

MAR 13 2008

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXPLORE THE
FEASIBILITY OF AND TO DEVELOP A PLAN THEREFOR RELOCATING
THE KAPAA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1 WHEREAS, the Kapaa Public Library in East Kauai was built
2 in 1959 and is undersized and deteriorating; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to United States Census records, the
5 service area population (Kawaihau) has increased one hundred and
6 eighty-five per cent between 1960 and 2000; however, there has
7 been no increase in the library's collection space during that
8 same time period; and
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10 WHEREAS, having recognized that the library is undersized
11 for the area and population it serves, discussions for expansion
12 of the library are ongoing; and
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14 WHEREAS, the recently completed AM Partners
15 study/assessment of the existing facility revealed several
16 zoning, permit, and variance issues that would impede the
17 library's expansion; and
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19 WHEREAS, for example, the current zoning restricts the
20 library to covering a maximum of ten per cent of its lot, but
21 the current facility and pavement already cover thirty-seven per
22 cent of the lot; hence, expansion is not a viable option at this
23 current site; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the existing library is located adjacent to Kapaa
26 County Beach Park and abuts a new, popular bike/walking path
27 also owned by the County of Kauai; and
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29 WHEREAS, at least one County Councilmember has indicated an
30 interest in the library property for the purpose of expanding
31 Kapaa County Beach Park and to capitalize on the popularity of
32 the bike/walking path; and
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1 WHEREAS, in addition, the proximity of the bike/walking
2 path has added to parking issues as some people are using the
3 library parking lot to access the path; and
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5 WHEREAS, the backdoor of the library is less than fifty
6 yards away from the shoreline and the salt air causes damage to
7 the air conditioning and electrical systems, and the area would
8 be at risk in the event of a tsunami; and
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10 WHEREAS, the library is located on Kuhio Highway, the
11 island's main thoroughfare, and traffic congestion deters local
12 residents from visiting the library; and
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14 WHEREAS, the relocation of the library to an area adjacent
15 to the main Kapaa County Park off of Olohena Road would support
16 a dramatic expansion and improvement of the park, enhance the
17 community activities now occurring at this inland location,
18 increase accessibility to the library, and facilitate needed
19 updating of the library facilities; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008,
23 that the Department of Education work with the County of Kauai,
24 Kapaa community members, and appropriate state agencies to
25 explore the feasibility of relocating the Kapaa Public Library
26 to an inland location near or adjacent to the Kapaa County
27 Park's sports field and the Army National Guard Facilities, and
28 to develop a plan therefor; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
31 requested to consider incorporating the following into the plan
32 for the new library:
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- 34 (1) An expanded technology center and community center
35 facilities for meetings and community gatherings;
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- 37 (2) The swapping of county and state lands or some other
38 agreement that provides the County of Kauai the right
39 to use the land under the existing Kapaa Public
40 Library; and
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- 42 (3) The design and use of the new library as a potential
43 disaster shelter for use during times of emergency;
44 and



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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
 3 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
 4 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 5 the Regular Session of 2009; and

6
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 9 Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Mayor of Kauai,
 10 members of the Kauai County Council, the State Librarian, and
 11 the Kapaa Public Library Branch Manager.

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