

FEB 16 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT A TASK FORCE BE ESTABLISHED TO IDENTIFY THE
LIBRARY SERVICES NEEDED IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES AND SEEK
COMMUNITY SOURCES OF FUNDING TO OFFSET THE LOSS OF FUNDING
TO LIBRARIES.

1 WHEREAS, an informed citizenry is the foundation of
2 democracy; and

3
4 WHEREAS, since Benjamin Franklin formed the first public
5 library, public libraries, which are open to all people
6 regardless of age, race, gender, social condition, and religion,
7 have been a major component of informing the public in all
8 aspects of the informational spectrum; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Public Library System has been
11 mandated to supply all the people of Hawaii with access to
12 information, educational, and recreational material, while
13 preserving the right to privacy; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Public Library System has been
16 heavily impacted by both an increase in population in
17 underserved areas and the heavy expenses of updating and
18 supporting current informational technologies; and

19
20 WHEREAS, budgetary constraints have forced workforce
21 reductions of approximately seventy-eight positions out of
22 approximately five hundred eighty-four positions, and libraries
23 in Hawaii are now facing additional budget cuts; and

24
25 WHEREAS, adequate resources to correct this situation to
26 supply the people of Hawaii with the library and information
27 services necessary to maintain the basic standard of service are
28 not available; and

29
30 WHEREAS, this creates an inequity in service to the people
31 of the State; now, therefore,



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the House of Representatives concurring, that the State Librarian is requested to establish a task force composed of representatives of public and private organizations, philanthropic and commercial organizations, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and cultural and geographic communities from all islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to identify the library services needed in underserved communities, including resources that can be developed, and facilities, collections, staffing, hours of operation, and services that will be needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to seek community sources of funding to offset the loss of funding from the Department of Education to community and school libraries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall become a permanent resource to assist the State Librarian in developing and updating the Hawaii State Public Library System long-range master plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Education and the State Librarian.

OFFERED BY: Norman Sakem