

BOARD OF EDUCATION GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

March 3, 2011

State Librarian's Report

1. "Good Reads" from the Hawaii State Public Library System

Children's and Young Adult Services Librarians from the Hawaii State Library are now contributing age appropriate book recommendations for a bi-monthly feature in *Island Family* magazine. *Island Family* is published in Honolulu and complimentary issues of the monthly magazine are distributed through public and private elementary schools, intermediate and high schools; preschools, public libraries, all major hospitals and clinics, dental offices, OB/GYN offices, family practices, MWR locations on military bases, Navy Aloha Center, maternity and children's specialty shops, learning centers, childcare centers and many other family friendly businesses throughout Oahu. Each book is presented with a picture of the book cover and a short annotation, and readers are encouraged to visit the Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) website (www.librarieshawaii.org) for information and book recommendations for readers of all ages.

2. Librarian of the Year and Excellence in Service Awards Ceremony

Thank you to Board Members who were able to help us celebrate our Librarian of the Year (Fran Corcoran, Kahuku Public & School Library) and Excellence in Service Award Winners (Irma Pickard, Pearl City Public Library & Jean Ann Flaherty, Princeville Public Library), who were selected by the Friends of the Library of Hawaii.

3. State and Federal Tax Forms are Available at Most HSPLS Libraries

Hawaii State Tax Forms are available at all our public libraries once again this year, courtesy of a continuing partnership between the Hawaii State Public Library System and the State Department of Taxation. Most branches have Federal tax forms as well. Hawaii state tax forms, Federal forms and forms from other states may be accessed around the clock remotely via our online database LegalForms, from Gale Cengage Learning. This database may be accessed at www.librarieshawaii.org: under "e-Resources" click on "Other Databases," scroll down to click on "LegalForms," then click on the appropriate link to individual state or federal tax offices. Library staff will supply forms, but are not trained to assist with tax questions or preparation.

4. Tax Check-Off Box Campaign

Since 2004, Hawaii taxpayers have been able to support Hawaii's public libraries by donating \$2.00 from an individual state tax return or \$4.00 from a joint return. Over the years, thousands of taxpayers have donated \$500,000 to HSPLS. These donated funds have enabled us to purchase books published about Hawaii as well as additional copies of many children's books and other materials. These funds have allowed us to purchase materials which we would otherwise be unable to provide for our

patrons, and we encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to make a donation to Hawaii's public libraries.

5. HSPLS Ongoing Recruitment

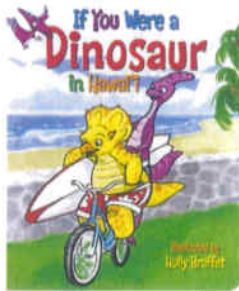
HSPLS is currently recruiting for Library Assistant IV, Library Technician V, and Librarian III, IV, V. Recruitment will continue until staffing needs for these positions are met. Interested applicants must apply online via the Department of Human Resources Development's State Job Information website: <http://www.hawaii.gov/hrd/main/esd/>.

6. County Council Experiences

Kapaa Public Library Branch Manager Lani Kawahara was elected to the Kauai County Council in 2008, and recently completed her two-year term. She is here today to share some of her experiences and impressions gathered from serving on the Council.

Good Reads

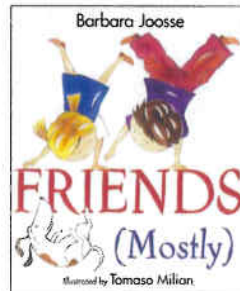
*Book Recommendations for Your Keiki—From Preschool to Eighth Grade,
Plus a Little Something for Mom and Dad.*



Preschool

If You Were a Dinosaur in Hawaii,
by Holly Braffet

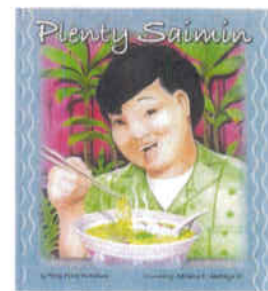
If you were a dinosaur in Hawaii, what would you do? Shower in a waterfall? Eat a half-dozen shave ice? This colorful, rhyming board book with a local twist is just right for toddlers, preschoolers and anyone who enjoys silly, adorable dinosaurs.



Kindergarten

Friends (Mostly), by Barbara Joosse

Henry and Ruby are the best of friends (mostly). In this picture book, a young boy and girl take turns telling stories about the good days and bad days in their friendship. Large, playful watercolor illustrations help the simple text come alive.



First to Second Grade

Plenty Saimin, by Feng Feng Hutchins

Neighbors and friends come together, sharing what they can to help create the best bowl of birthday saimin ever. This picture book is set in rural Hawaii in the 1950s, but the story's themes of community, sharing and "aloha" are timeless.



Third to Fourth Grade

Calvin Coconut: Zoo Breath,
by Graham Salisbury

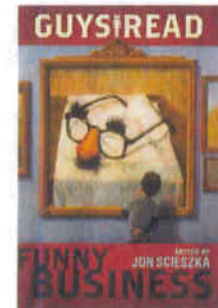
Calvin is afraid that his mom will make him give up his slightly smelly new dog, Streak. He decides to solve the problem and finish his school project at the same time by researching a very important question: "How come dogs got stink breath, and how can you make it better?" This comical book is part of the *Calvin Coconut* series, set in Kailua, Oahu.



Fifth to Sixth Grade

Draw 50 Magical Creatures,
by Lee J. Ames

How do you draw a fire-breathing dragon? This drawing book full of step-by-step breakdowns will allow anyone to put together lines to create fantastic creatures such as unicorns, wizards, fairies and even a menehune with a surfboard. This drawing book is just one of many in Ames' *Draw 50* series.



Seventh to Eighth Grade

Guys Read: Funny Business,
edited by Jon Scieszka

These humorous short tales for both guys and girls were written by some of the funniest and best-known children's book authors around. Jeff Kinney, Kate DiCamillo and Jack Gantos are just a few of the featured authors contributing short stories to this hilarious collection edited by Jon Scieszka.

These books and many others for all ages are available at your public library or you can place a request for titles. You can borrow "all you can carry" for a three-week loan period with your public library card. Please check the Hawaii State Public Library System website for a list of library locations, hours and free family-friendly programs at a library near you at librarieshawaii.org.

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County Council Experiences

Good afternoon, Chair Toguchi and members of the Board. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. My name is Lani Kawahara and I am the branch manager for Kapaa Public Library here on Kauai.

For the record, I am a proud graduate of Hawaii's public schools and my father is a retired Hawaii public high school biology teacher. Being educated in the public school system and being public servants are sources of great pride for my family. I graduated from Kapaa High School and received my Masters in Library Science from UCLA. As soon as I could, I returned to Kauai to serve my community as a public librarian.

As a public school graduate it is a privilege to be able to thank you in person for your service to Hawaii's public school students.

In November 2008, I was elected to the Kauai County Council on my first try. During the campaign, my being a Hawaii State Public Library System librarian proved to be a strong and positive factor in getting elected. The voters' interest in and support of a librarian is a testament to the very real presence of HSPLS in our communities.

During my term as a council member, I was able to bring a strong public service perspective to every issue that came before the Council. My HSPLS background brought to the table a broader and authoritative point of view about the importance of making education and information available to everyone equally and conveniently. I was naturally drawn to issues involving public access in all forms, including public access to our beaches and walking/biking trails and access to government information.

Establishing a significant level of government transparency was one of my campaign promises and one of the first tasks I tackled. There was a great deal of public support for making council documents electronically accessible through the internet. Using my professional training, I created an e-council initiative within four months of my election. The initiative addressed the vital importance of education and information to maintain a vibrant and strong democracy. I pushed for policies which allowed greater public access to the council's legislative information. As we know, an educated community helps generate thoughtful and fact-based discussions. Having better informed legislators and community members will lead to positive and relevant public policies.

I am proud to say that within a year, for the first time in the council's history, our council meeting minutes were posted online, along with select bills and ordinances on which the council was working. At the end of my term, the council began live-streaming our council meetings and archiving them for on-demand viewing.

During my 2-year term, I also helped amend and pass an ordinance which expanded public use of our one-of-a-kind, 8-mile coastal multi-use path, a portion of which happens to run between Kapaa Public Library and the ocean. Watching people on the multi-use path on a daily basis gave me unique and specific knowledge about how the public used this valuable county resource. I watched the area behind the library go from low use to high recreational use. I began to see families, children and the elderly increase their physical activity by walking daily. Kids rode their bikes with friends, others used the multi-use path as a transportation alternative to get through the Kapaa corridor. Small businesses like bike rental shops and smoothie shops were started. Visitors and residents alike took full advantage of the path by walking, running, skating, and bicycling. Pet owners were allowed to walk their dogs on a limited portion of the path. During my term, an amendment was introduced to allow responsible pet owners to use entire the path. I was a proud supporter of the amendment and as chair of the Parks and Transportation Committee, I was able to shepherd the more expansive and inclusive law to its successful passage.

Expanding the use of the multi-use, coastal path and establishing a more transparent government are examples of hands-on experiences in public policy-making. Working in our library system prepared me well for work at the county level. The consensus-building required at that level closely parallels the work being done by librarians across our state. Hundreds of people and many organizations came to testify and advocate for their specific needs. Being able to build consensus with either library patrons or constituents is the key to success in both the library environment and larger policy-making bodies.

It is a pleasure working daily with diverse groups of people and community organizations to learn their information needs and provide relevant and timely services and solutions. Working on the County Council was a natural extension of my library experience, allowing me to work with an even broader spectrum of individuals and organizations in our community and state. I thank the State Librarian for his support of this unique endeavor. The lessons learned during my term will be with me as I work to make further positive contributions to HSPLS and the Kauai community.