

**Date:** 01/30/2012

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB 1873 RELATING TO PAHALA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Purpose of Bill:** Transfers the administration of Pahala Public Library from the Public Library System to the Department of Education. Effective July 1, 2012

**Department's Position:** The Department of Education supports this bill. The transfer of the Pahala School/Community Library to the DOE will provide Kau High and Pahala Elementary School with valuable added resources for the education of the area's students. If approved, the DOE will work closely with the Hawaii State Library System and the Board of Education to ensure that the transfer is executed quickly and effectively with input from all stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



BARBARA A. KRIEG  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
235 S. BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

January 27, 2012

TESTIMONY TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

For Hearing on Monday, January 30, 2012  
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

**House Bill No. 1873**  
**Relating to Pahala Public Library**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TO CHAIRPERSON TAKUMI AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of H.B. No. 1873 is to transfer the administration of Pahala Public Library from the Hawaii State Public Library System to the Department of Education, effective July 1, 2012.

The Department of Human Resources Development has **comments** on the proposed transfer. To protect the rights and benefits of the employees to be transferred, we prefer the following proposed transfer language be used in place of the transfer language pertaining to employees in Section 2 of the bill:

“All employees who occupy civil service positions and whose functions are transferred to the department of education by this Act shall retain their civil service status (permanent or temporary). Employees shall be transferred

without loss of salary, seniority, retention points, prior service credit, any vacation and sick leave credits previously earned, and other rights, benefits, and privileges, in accordance with state personnel laws and this Act, provided that the employees possess the minimum qualifications and public employment requirements for the class and/or position to which transferred or appointed, as applicable, provided further that subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to applicable civil service and compensation laws.

Any employee who, prior to this Act, is exempt from civil service and is transferred as a consequence of this Act, may continue to retain the employee's exempt status, but shall not be appointed to a civil service position because of this Act. An exempt employee who is transferred by this Act shall not suffer any loss of prior service credit, any vacation and sick leave credits previously earned, or other employee benefits or privileges as a consequence of this Act, provided that the employees possess legal and public employment requirements for the position to which transferred or appointed, as applicable; provided that subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to applicable employment and compensation laws. The superintendent of the department of education may prescribe the duties and qualifications of such employees and fix their salaries without regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes."

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



RICHARD BURNS  
STATE LIBRARIAN

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

**House Committee on Education  
Monday, January 30, 2012  
State Capitol, Room 309**

**HB 1873 – Relating to Pahala Public Library**

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) recognizes the concerns of the Pahala community in light of recent difficulties in maintaining the services at Pahala Public & School Library with limited staffing and funding. We are unable to fully support this Bill and would request instead the opportunity to work cooperatively on a transition plan of turning the Pahala Public and School Library facility over to the Department of Education (DOE) with the approval of the Board of Education.

The Department of Education and the Hawaii State Public Library System have a long-standing history of working together for the mutual benefit of our users, as evidenced most recently with Holualoa Public Library.

We will work with the DOE to gather public input and reach an agreement that will serve both agencies as well as our patrons and more importantly the students in this community. If it is determined that the best use would be to transfer the building to the DOE, then HSPLS would work to transition Pahala and refocus our

resources on Naalehu Public Library and Mountain View Public & School Libraries  
to provide public library services to the Kau community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 3:43 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** sharon\_beck@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Library testimony.doc

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sharon A. Beck  
Organization: Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School  
E-mail: [sharon\\_beck@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:sharon_beck@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 1/27/2012

Comments:

Rep. Roy Takumi, Rep. Della Au Belatti, and members of the Committee on Education, I am the principal of Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School (KHPES). In order for our students to be competitive in a globally connected and increasingly technological world they need access to appropriate resources. At KHPES, we are challenged by our technology infrastructure and limited space. Every room and large closet is used as a classroom or office. If the library is transferred to the Dept. of Education, we would definitely put it to good use. The building would be used as a technology, resource, and reference center for research, online learning, video-conferencing, and computer use. Our ultimate goal is to prepare our students to be college and career ready. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1873.

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2012 10:04 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** dshi1124@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dawn Shibano  
Organization: Friends of the Ka'u Libraries  
E-mail: [dshi1124@yahoo.com](mailto:dshi1124@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/28/2012

**Comments:**

My name is Dawn Shibano and I am the former head librarian of the Pahala Public and School Library (3+ years in Ka'u and 25 years of service with Hawaii State Public Library System) and a member of the board of the Friend's of the Ka'u Libraries.

I strongly recommend you NOT enter a bill to transfer the library to the DOE. My reasons are as follows:

1. If the library is given to the DOE, it no longer is a PUBLIC library. In essence you will be &quot;CLOSING&quot; the public library PERMANENTLY. Any public library user will have to drive to the smaller Naalehu branch or to Mountain View (which is the next closest public library.) This is not the goal of the Friends of the Ka'u Libraries. We want to keep the Pahala library open for PUBLIC use!
2. When Pahala Library was on the list of five libraries statewide to be considered for closing, the principle of Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary, Ms. Sharon Beck, voiced her desire to have the library building as part of the school. Please note, I said BUILDING, not the library. The library would not be continued to be used by the school as a library, but rather as bonus space for the school. Also, when she needed to cut her budget, the substitute school librarian was released. Her concern is for the education of her students, our concern is for open access to public library materials and services for ALL the people in Pahala, including students.

If this bill goes through it will be a dis-service to the Pahala residents. DO NOT CLOSE OUR LIBRARY!



**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 10:58 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** vol96785@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Robert Zenobi  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [vol96785@aol.com](mailto:vol96785@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

**Comments:**

I believe that before a decision is made, the Pahala Community should be advised. With the new developements in Kau'u and particularly in Pahala, a public library is neccessary. Not only will the public library provide reference resources, it is now being wired for public access to wireless internet. As far as Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School, I realize that the use of another building would be beneficial and most likely be turned into another computer lab. Alredy, Pahala has limited services available, so, please don't take away Pahala School & Public Library.

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 12:28 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** afontes@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ann M.Fontes  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [afontes@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:afontes@hawaiiantel.net)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

**Comments:**

I oppose HB1873. Pahala Public Library needs to remain a PUBLIC LIBRARY. Living in a rural community, public services are very limited. The library serves as an important source of information, access to a copier, local&statewide newspapers, use of computers. The solution to our problem would be to fund an additional position for the Pahala Public Library.

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 1:34 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** lindainhawaii65@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Linda Morgan  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [lindainhawaii65@gmail.com](mailto:lindainhawaii65@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

**Comments:**

Please do not close the Pahala Public and School Library by passing HB 1873. This bill is the wrong thing at the wrong time.

The Pahala Library is a vital part of the community, providing not only books to read, but also computers for public use, videos and music CD's to rent, and a copy machine in a very small town with no businesses offering these services.

Without their library, Pahala residents would have to drive fifteen miles to Na`alehu to use a library. The many seniors and children who now walk to the Pahala Library would not be able to get to a library.

Please help the citizens of Pahala by defeating HB 1873.

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 1:38 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** bethambriel@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Beth Ambriel  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [bethambriel@aol.com](mailto:bethambriel@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

**Comments:**

Please think twice before submitting this bill! Pahala, Woodvalley & Kau do not want to lose their public library!

If Pahala Library is given over to DOE then it will no longer be for public use. That is not what the residents want!

Many local residents will be unable to access a library if Pahala Public and School Library disappears. Many are on fixed incomes with no transportation or gas money for the 30 mile round trip drive to the next nearest library.

How will the unemployed have access to the internet to do job searches and submit resumes? Further, do you really want to take away the after school spot for the kids? I worked at the Pahala library from 2007 to 2010 and I can tell you that for some children the library is the only place for them to go. And they were always a joy to have!

In closing I'd like to share with you that when I let my young son know there was a chance the library might close, to my surprise, he cried. I did not know the depth of his feelings for the library until that moment. I am grateful that he had the opportunity to come to know and love his library and hope that future children get the same opportunity. Their fate is in your hands.

Respectfully,  
Beth Ambriel

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 4:22 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** ellakoali@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Eleanora Louis  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ellakoali@yahoo.com](mailto:ellakoali@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

**Comments:**

Opposed to HB1873. I do not see transferring the Pahala Public Library to the DOE as the best way to insure an open library. The library was preparing to become a technology library. I do not see this transfer as the best solution for our entire community.

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 6:05 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** Yoshhanaby@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Naomi K. Yoshida  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [Yoshhanaby@aol.com](mailto:Yoshhanaby@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/29/2012

**Comments:**

Keep Public library PUBLIC! Please fund and fill one mors position. Presently there is only one filled position for two libraries- 13 miles apart. School is always on the bottom part of student achievements. We need help, BADLY! Ka'u is so isolated. Don't take this away from us. Mahalo!

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 7:59 AM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** katokamura@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1873 on 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** Public Library testimony.docx

Testimony for EDN 1/30/2012 2:00:00 PM HB1873

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Katherine Okamura  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [katokamura@aol.com](mailto:katokamura@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments: