

JAN 22 2024

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO ESTABLISH A  
HAWAII DEAF CULTURE DIGITAL LIBRARY FOR THE DEAF AND HARD  
OF HEARING COMMUNITY.

1           WHEREAS, public libraries statewide provide library users  
2 with free access to thousands of printed materials, digital  
3 resources, and physical and streamed media; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Library for the Blind and Print  
6 Disabled provides vital access to informational and recreational  
7 reading and assistive technology resources for library users;  
8 and  
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10           WHEREAS, while existing services provide the State's deaf  
11 and hard of hearing community with resources to library  
12 materials, digital resources may provide library users who are  
13 deaf and hard of hearing with accessible materials through  
14 digital mediums offered at other public library locations; and  
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16           WHEREAS, Virginia and Maryland have established deaf  
17 culture libraries for both public library users and the deaf and  
18 hard of hearing community to learn more about topics such as  
19 library services, deaf culture, American Sign Language, and  
20 other related programming; and  
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22           WHEREAS, successful implementation of deaf culture  
23 libraries in other jurisdictions provide a valuable framework to  
24 support existing programs administered by the Hawaii State  
25 Public Library System; and  
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27           WHEREAS, establishing a deaf culture digital library would  
28 promote accessibility, inspire the community through self-  
29 development, enable public library users to build valuable skill  
30 sets, and provide a service to a historically-underserved  
31 portion of the Hawaii State Public Library System; now,  
32 therefore,  
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34           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,



# S.R. NO. 4

1 that the Hawaii State Public Library System is requested to  
2 establish a Hawaii Deaf Culture Digital Library for the deaf and  
3 hard of hearing community; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Public Library  
6 System is requested to consult with:

- 7  
8 (1) Big Island Deaf Club;  
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10 (2) Signs of Fun Program; and  
11  
12 (3) Other relevant stakeholders whose expertise may be  
13 relevant to the creation of a Deaf Culture Digital  
14 Library; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Public Library  
17 System is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
19 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
20 the Regular Session of 2025; and  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
23 Resolution be transmitted to the State Librarian, President of  
24 Big Island Deaf Club, and Camp Director of Signs of Fun Summer  
25 Camp Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY: 

