

MAR 17 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE LIBRARIAN TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO
IDENTIFY THE LIBRARY SERVICES NEEDED IN UNDERSERVED
COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, an informed citizenry is the foundation of
2 democracy; and

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4 WHEREAS, since Benjamin Franklin formed the first public
5 library as a part of the contribution of the founding fathers,
6 public libraries, which are open to all people regardless of
7 age, race, gender, social condition, and religion, have been a
8 major component of informing the public in all aspects of the
9 informational spectrum; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Public Library System has been
12 mandated to supply all the people of Hawaii with access to
13 information, educational, and recreational material, while
14 preserving the right to privacy; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Public Library System has been
17 heavily impacted by both an increase in population in
18 underserved areas and the heavy expenses of updating and
19 supporting current informational technologies; and

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21 WHEREAS, budgetary constraints have forced workforce
22 reductions of approximately seventy-eight positions out of
23 approximately five hundred eighty-four positions, and libraries
24 in Hawaii are now facing additional budget cuts; and

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26 WHEREAS, adequate resources to correct this situation to
27 supply the people of Hawaii with the library and information
28 services necessary to maintain the basic standard of service are
29 not available; and

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31 WHEREAS, this creates an inequity of service to the people
32 of the State; now, therefore,



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 2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
 3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
 4 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Librarian,
 5 is requested to establish a Task Force composed of
 6 representatives of public and private organizations,
 7 philanthropic and commercial organizations, governmental and
 8 nongovernmental organizations, and communities both cultural and
 9 geographic, from all islands; and

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 11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
 12 identify the library services needed in underserved communities,
 13 including resources that can be developed, and facilities,
 14 collections, staffing, hours of operation, and services that
 15 will be needed; and

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 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to
 18 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
 19 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 20 the Regular Session of 2010; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall become a
 23 permanent resource to assist the State Librarian in developing
 24 and updating the Hawaii State Public Library System long-range
 25 master plan; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education
 29 and the State Librarian.

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OFFERED BY: Norman Sitomai
 Michelle M. Sedani

