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STATE LIBRARIAN

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

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
Senate President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker of the House  
and Members of the House  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senate President Kouchi and House Speaker Saiki:

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) is transmitting the following information pursuant to Section 3 of Act 285, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019, which appropriated \$100,000 in general funds in fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020 for a comprehensive planning study to review all state public library land sites and facilities to assist the State Librarian and the Board of Education in identifying public library land sites for the pilot program established by this Act.

The HSPLS encountered several issues in FY 2019-2020 which resulted in HSPLS not seeking release of the funds appropriated. The primary concerns included determining whether the State of Hawaii had previously used bond fund proceeds to purchase or renovate public library sites making them ineligible for the pilot project, insufficient funding to proceed with a comprehensive planning study of all library properties, and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic abruptly forced HSPLS to shift all available staff resources to help our organization pivot library services to support students and families that needed educational and training resources with existing limited resources, manage pre-existing projects and long-term planning in anticipation of future reduced budgets. At the same time, additional budget restrictions were imposed on all State departments and agencies; HSPLS had to immediately reduce spending by over \$700,000. Despite the best of intentions, HSPLS had to make the difficult decision to not proceed with this new program for all of these reasons.

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House Speaker Scott K. Saiki  
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In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report will be available electronically at [librarieshawaii.org](http://librarieshawaii.org).

kindest regards,



Stacey A. Aldrich  
State Librarian

cc: Office of the Governor  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Legislative Reference Bureau Library  
Office of the Auditor  
Department of Budget and Finance