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GOVERNOR



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**House Committee on Education  
Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
State Capitol, Room 309**

**HCR 74 – Requesting The Board Of Education To Work Cooperatively With The Hawaii State Public Library System To Transfer The Pahala Public And School Library To The Department Of Education To Be Operated As A School Library For Kau High School And To Allow Continued Public Access To The Library.**

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) supports HCR 74.

HSPLS recognizes the concerns of the Pahala community in light of recent difficulties in maintaining services at Pahala Public & School Library with limited staffing and funding. If this resolution passes, we will work with the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a transition plan to turn the Pahala Public and School Library facility over to the Department of Education for their sole use, pending 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. HSPLS will work with the DOE to transition the facility to the department, relinquishing all authority and responsibility for the building or its use.

Should the transition of the Pahala Public and School Library facility take place, HSPLS will refocus our resources on Naalehu Public Library and Mountain View Public & School Library. HSPLS will investigate ways to increase the support and services to Naalehu Public Library while maintaining an outreach presence to the residents of Pahala. The HSPLS materials, equipment and positions currently assigned to Pahala Public and School Library will remain in HSPLS and will be reallocated to other libraries within the library system.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this Resolution.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA'U HIGH & PAHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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To: Committee on Education  
From: Sharon Beck, Principal, Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School  
Date: March 19, 2012  
Regarding: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:00 p.m.: HCR 74  
**Requesting the Board of Education to work cooperatively with the Hawaii State Public Library system to transfer the Pahala Public and School Library to the Department of Education to be operated as a school library for Ka'u high School and to allow continued public access to the library**

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.

Up until four years ago, the school and library had a limited partnership which included the school providing a full-time librarian and funding for books. When the school could no longer afford to fund the librarian's position, the library would not allow students to use the facility without DOE personnel accompanying them. We do not see our situation changing, and would not be able to fund a librarian's position or operate the facility as a library for the community. We would not be able to take on the additional expense of security personnel to ensure student safety.

While building community partnerships is important to our school, we have struggled to do so with the Pahala Library. Recently, our community has been fortunate to receive a mobile medical van placed on our campus to service the medical needs of our community. Since the library is only open three times a week, we asked for permission to park the mobile medical van in the area used for employee parking. Their employees would only be impacted one day of the week and would be able to park in our school's

parking stalls. This location would have allowed the most convenient access to the medical services. Unfortunately, the library refused to allow us the use of the area and would not work towards a compromise. As a result, we placed the medical van in the center of our campus.

We have not established or maintained open communication that would have been beneficial to both the school and library. During the library's transition to more computers and technology, they got rid of or sold a large portion of their inventory which included materials purchased with school funds. I still have questions regarding the inventory that we shared with the library. Our students could have benefited from the use of those resources.

I understand the community's desire to increase their access to technology through the library. One idea may be to explore the use of the current community center as a place to set up community access to the computers that the library has envisioned. Our school would benefit from developing a school resource center, but is unable to support a shared community and school library.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR-74.

**belatti2 - Kate**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 5:37 PM  
**To:** EDNtestimony  
**Cc:** kaluaaq@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR74 on 3/21/2012 2:00:00 PM

Testimony for EDN 3/21/2012 2:00:00 PM HCR74

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dorothy Kalua  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [kaluaaq@hotmail.com](mailto:kaluaaq@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

**Comments:**

I oppose HCR74. Please keep the Kau Library public. Will the library be open during the school breaks? Computers awarded to the Public Library through the Gates Foundation. Could we lose them? These are few of the issues that need to be addressed.