

# SCR43

**Measure Title:** REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REESTABLISH COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSIONS.

**Report Title:** Public Libraries; Board of Education; Library Advisory Commissions

**Description:**

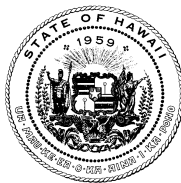
**Companion:**

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** EDU, WAM

**Introducer(s):** KIDANI, Dela Cruz, Espero, Galuteria, Shimabukuro, Wakai

<u>Sort by Date</u>		<b>Status Text</b>
3/5/2015	S	Offered.
3/5/2015	S	Referred to EDU, WAM.
3/13/2015	S	The committee(s) on EDU has scheduled a public hearing on 03-18-15 1:30PM in conference room 229.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

STACIE KANNO  
INTERIM STATE LIBRARIAN

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

**Senate Committee on Education**  
**March 18, 2015, 1:30 p.m.**  
**State Capitol, Room 229**

**SCR 43**

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports SCR 43, which would reestablish county library advisory commissions through the Board of Education.

HSPLS understands that our ability to provide library services to our communities is strengthened when we are able to utilize the support, input and opinions of our users.

We will continue to work with the Board of Education and any reestablished commissions to improve and advocate for library services in all of the communities we serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and your continued support of the Hawaii State Public Library System.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR43 on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM\*  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2015 5:49:11 PM

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**SCR43**

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for EDU on Mar 18, 2015 13:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanaly Cabalo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Louise Storm](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** SCR45/SR18  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:16:46 AM

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Dear Senate Education Committee,

Speaking as an individual who is about to retire from the library system and not as a representative of the library system or the Librarians Association of Hawaii, I would like to express my support for re-establishing library advisory commissions. Among the many reasons are the following:

The Hawaii State Public Library System comes under the supervision of the Board of Education, which also is responsible for the public education system that is such a huge part of the many functions the state performs for the people of Hawaii. The library system's concerns pale by comparison and its needs are often neglected. Currently, the chairman of the Board seems to rely primarily on the State Librarian for input. Therefore, it was a surprise to him that at a meeting with the Librarians Association of Hawaii, public library staff expressed major concerns about dealing with homeless people who often use their libraries in inappropriate ways and the lack of communication within the library system regarding policies and training.

In terms of budget and finance, the Hawaii State Public Library System is such a small portion of the pie being overseen by the BOE that its funding concerns are often neglected. The system has become very dependent on outside sources of funds, like the Friends of the Library. There has been a huge push for public-private partnerships to the point that, in my opinion, the mission and welfare of the library system has become secondary. The Federal Documents Section of the main library became a passport application site many years ago in order to use its share of the passport fees for a database to improve access to its collection. It is my understanding that the fees now go into the general fund. The Friends were encouraged to put in vending machines in the courtyard of the main library and policy was changed from no food or drink in the library to allowing patrons to eat and drink in the courtyard. Patrons have left evidence that they bring in food and drink instead of using the vending machines and do not always use the trash bins provided. Could it be a coincidence that library now has a rat infestation problem?

Meanwhile, staff has not been asked for cost saving ideas that would make their operations more efficient. In fact, in my observation, management has discouraged ideas from the line staff. One suggestion for selling office supplies instead of food was not pursued. (How is it that the post office can sell mailing supplies and couldn't we try to make changes that would allow libraries to do something similar?)

During the recession with the resulting hiring freeze, staffing shortage became a major concern, but the State Librarian attempted to maintain and even increase services and service hours. In the attempt to do more with less, remaining staff were stretched to the breaking point. Even now, as staff is gradually being restored, there are frequent announcements on the e-mail system about libraries having to shut down for an hour so staff can take their lunch break or having to close for part or all of the day due to staff shortage.

I believe that library advisory commissions would go a long way toward making libraries more effective and cost efficient in delivering services to the public by being a conduit for communicating ideas, providing guidance and advocating for the good of our libraries and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Louise Storm

TESTIMONY for Senate Resolution 43; Request to reinstate the Library Advisory Commission

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Rm. 228

March 16, 2015

From: Sylvia Mitchell, private citizen & public library employee

There is an urgent need to bring the Library Advisory Commission back into action, but only if the people are knowledgeable about the mission of libraries and are willing to address the long term consequences of "going along to get along" management. Part of the problem is the fact that libraries tend to get overlooked as a vital part of education. This is true of school libraries as well as public ones. Kauluwela Elementary School put their school librarian position back into the classroom. Dedicated teachers bring their classes to Liliha Public Library every three weeks for short programs, browsing and borrowing. Liliha served 450 in January and 326 in February. I can remember when I helped work to get a professional librarian in every school library. Now we seem to be going backward! Ironically, Liliha children's librarian position has been vacant since December 2014.

The attached Pew Research of 1/24/14 certainly spells out our obligation to youth, but currently there is not a position to speak with authority. I have 39 years of public library service and have witnessed cut after cut in services to youth. Ages ago we had 3 statewide coordinator positions, Adult, J & YA. The job of the YA position was to oversee collection development and staffing. Eight training and book review sessions were held annually. Every library was visited, the staff given much needed praise and encouragement and if there were problems they were addressed privately. Teams of young adult librarians visited Grade 8 & 10 at every public school on Oahu. The purpose was to provide a very efficient and effective promotion of reading and library use called a "booktalk". This year only two schools have been visited, Kaimuki High School and Washington Intermediate!

I need to reveal my bias in reporting this story. I took nine months without pay to attend "advanced study" under the outstanding textbook author and professor, Zena Sutherland at University of Chicago. I hoped to be able to qualify for one of the statewide leadership positions when my supervisor retired. All three positions were eliminated to save money...ages ago!

The photo shows action of the Library Advisory Commission at the time State Librarian Bart Kane had proposed tearing down Liliha library to build a larger one elsewhere servicing both Kalihi and Liliha communities. (Abt. 1995 or 1996 ?)

*Sylvia Mitchell*  
1111 Wilbur Ave. - 16A  
Hon. HI 96822



January 24, 2014

## 10 FACTS ABOUT AMERICANS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES

1. E-Book reading is growing, but printed books still dominate the reading world.
2. The rise of e-book reading is tied to the steady increase in ownership of tablet computers and e-readers.
3. Americans appreciate libraries, especially for the role they play in communities.
4. Mothers love libraries. ?
5. Access to books, media, and quiet, safe reading places top the list of favorite library services.
6. The public's highest priorities for libraries center on kids and literacy.
7. Library websites are catching on.
8. Older teens and young adults are sometimes the most likely to desire new library technologies.
9. One challenge libraries face is simply making people aware of all the services they offer.
10. Library use ebbs and flows for many Americans.

### Promote literacy by reading to your kids

Yes, poverty contributes to underachievers, but we need to promote the positive message from current research: Daily reading to youngest kids raises vocabulary faster than other activity — true for all income levels.

Start borrowing board books from your nearest library. Do it for the fun of it. Do it for higher test scores in the future.

Preschool teachers should ask about the book cart program at Lilitha Library — three weeks worth of books with one quick checkout. They can settle their classes by starting each day with a story.

Sylvia Mitchell  
Lilitha Library branch manager

I use letter to the editor for outreach. so far no one has called about the book cart offer and I don't have the time to visit schools and promote.  
Sara