
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

1 WHEREAS, some public and school libraries are combined
2 library facilities where students must share library facilities
3 with the general public; and
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5 WHEREAS, there are 12 public and school libraries in the
6 state that are located on school campuses, including: Kea'au
7 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
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18 WHEREAS, many 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
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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
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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
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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

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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

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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

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14 WHEREAS, curriculum requirements of the No Child Left
15 Behind Act and the Hawaii Performance and Content Standards
16 compel all school librarians to work collaboratively with
17 teachers and students in the library; and

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19 WHEREAS, many issues of concern have been raised regarding
20 the use of school libraries by the general public, including:

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22 (1) Liability and safety concerns over the general public
23 entering school campuses to access the library;
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25 (2) Schools' ability to monitor who is on the campus; and
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27 (3) Distractions from the learning environment and
28 limitations on the available resources for students;

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30 and

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32 WHEREAS, the mission of the public and school libraries has
33 become more divergent with today's concern with safety issues on
34 campus as well as on the Internet;

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36 WHEREAS, the Board of Education (BOE), the Department of
37 Education (DOE), and the Hawaii State Public Library System
38 (HSPLS) recently agreed that combined public and school
39 libraries should be separated, with general public library
40 services being provided in locations other than school campuses;
41 now, therefore,

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43 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
44 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
HR50 HD1 HMS 2006-3321



1 of 2006, that BOE, DOE, HSPLS, and Hawaii Government Employees
2 Association (HGEA) are requested to continue to develop
3 strategic implementation plans with the 12 schools and
4 communities that are impacted, to separate public and school
5 libraries and enable the division of resources on an equitable
6 basis in a timely manner that will ultimately enhance levels of
7 service for the community and for students; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan include:

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11 (1) A timetable for implementation of improvements,
12 including the criteria used to determine the order in
13 which the public and school libraries will be
14 addressed;
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16 (2) New methods or technologies to provide enhanced
17 library services, including prospective management and
18 staffing scenarios; and
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20 (3) An estimate of projected expenses, including capital
21 improvements and operational and maintenance costs;
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23 and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BOE is requested to ensure that
26 the strategic plan address how the levels of service for the
27 current library system will be maintained as the process of
28 separation is implemented; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan be submitted
31 to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening
32 of the Regular Session of 2007; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of BOE,
36 Superintendent of Education, State Librarian, and Executive
37 Director of HGEA.
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