

Senate Education Committee

Mar. 25

SR 146

Rm 414

Chairman Tokuda and members of the committee

I am Marcia Linville and I strongly support this measure. I have been a professional Librarian for over 60 years. I have served as a Federal, State, City, and Special Librarian. I have served as President of The Librarians Association of Hawaii, and as Section Head of the Hawaii Library Association. I have taught for three years as resource teacher In Hawaii's Schools. I have served as board member for Hawaii Literacy, and for the League of Women Voters, and as Legislative Liaison for Education for the Democratic Party.

I was serving as Children's Librarian at McCully Library when the last Library Advisory Committee was active. And It was very active. It was hardworking, dedicated, and resourceful. It was dissolved for a number of reasons , among them a disinclination to fund it. At the time of its dissolution, the committee was Involved in a discussion with the AG's office. The Committee was composed of members from each County, whose president traveled to the Board of Education meetings to represent the members Interests. It was the desire of the Presidents to work together on matters of common interest. The AGs Office determined that this would be illegal due, we were told, to the constraint on the county'to be involved in the administration of libraries. At one point it was under discussion if the president s could even meet to talk with one another. This is a matter which needs to be addressd After dissolution there were a number of options considered. One was to have a member of each of The Friends of the individual libraries serve as the Library Advisory Committee. This ignores the fact That not all libraries have an active Friend group and completely ignores the large areas which have no library and would have no one to speak for them.

I hope these problems and other which will arise can be addressed in the final report from the Board.