



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Monday, February 1, 2021
3:00 pm
State Capitol, Room 229

By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian

S.B. 247 RELATING TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES

To: Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding Senate Bill 247, establishing a pilot program to generate revenue through the lease of public library lands to meet the mission of the public libraries.

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports the intent of S.B. 247, but notes that similar language was enacted in 2019, creating new Section 312-11 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Although not identical, the intent of S.B. 247 is similar; however, it is unclear whether the language adopted in 2019 or in S.B. 247 is preferred, particularly the provision regarding use of library sites with outstanding general obligation debt.

As shared in our 2019 testimony, it has been almost 50 years since all HSPLS properties have been reviewed. A comprehensive planning study would greatly assist HSPLS and the Board of Education in identifying properties for the pilot program, as well as help HSPLS in developing a strategic plan for the long-term needs of HSPLS. A planning study would also assist HSPLS in planning for current and future community needs.

In SECTION 3 of Act 285, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, an appropriation of \$100,000 was provided to HSPLS for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive planning study of HSPLS land sites and facilities. However, HSPLS was unable to pursue the study with the appropriated general funds as the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) is the expending agency for all HSPLS facility improvements, including planning projects. HSPLS does not have any employees with related technical expertise; thus, HSPLS relies on DAGS throughout the selection and management of consultants for all HSPLS projects.

Therefore, HSPLS respectfully requests the Committee's support for an increase in our Fiscal Biennium 22-24 Health & Safety lump sum appropriation request, as it would allow us to initiate a project with the Department of Accounting and General Services to hire the appropriate expertise to meet the objectives of the pilot program.

HSPLS also suggests an amendment to SECTION 1, (b)(1)(B) should reference the board of education, rather than the department of education.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure and the Committee's continued support of the Hawaii State Public Library System.

SB-247

Submitted on: 1/30/2021 3:03:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/1/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support