

SCR95

3-17-10

SCR 95

Senate Education Committee

Senator Sakamoto and members of the committee:

I am Marcia Linville and I am speaking in support of SCR 95. I have a M.A. In Library and Information Sciences and have been a librarian for over 30 years, working in State, City, Federal, and Special libraries. I have served on both Library Professional Associations, on the Board of Hawaii Literacy, as the HGEA Steward for Unit 13 Professionals, DOE, and as legislative liaison for both professional associations, ALA and LAH, and the Democratic Party.

SCR 95 is necessary because since its incorporation into the Department of Education at the time of Statehood and its governance by the Board of Education, the needs of the people of the state for library and information services have been overshadowed by the needs of the schools. At the time of Statehood and the formation of the present Departments, schools and libraries were seen as providing co-equal services to the people of the state. Unfortunately, in practice, things did not work out that way. After 50 years, Schools presently receive 25% of the state's budget. Libraries receive one-half of 1%. Schools serve the needs of the K-12 population. Libraries serve the population from womb to tomb. Schools have facilities standing empty, Communities have been waiting 20 years for promised libraries and have received new ones only after highly adversarial relation, requiring the Governor to step in. Schools have increased staffing and ratings, Libraries have been cut to the point where they can no longer function, and vital programs and services have been lost forever. The Boards answer to this was to ask why the libraries could not make up the difference with volunteers. The M.A. after my name should have indicated the answer to that question. This is not to say that volunteers do not serve a necessary and important function. Due to budget cuts and Board Actions Libraries could not function without them.

While the Board and the Department do not seem to consider the libraries a necessary service, the people of Hawai'i disagree. Public donations have been outstanding. But this is not the way a State service should be funded. It is my hope that passage of this resolution will provide a viable alternative. Two libraries have been created in the past by similar means, but by different procedures and with different results. This would provide a model for new communities, or older communities still waiting for their promised facilities, in which the State Library could input and set general standards. It is a function of State Libraries in most states. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. If you have any questions, I am available to answer them to the best of my abilities.

Marcia Linville



**sakamoto2 - Erin**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2010 10:01 AM  
**To:** EDH Testimony  
**Cc:** erinann815@aol.com  
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Testimony for EDH 3/17/2010 1:15:00 PM SCR95

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: erin rutherford  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [erinann815@aol.com](mailto:erinann815@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/15/2010

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