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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 WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

FEBRUARY 18, 2026, 1:01 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

S.B. 2916

RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on S.B. 2916.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports S.B. 2916 and offers the following comments:

1. The current archives facility was designed over 70 years ago. Based on current archival practice and public access needs, this facility is severely outdated in form and function.
2. The space constraints of the current facility greatly hinder its ability to collect the archives of the many diverse subgroups within the various communities of Hawai'i that have added to our shared history and culture. When archives are lost, so are the collective memories of a people who these records document.

3. The Master Plan concludes that the current facility limitations leave the State Archives unable to execute its Legislative mandate to collect, arrange, describe, and make accessible the public archives of the State of Hawai'i.
4. The State Archives Master Plan is nearing completion and has recommendations for a larger, more appropriately configured memory institution with space requirements that far exceed the capability of the current facility.
5. To keep the project moving forward, funding is needed to conduct the planning, environmental studies, site evaluation and selection studies relative to the new proposed facility.

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

SB-2916

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:22:47 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Tranquada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2916, A Bill For An Act Relating to the State Archives, for the following reasons:

- The current Archives building is inadequate to carry out its statutory mission
- The building is far too small: it has exceeded its storage capacity, threatening its ability to preserve Hawaiian history and culture now and in the future
- Many items in the Archives are one-of-a-kind materials, available nowhere else.
- The 73-year-old building's aging infrastructure--including corroding pipes and inadequate electrical systems and cabling--cannot meet current standards or needs
- Lack of space is an obstacle to cataloging new acquisitions and making all materials accessible to the public
- Lack of space makes it impossible to provide museum-grade exhibits of the Archives' unique historical resources--not just documents, but audio recordings, musical instruments and other materials
- The Archives is not just a critical repository for the people of Hawai'i--its holdings are a resource of international significance, patronized by researchers from the mainland and around the world.

For these reasons the Archives should be funded for FY 2026-2027 for the planning, designing, environmental studies, site evaluation and selection studies, and permitting conducted necessary for a new Archives facility.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this bill.

Jim Tranquada

TESTIMONY FOR S.B. NO. 2916 – RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES

BY STEVE GOODENOW – FEBRUARY 16, 2026

TESTIMONY

I have been a resident of the State of Hawaii since the 1960's and have been an active student and collector of Hawaiian Artifacts. While I live on Oahu, my family lives in Hilo and I am fortunate to have three part Hawaiian grandchildren. Two attend Kamehameha School in Keaau. Our family has always had a passion for the studying of Hawaiian History and was the prime motivation behind my interest in collecting Hawaiian Artifacts. I now hold one of the largest Hawaiian Stone collection and have donations to Bishop Museum, I'miloa in Hilo and the Hawaii State Archives. I have worked with the Archives to identify items in their collection and assisted in the acquisition of precious Hawaiian Artifacts.

I have been impressed with amazing job Adam Jansen and his fellow employees have done to preserve Hawaiian History and accommodate the public's need to conduct research and view Hawaiian History. Unfortunately there is very limited space to continue to preserve Hawaii's history in a proper facility.

While Hawaii has wonderful museums which also provide a historical setting for Hawaii's history, there is no doubt that the role the Hawaii State Archives plays in the preservation of Hawaiian History is necessary and fundamental to the preservation of the history of Hawaii. It has now become necessary to not only explore space requirements but to fund that exploration and move the ball forward so that the history of Hawaii is not only preserved but readily available to not only the Hawaiian Community but Hawaii's public for study, documentation and understanding of their history.

I STRONGLY support SB NO 2916 and urge passage.

With Aloha, Steve Goodenow

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SB-2916

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:55:55 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/18/2026 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Lueck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in full support of the legislation being considered to develop an expansion and new home for the state archives. This would allow the state to create a broader opportunity to preserve and offer educational access/ research on Hawaii's unique sport but also other aspects of our culture and history that has impacted the world..

For the past 3 years I have led discussions within the local and international surfing community to develop a business plan for a surf museum of Hawaiian history and culture. This process has developed a impressive list of prominent individuals in the surfing community who have committed both their personal collections and potential financial support. One of the main stumbling blocks has been finding a physical space that can be financially feasible to operate long term. An expanded archives could potentially offer the opportunity to showcase and tell the story of Hawai'i's sport in an environment managed by experts in archival preservation and adequately funded with public and private funds.

Surfing is a story of Hawaii's impact on the world that should be told by our state - not left to others - in perpetuity.

with aloha,

Nancy Lueck