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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The Hawaii state public library system recently  
2 published a five year plan regarding the use of federal Library  
3 Services and Technology Act funds that it was awarded for 2008  
4 to 2012. Among numerous goals outlined in the five year plan is  
5 to provide library services and collections to underserved  
6 communities in Hawaii.

7           Budget restraints and a temporary hiring freeze have caused  
8 the state public library system to reduce its hours of operation  
9 over the last several years. In addition, the 2003 funding and  
10 staff shortage forced the state public library system to  
11 eliminate all but one of its bookmobiles. While budgetary  
12 pressures have started to improve, the state library system  
13 still has difficulty filling vacant staff positions. Despite  
14 this, the state public library system remains dedicated to  
15 improving outreach to underserved areas.

16           The state public library system currently offers online  
17 databases, digital e-books, and online access to audio-books and  
18 music. Some libraries offer deposit collection for rural



1 residents. The state public library system has researched  
2 outreach alternatives to improve service to rural and other  
3 underserved areas. Some of the options include bookmobiles,  
4 internet mobiles, books-by-mail, storefront libraries, and  
5 remote deposit collections.

6 However, outreach programs are costly and labor intensive.  
7 For instance, remote book drops must be regularly picked up,  
8 which requires a vehicle and a staff member to maintain the  
9 program. Staffing constraints and escalating fuel prices affect  
10 this and similar programs. The state public library system is  
11 considering technological alternatives, such as downloadable  
12 digital e-books. One proposal is to visit nursing homes with  
13 laptop computers to instruct residents how to search the catalog  
14 and access services.

15 The state public library system has used prior federal  
16 Library Services and Technology Act funds to implement a new  
17 library automation system, including new hardware, software, and  
18 telecommunications, to improve public access. Federal funds  
19 also enabled the state library system to purchase over sixty  
20 authoritative full-text online databases via its participation  
21 in the Hawaii Library Consortium.



1           The purpose of this Act is to help the state public library  
 2 system achieve the goals enumerated in its five year plan by  
 3 appropriating funds for the state public library system to  
 4 establish an outreach program, including personnel and supplies,  
 5 to identify, develop, and implement programs for underserved  
 6 areas in Hawaii.

7           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
 9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for  
 10 the state public library system to establish an outreach  
 11 program, including personnel and supplies, to identify, develop,  
 12 and implement programs for underserved areas in Hawaii.

13           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 14 education for the purposes of this Act.

15           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Cindy Evans*  
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JAN 09 2008



**Report Title:**

Appropriation; State Public Library System

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the state public library system to establish an outreach program, including personnel and supplies, to identify, develop, and implement programs for underserved areas in Hawaii.

