



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

By

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#### SB 1509 – RELATING TO THE STATE ARCHIVES

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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.

We note a concern in the bill's language regarding "photographic, phonographic, and audio-video records and collections that have a unique historical value or are related to Hawaii's diverse ethnic and indigenous cultures, or both." Expanding the scope of HSA's collection to include such materials will create unnecessary confusion of roles with existing archives and impact the UH System library and archival repositories, potentially detracting from the important work of making government records available for use by the public.

The mission of the UH Libraries is to support the educational and research needs of the University community and serve as a resource for the community at large. The UH Libraries build collections that support and enrich UH's commitment to being a Native Hawaiian place of learning. The UH Libraries have been building and stewarding audiovisual, archival, and book collections relating to Hawai'i's diverse ethnic and indigenous cultures for decades as part of that mission to serve the University and State of Hawai'i.

UH recommends the deletion of language on page 3, lines 2-4.

~~and photographic, phonographic, and audio-video records and collections that have a unique historical value or are related to Hawaii's diverse ethnic and indigenous cultures, or both.~~

With this language removed, 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 consideration of this amendment and the opportunity to testify.