
SENATE RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, the State Archives has been the keepers of public
2 memory since 1905; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State Archives maintains a vast array of
5 historically significant and irreplaceable records of Hawaii's
6 history, including world leading innovations and social equality
7 initiatives; and
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9 WHEREAS, the State Archives outgrew its original facility
10 in 1953, and has now exceeded its storage capacity for a second
11 time; and
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13 WHEREAS, a structural analysis of the current State
14 Archives facility conducted in 2024 found that the structure is
15 not capable of handling the realized floor loads of the original
16 expansion plans specified; and
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18 WHEREAS, the State Archives is currently engaged in
19 drafting a State Archives Master Plan to propose needed
20 development of a new and expanded archives facility along with
21 increasing its public programming offerings; and
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23 WHEREAS, this public programming is expected to include
24 multi-functional educational spaces for use by teachers and
25 students at all levels of education; and
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27 WHEREAS, there exists a strong, clear need to increase
28 understanding of Hawaii's history, increase opportunities for
29 sharing stories from Hawaii's past that may be relevant today,
30 and increase civic engagement and education; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
3 that the State Archives is requested to expand public outreach,
4 share Hawaii's history that may prove relevant today, create new
5 opportunities for public discussion and civic engagement,
6 including providing perspectives on historical and modern issues
7 through the lens of different segments of the community,
8 including women, immigrants, and Native Hawaiians, and evaluate
9 funding opportunities to support its mission; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Accounting
12 and General Services is requested to conduct a study on the
13 potential for revenue generation opportunities of a new State
14 Archives facility being developed in the State Archives Master
15 Plan to provide a long-term source of funding for the operations
16 and programs of the State Archives; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study is requested to
19 consider an expanded State Archives facility which is requested
20 to include increased storage and research spaces built to last
21 for generations to come, museum grade, publicly accessible
22 display areas, multi-purpose digital classrooms, event spaces,
23 and a civics education center; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller and State
27 Archivist.

