. We all cooperate where we can to afford savings and materials access, and truly learn together.

Rather, this bill will make it possible for the State Archives to take a leadership role on making many key collections available to users in the state and beyond. Our professional community of archivists and librarians work together to locate, secure, process, preserve, and provide access to collections.

In conclusion, this bill is a win-win for everyone in the community. It's a strong, fiscally responsible, and wise investment in developing technical (and ethical) skills among our people, and helping to provide access to materials in the world. Thank you for considering my very strong support for this bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew B. Wertheimer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew B. Wertheimer, MLS, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Library and Information Science
Coordinator, Archival Studies, UHM

SB-1509-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 9:31:38 AM

Testimony for LGO on 3/23/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Tilton	Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Hawaii Chapter 1	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the House Committee on

Labor & Government Operations:

On behalf of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Hawaii Chapter 1, I am writing to express our strong support for SB1509 SD1, RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES.

The Order was established by King Kamehameha V on April 11, 1865, and named in honor of his grandfather Kamehameha the Great, *“to cultivate and develop, among our subjects, the feelings of honour and loyalty to our dynasty and its institutions and ... to confer honorary distinctions upon such of our subjects and foreigners as have rendered, or may hereafter render to our dynasty and people, important services.”* Today, the purpose of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I continues to unite in fraternal and benevolent work, men of Hawaiian descent, of good moral character, of sound bodily health; to cultivate the cardinal principles of friendship, charity and benevolence; to aid widows and orphans; to improve the social and moral conditions of its members; to provide scholarship assistance; to preserve and perpetuate the ancient culture, customs, and traditions of Hawaii, uplift the Hawaiian people; infuse the spirit of patriotism, loyalty, helpfulness and kindness among its members; advance the interest of its members in every rightful cause, and to encourage and develop leadership.

The State Archives plays a critical role in preserving the history of Hawaii and its native people. The Archives contain a wealth of historical records, including government documents, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and artifacts. These records provide invaluable insights into the Kingdom of Hawaii, the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii and serve as vital legal and administrative references. SB1509 SD1 will allow the Archives to undertake new preservation projects and enhance access to its collections. With an ever-increasing demand for online access to historical records, continuous investments in technology and infrastructure are crucial. Furthermore, it is imperative for the Archives to acquire historic

collections as they become available so that these private collections can become part of the public trust and be made accessible to all.

We believe that SB1509 SD1 is an important step forward in ensuring the preservation of Hawaii's rich and vibrant cultural heritage. We urge you to support this bill and to ensure that the State Archives receives the funding and support it needs to continue its essential work.

Respectfully submitted,

Alii Sir Charles Tilton

Kakaolelo

Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Hawaii Chapter 1