

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
From: Duane Preble, Twelve-year Volunteer, Friends of the Library of Hawai'i
Subject: SB2994
Date: February 15, 2012

Friends of the Library of Hawai'i (FLH) opposes SB #2994.

If this bill becomes law it will greatly diminish the quality and effectiveness of the present, one-hundred-thirty-three-year-old, statewide, Friends of the Library of Hawaii. Please focus on helping what is not working rather than undermining what is working very well.

Here's why:

1. If the law is changed, the State Librarian would have to enter into an MOU for each non-profit that is granted the rights FLH has now. This would add an additional burden on the State Librarian and the Attorney General's office for review and approval of each such request.
2. Currently, FLH negotiates the statewide contracts for copier machines and other enterprise activities on HSPLS property, ensuring the most favorable contract with the greatest return for the libraries. SB2994 would decentralize this process.
3. This bill would have a negative impact on the current system of FLH Affiliates which relieves HSPLS of the challenge of managing separate groups representing each branch in the state. To date, 35 libraries are represented by an FLH Affiliate. Five more groups are in the process of becoming an affiliate. Our goal is to have an FLH Affiliate at each library. We believe in the grassroots effort of communities to collaboratively work with their local library branch.

Some highlights of the FLH Affiliates Program include:

- FLH Affiliates follow a standardized set of guidelines.
- With the FLH Affiliate network, there is accountability as to monies raised on library property. This is done through annual financial reports submitted to FLH for review.
- FLH is the resource for affiliates regarding taxes, legal issues, and library relationships. This allows HSPLS staff more time for customer service.
- FLH monitors the status of each group to make sure they file all the necessary state and federal documents annually to maintain their non-profit status.
- The FLH statewide affiliate network aligns with the statewide library system.
- FLH and its affiliates, as the non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, raise funds exclusively for the benefit of Hawai'i's public libraries.
- FLH encourages each affiliate to fundraise for their library branch. FLH receives no money from the affiliates. Money raised on a local level STAYS at the local level.
- FLH and its Affiliates advocate for Hawai'i's public libraries.
- FLH will hold its annual Affiliates Conference on Friday, February 24. FLH pays for all our neighbor island affiliates to come to Oahu for the day. We also invite any library support groups to attend this conference.

Passage of this bill would result in the lack of a system in place to monitor the non-profits who request use of library property, other than the already stretched HSPLS staff, and no system of accountability that the monies raised would revert to the libraries. In short, it would create chaos where an efficient system is in place. It would also burden the staff and negatively impact services at the library branches.

Thank you for allowing me to voice the Friends of the Library of Hawai'i's opposition to SB2994.

