



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

**House Committee on Education  
House Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, April 18, 2013  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Room 329**

**SCR 191**

**Requesting the Board of Education, in Consultation with the State Librarian, To Explore the Feasibility of Activating a Statewide Library Advisory Commission**

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports SCR 191 and we will work with the Board of Education to explore the feasibility of activating a statewide library advisory commission.

HSPLS is constantly looking for additional partnerships and collaborations with our supporters and community members across the state, and this commission will provide an additional channel for communication and cooperation.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Jenna Takenouchi**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2013 3:52 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR191 on Apr 18, 2013 13:00PM\*

**SCR191**

Submitted on: 4/15/2013

Testimony for EDN on Apr 18, 2013 13:00PM in Conference Room 329

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Mendez-Alvarez | 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**Vanessa Ott**

757 Kinalau Pl., #1704, Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 854-1018

msvott@gmail.com  
facebook id: Miz Ott

April 16, 2013

**TESTIMONY RE: SCR 191,**  
REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
STATE LIBRARIAN, TO EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF ACTIVATING A  
STATEWIDE LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION.

**Hearing Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2013 – 1:00 PM

**To: Members of the House Committees on Education and Higher Education**

Honorable House Committee Members,

**Please support SCR 191.**

I am an ex-teacher who taught at a small rural school on Hawai'i Island. At least 30% of the students lived with family members who spoke little English at home, if at all. Access to a community library is invaluable for educating all of our citizenry. Library access is even more important in a community that has high poverty, large population groups who have minimal English skills, and the only possible access to ample reading material for significant numbers of people would be a public library.

We do have a library in a small portable building, but it's not open on the weekends! Working parents cannot go to the library themselves, or with their children. Weekly family visits to the library were an important part of my childhood education, and these children are (plus their parents) are missing out! A shift in thinking/policy (like being open Tu-Sa instead of M-F) could make greater library access for impoverished families a reality. What can we do to change the current state of affairs?

I ask that you support SCR 191. SCR 191 seems to be the first, necessary step in identifying problems throughout the state library system, and then solving them.

With hope for a better future,

Vanessa Ott