

State Librarian's Report March 19, 2013

1. State House Budget Draft Proposes Eliminating 47.5 HSPLS Positions

The current House draft of the state budget proposes eliminating 48 positions from the Hawaii State Public Library System's total of 555 positions. If this budget is adopted, it will require the Hawaii State Public Library System to close up to five branch libraries with extended temporary and intermittent library closings statewide; reduce public service hours by more than 3,300 hours per year, affecting most, if not all libraries; eliminate 30% of the staff at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; eliminate or significantly reduce public programs, school visits, student orientations and class tours (8,964 events with attendance of more than 222,000 in FY 2012) as well as HSPLS participation at outreach events such as Children and Youth Day, College and Career Fairs, the Hawaii Book and Music Festival (518 events, attendance 31,800) and drastically reduce library services statewide. Library administrators will be testifying before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Tuesday, March 19. The House draft also removes \$300,000 in funding that HSPLS requested to expand public service hours, including weekend hours.

The draft does include funding for library materials (\$800,000 for year one and \$300,000 for year two, our CIP Health and Safety request for \$3.5 million in year one and \$3 million in year two, \$15.5 million for the construction of a new library in Nanakuli, and \$250,000 for a site feasibility study and planning for a new library in Makiki.

2. Wahiawa Public Library Adds Saturday, Wednesday Evening and Friday Afternoon Public Service Hours

Wahiawa Public Library has increased their public service hours, adding Saturdays, an additional evening and two additional hours on Friday afternoon, as of March 4. The Library will be moving from a Monday through Friday to a Tuesday through Saturday schedule. Wahiawa Public Library's new public service schedule is:

- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 8 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday and Monday, CLOSED

3. Best New Children's Science Books on Exhibit at Salt Lake-Moanalua Public Library

405 of the latest science books for children are on display and available for borrowing at Salt Lake-Moanalua Public Library, through April 19. The reading level for these books ranges from preschool through high school, with the middle school levels more fully represented. An annotated bibliography reviewing and annotating the titles is attached. After the initial exhibit, the books will travel to Kahuku Public and School Library in May and June, North Kohala Public Library in August and September and Pahoa Public and School Library in October and November.

4. Public Librarian of Year and Excellence in Service Award Winners Honored

Patrick McNally, Head of the Hawaii State Library's Hawaii and Pacific (HSL H & P) Section, was named 2012 Librarian of the Year, and Berry Andelin, Library Assistant at the new Manoa Public Library, received the 2012 Excellence in Service Award from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii (FLH) and co-sponsor Native Books Na Mea Hawaii

during a ceremony and reception during the FLH annual meeting. McNally, who has worked for more than 20 years at HSL's H & P Section, said he loves his job because he works with "local material to help local folks." Andelin, a multiple-year nominee, has worked for HSPLS for eight years. She loves interacting with patrons and has created "Best Books" lists including those about Hawaii written by local authors. The winners received a gift card from Native Books Na Mea Hawaii, and Makana Akamai certificates to purchase books for their respective libraries.



5. Maui Children Read to a Dog

Makawao Public Library invited children in grades one through five to participate in their Read to a Dog program, during which children read aloud to specially trained dogs from Hawaii Canines for Independence, a national leader in service dog training, based in Makawao. Most children were so excited to be reading to a dog, they forgot to be nervous about reading out loud, and many parents mentioned that their children were reading better than usual. Makawao Public Library's program has now ended, and the program will move to Kihei Public Library in April and Wailuku Public Library in July.



6. Molokai Public Library Participates in Molokai Keiki Expo and Head Start Ohana Day

Molokai Public Library participated in the 9th Molokai Keiki Expo and the Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start Ohana Day, both of which were held at the Mitchell Pau'ole Center in Kaunakakai. Library staff distributed free books for the children who attended, information about library programs and services and library card applications. During the Keiki Expo, author Gail Omoto read from her fourth and latest children's book "Noa the Puhi Learns to Let Go," and she donated a copy to each agency participating in the event. Ms. Omoto is an author from Molokai who now lives on Oahu with her husband, Garrett, who illustrated all four of her books.



7. Libraries Provide AARP/Tax Counseling for the Elderly Tax Assistance

Tax advice and counseling for the elderly will be available at 8 public libraries during February, March and early April. For information on libraries participating, days and times and other information, please visit the HSPLS website (www.librarieshawaii.org), and click on "Tax Forms". The site also provides access to Hawaii state tax forms, Federal tax forms and tax forms from other states

8. Hawaii Tax Check Off Box Donations Top \$72,000 in 2012

Generous Hawaii taxpayers donated more than \$72,000 to the Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) in FY 2012. By checking the appropriate box on their tax returns, taxpayers may donate \$2.00 from an individual income tax return or \$4.00 from a joint return to the Hawaii Public Libraries Fund. Since the check-off box was added to tax forms eight years ago, the total amount donated to HSPLS is more than \$634,000.