
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE FORMATION OF A LONG-RANGE PLAN TO ADDRESS THE
FUTURE OF PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

1 WHEREAS, public and school libraries are combined library
2 facilities where students must share library facilities with the
3 general public; and
4

5 WHEREAS, there are twelve public and school libraries in
6 the State that are located on school campuses, including:
7 Kea'au Public and School Library, Laupahoehoe Public and School
8 Library, Mountain View Public and School Library, Pahala Public
9 and School Library, Pahoia Public and School Library, and
10 Waimea's Thelma Parker Memorial Public and School Library on the
11 island of Hawaii; Hana Public and School Library on the island
12 of Maui; Lana'i Public and School Library on the island of
13 Lana'i; Ewa Beach Public and School Library, Kahuku Public and
14 School Library, and Waimanalo Public and School Library on the
15 island of Oahu; and Koloa Public and School Library on the
16 island of Kaua'i; and
17

18 WHEREAS, most public and school libraries are located in
19 rural areas where limited facilities exist and public
20 transportation is insufficient to provide ease of access; and
21

22 WHEREAS, there is already a great need to improve and
23 update our existing libraries, especially those in rural areas,
24 because of inadequate facilities, growing populations, and
25 handicapped accessibility requirements; and
26

27 WHEREAS, access to libraries is important to our children,
28 their parents, the general public, and the schools in
29 encouraging learning, maintaining literacy, furthering
30 education, providing opportunities for research and analysis,
31 and serving recreational purposes; and
32

33 WHEREAS, access to available resources such as reference
34 materials, the Internet, and audio and visual materials is
35 essential to the general public in obtaining information,



1 especially in underserved communities, which are often in rural
2 districts; and

3
4 WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, President George W. Bush
5 signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, placing an
6 enhanced emphasis on reading for elementary school students,
7 including establishing educational achievement standards for
8 reading; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act places an increased
11 demand on libraries by encouraging reading, especially at the
12 family level; and

13
14 WHEREAS, many issues of concern have been raised regarding
15 the use of school libraries by the general public, including:

- 16
17 (1) Liability and safety concerns over the general public
18 entering school campuses to access the library;
19
20 (2) Schools' ability to monitor who is on the campus; and
21
22 (3) Distractions from the learning environment and
23 limitations on the available resources for students;
24 and

25
26 WHEREAS, the Board of Education, the Department of
27 Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library System recently
28 agreed that combined public and school libraries should be
29 separated, with general public library services being provided
30 in locations other than school campuses; now, therefore,

31
32 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
33 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
34 of 2006, that the Board of Education, the Department of
35 Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library System are
36 requested to develop a strategic plan to separate public and
37 school libraries in a timely manner that will ultimately enhance
38 levels of service for the community and for students; and

39
40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, the
41 Department of Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library
42 System are requested to include in the plan:

43



- 1 (1) A timetable for implementation of improvements,
- 2 including the criteria utilized to determine the order
- 3 in which the public and school libraries will be
- 4 addressed;
- 5
- 6 (2) New methods or technologies to provide enhanced
- 7 library services, including prospective management and
- 8 staffing scenarios; and
- 9
- 10 (3) An estimate of projected expenses, including capital
- 11 improvements and operational and maintenance costs;
- 12 and
- 13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education is
 15 requested to ensure that the strategic plan address how the
 16 levels of service for the current library system will be
 17 maintained as the process of separation is implemented; and

18
 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, the
 20 Department of Education, and the Hawaii State Public Library
 21 System are requested to submit the strategic plan to the
 22 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 23 the Regular Session of 2007; and

24
 25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 26 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of
 27 the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the
 28 State Librarian.

29
 30
 31

OFFERED BY: Helene Hale

MAR 08 2006

