

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P.O. BOX 339
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809-0339

January 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: S.B. 2079 – Title of Bill Relating to Libraries
Hearing: Monday, January 28, 2008, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room, 225, State Capitol

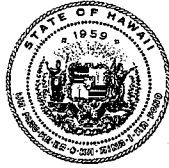
PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation to expand the services of the Hawaii State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to other public library branches.

DEPARTMENTS POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that its passage does not replace nor adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

The Department recognizes the positive impact this bill could have for library patrons who are blind or physically handicapped as it would result in the opportunity for them to receive services from various library branches. This bill would also serve to inform the public that visit various library branches of the existence of specialized services such as talking books and descriptive videos for those who are in need of such as a result of blindness or other physical condition.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this bill.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RICHARD BURNS
STATE LIBRARIAN

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Monday, January 28, 2008**

SB 2079 RELATING TO LIBRARIES

The Hawaii State Public Library System is in support of SB 2079 which will make an appropriation to expand the services of the Hawaii State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to other public library branches in the State. We certainly appreciate the support given to us with this bill.

The library system intends to provide assistive programs on its library branch computers to access the internet and the public access catalog with this appropriation. Currently such programs are available on a single computer at each of the following sites: the Hawaii State, Kaneohe, Manoa, Pearl City, Waianae, and Molokai libraries. When additional programs are installed at more libraries, individuals with visual impairments will have greater freedom to select a library to visit and will have equal access to information found on the internet or in the library's catalog or databases that sighted individuals have.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2079.

Subject Senate bill 2079

I am in full support to expand the services for the Library for the Blind and physically Handicap.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair
DATE: Monday, January 28, 2008
TIME: 1:15 pm PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
THE SENATE

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008

STATE OF HAWAII

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO LIBRARIES.

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

SECTION 1. The Hawaii state library for the blind and physically handicapped provides library services for the visually impaired and physically handicapped. Services include furnishing talking books, braille books, large type books, descriptive videos, transcribing services, radio reading services, and community services. The library for the blind and physically handicapped is a regional library in the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a part of the Library of Congress network, and also a library in the Hawaii state library system, located on Kapahulu avenue in Honolulu adjacent to the Waikiki-Kapahulu public library.

The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to

expand the services of the Hawaii state library for the blind and physically handicapped to other public library branches in the State as a pilot project.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much

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thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for Hawaii state library for the blind and physically handicapped to expand services to other public library branches in the State as a pilot project.

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

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

INTRODUCED BY:

S . B . NO. m

Report Title:

Libraries; ~lind and physically Handicapped; Appropriation

Description:

Makes appropriation for the Hawaii state library for the blind and physically handicapped.

Yolanda E Phelan
6950 Hawaii Kai Drive 102
Honolulu Hi 95825

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2079
A BILL RELATING TO LIBRARIES

Deanna Espinas, Chair of Hui O Na Makamaka
Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
402 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815
Phone: 733-8444

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services and Public Housing
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair

Monday, January 28, 2008, 1:15 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Senator Sakamoto and Senator Chun Oakland and Members of the Committee:

As Chair of the Hui O Na Makamaka (Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped), we support Senate Bill 2079 which makes appropriation for the Hawaii State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Our Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) seeks to promote services of LBPH by doing outreach throughout the community. This bill will help to expand services to the many individuals with visual and physical disabilities living in various parts of our communities. When friends and family begin to lose their vision or become physically disabled, they require support from the system. These individuals continue to be contributing members of society and do not need to exist in isolation. We can continue to bridge the communication gap, expand the use of technology to bring them information, entertainment, education, internet access, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2079 and for helping us to continue to reach out and meet the needs of a growing segment of our population.

L A T E

sb2079 library for the blind and physically handicapped

this is in reference to sb 2079. hearing on january 28, 2008 in conference room 225. at 1:15 p.m. my name is myles tamashiro, president of the hawaii association of parents of the visually impaired. i strongly ask for your support in passing sb 2079 this would really help the library for the blind and physically handicapped in this pilot project. please pass this for the children who are blind and visually impaired. thank you very much.

Testimony of Warren Toyama, President of the Hawaii Association of the Blind
Monday, January 28, 2008

Support of SB 2079, Relating to Libraries

L A T E

My name is Warren Toyama, and I appear before you today in my capacity as the President and Founder of this 40-year-old organization, the Hawaii Association of the Blind. We support SB 2079.

The Hawaii Association of the Blind has made financial contributions almost annually to the Library for the Blind because we believe that the Library is contributing educationally, culturally, and to the reading enjoyment of the blind community in Hawaii.

We are also mindful that the Library is continually striving to upgrade its technological equipment for the blind.

In closing, we urge you to pass SB 2079. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.