
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES
LIBRARY COMMISSION TO EXAMINE COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE
LACKING A LOCAL LIBRARY SERVICE OR RECEIVING REDUCED
LIBRARY SERVICES AND TO DEVELOP AND IDENTIFY RESOURCES TO
ESTABLISH A LIBRARY OR ENHANCE LIBRARY SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, an informed citizenry is the foundation of
2 democracy; and

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4 WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that early childhood
5 exposure to books, music, art, and science from a local library
6 can aid in the development of children; and

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8 WHEREAS, since statehood, the Hawaii State Public Library
9 System has been mandated to supply the people of Hawaii with
10 accessible, equitable, and appropriate library services; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Library System has been heavily
13 impacted by increased population in underserved areas and rising
14 operational expenses; and

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16 WHEREAS, budgetary reductions and constraints over many
17 years have resulted in a twenty percent vacancy rate in staffing
18 and the permanent and temporary closure of library facilities,
19 creating inequities of service throughout the State; and

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21 WHEREAS, adequate resources to correct this situation and
22 supply the people of Hawaii with the library and information
23 services necessary to maintain the basic standards of service to
24 which they are entitled are not available under the present
25 system of funding, as the average wait time for a new library is
26 thirty years and the average cost is \$15,000,000; and

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28 WHEREAS, the State is presently confronted by an adult
29 illiteracy rate of sixteen percent and an aliteracy rate of
30 approximately double that; now therefore; and

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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2013, that the Governor is requested to establish,
4 within the Department of Education for administrative purposes
5 only, the underserved communities library commission; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor is requested to
8 invite the initial members of the commission, including at least
9 one member from each of the following:

- 10 (1) The Hawaii State Public Library System;
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12 (2) The Office of the Superintendent of Education;
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14 (3) The Department of Human Services;
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16 (4) The Office of Information Management and Technology;
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18 (4) The City and County of Honolulu;
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20 (5) The County of Hawaii;
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22 (6) The County of Kauai;
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24 (7) The County of Maui;
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26 (8) Friends of the Library of Hawaii;
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28 (9) Hawaii Association of Independent Schools;
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30 (10) Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network; and
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32 (11) Hawaii Community Foundation; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the underserved
36 communities library commission shall serve without compensation;
37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the underserved communities
40 library commission is requested to examine communities in the
41 State lacking a local library service or receiving reduced
42 library services and to develop and identify resources to
43 establish a library or enhance library services provided to
44 those underserved communities; and



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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the underserved communities
 3 library commission shall consider what facilities, staffing,
 4 materials, and technologies the underserved communities may need
 5 and what resources can be developed to meet those needs;

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the underserved communities
 8 library commission is requested to submit a report of its
 9 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 10 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 11 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the underserved communities
 14 library commission, upon the request of the Legislature,
 15 participate in a joint informational briefing to discuss its
 16 report; and

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 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall cease to
 19 exist on June 30, 2014; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the State Librarian,
 23 the Superintendent of Education, the Director of Human Services,
 24 the Chief Information Officer, the Mayor of each county, the
 25 Executive Director of the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, the
 26 Executive Director of the Hawaii Association of Independent
 27 Schools, the Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Charter
 28 Schools Network, and the President and Chief Executive Officer
 29 of the Hawaii Community Foundation.

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OFFERED BY: Denny Coffman

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