

JAN 21 2011

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIBRARIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an informed and  
2 engaged citizenry is the foundation of a representative  
3 democracy. Since Benjamin Franklin formed the first public  
4 library as a part of the founding of the United States of  
5 America, public libraries, which are open to all people  
6 regardless of age, race, gender, social condition, and religion,  
7 have since that time been a major component in offering the  
8 public all aspects of the informational spectrum. The Hawaii  
9 state library system has been mandated to supply the people of  
10 Hawaii with access to information, educational, and recreational  
11 material, while preserving the right to privacy.

12           The legislature further finds that the Hawaii state library  
13 system has been heavily impacted by both an increase in  
14 population in underserved areas and the heavy expenses of  
15 updating and supporting current informational technologies. In  
16 addition, budgetary constraints have resulted in the loss of  
17 approximately seventy-eight positions out of a total of five  
18 hundred eighty-four positions over the past two years, and there



1 may be further reductions in resources in the near future. An  
2 informed citizenry relies on adequate resources being provided  
3 to the people of Hawaii through libraries, bookmobiles, internet  
4 access, and information services.

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish a task force to  
6 assist the public libraries in determining the library services  
7 needed in underserved communities and the resources necessary to  
8 provide these services.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the library services  
10 task force that shall be placed within the department of  
11 education for administrative purposes.

12 (b) The task force shall include the following:

13 (1) The state librarian;

14 (2) A librarian from each island with public library  
15 facilities;

16 (3) The chief information officer for the University of  
17 Hawaii system;

18 (4) A member of the senate, appointed by the senate  
19 president;

20 (5) A member of the house of representatives, appointed by  
21 the speaker of the house; and



1 (6) A community representative from each island with  
2 public library facilities

3 The members of the task force shall select a chairperson  
4 from among its members.

5 The members of the task force shall serve without  
6 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including  
7 travel expenses, incurred in the performance of their official  
8 duties.

9 (c) The task force shall assist the state librarian in  
10 determining:

11 (1) The library services needed in underserved  
12 communities, including facilities, collections, and  
13 other programs and services;

14 (2) Current staffing and hours of operation, and the  
15 resources required to develop and implement current  
16 and increased library services; and

17 (3) Short-term and long-range recommendations for meeting  
18 the public library needs of underserved communities.

19 (d) The task force shall meet at times and locations to be  
20 determined by its members; provided that the task force may  
21 request the assistance of the legislative reference bureau in  
22 the performance of its duties.

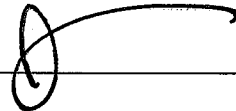


1 (e) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
2 and recommendations to the governor, the legislature, and the  
3 board of education no later than twenty days prior to the  
4 convening of the regular session of 2012.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Report Title:**

Public Libraries; Task Force

**Description:**

Establishes a task force to assist the state librarian in determining the library services needed in underserved communities and the resources necessary to provide these services; requires report to 2012 legislature.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

