

**Board of Education General Meeting
June 4, 2009**

2009 Children's, Teen, and Adult Summer Reading Programs

Chairperson Toguchi and members of the Board of Education, thank you for this opportunity to brief you on the 2009 Summer Reading Programs that will launch across our state this month. Through the dedicated efforts of library staff, and the staunch and vital support of our sponsors, we anticipate surpassing last summer's record-breaking statistics of having over 21,000 participants read over a quarter of a million books during the five-week reading campaign.

2009 marks the 32nd year of the statewide Children's Summer Reading Program and the 17th year of the statewide Teen Summer Reading Program. The new initiative this year is the statewide launch of the Adult Summer Reading Program, building on the success of last year's 21-library pilot program.

The themes for the programs are:

- "Be Creative @ your library!" is the theme for the Children's reading program, which is designed to spark the imaginations of children, encouraging them to express themselves through art, drama, music, writing, technology, dance and movement.
- "Reading Rocks! @ your library" is the theme of the Teen reading program, highlighting rock and roll music, rock bands, geology and gemology, rock climbing, and even "rocking the boat" as it relates to environmental protection, learning to take a stand, and making one's voice heard.
- "Get Creative @ your library" is the theme of the Adult reading program. Activities and book displays will be built on similar themes as the children's program.

Joining the program is easy—between June 14th and July 18th, visit your local public library, read at least one book per week and receive a free reading incentive, while supplies last. Libraries will host fun activities, create enticing book displays, conduct special prize drawings, and host entertaining programs for all ages throughout the summer. Patrons can learn more details by contacting their local library or by checking our website at www.librarieshawaii.org and clicking on the summer reading logos.

To further enrich the lives of our patrons and encourage life-long learning and reading, we are excited to host an outstanding line-up of nationally-renown storytellers and an impressive local musical prodigy who will demonstrate the Kiho'alu style of guitar music in our libraries.

- Bobby Norfolk is a three-time Emmy Award winning storyteller from St. Louis, Missouri, who has an energetic style that combines comedy, theatre, and mime in his performances.
- Sherry Norfolk is a nationally acclaimed storyteller from Atlanta, Georgia, who is a former librarian and college professor.
- Jim May, another Emmy Award winning storyteller and author, is from Spring Grove, Illinois, and he has received the highest honor bestowed on storytellers—induction into the National Storytelling Network's Circle of Excellence.
- Diane Ferlatte, a New Orleans native, is an internationally-acclaimed, award – winning storyteller who has delighted Hawaii's library audiences numerous times over the past 15 years.
- In addition, our libraries will also host culturally-enriching programs featuring local artists, including an Okinawan Dance program with Sensei Cheryl Yoshie Nakasone, the Art of Taiko with Kenny Endo, and "Stories of Hawaii" with Nalani Olds. To delight our youngest patrons, Ronald McDonald will perform his popular "Book Time" program, an interactive performance that will engage children with a creative mix of music, magic, and games all intended to reinforce the idea that reading is fun and books are an important part of each day.
- The Teen Summer Reading Program's featured performer is Danny Carvalho, an 18-year old slack key musician and Na Hoku Hanohano Award nominee. Danny will demonstrate the styles learned from local masters (Ray Kane, Led Ka'apana, Sonny Chillingsworth, Atta Isaacs, Gabby Pahinui, and Ozzie Kotani) that have influenced his journey in Kiho'alu (slack key).

The Summer Reading Programs are sponsored through a generous grant from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii, funded in part by the National Football League Charities, Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Hawaiian Telcom, and the Junior League of Honolulu. We also have received staunch support from our long-time corporate sponsors: McDonald's Restaurants of Hawaii, Hawaii Pizza Hut, Frito-Lay of Hawaii, First Insurance Company of Hawaii, Diamond Bakery, the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Outreach College, and funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, and the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and local Friends affiliates.

We have also revamped the 16-year old tradition of having the Back to School Shopping Spree for teens. This year, rather than awarding just 3-grand prize winners, our new approach is to have more regional winners spread across the state. Hawaii Pizza Hut has agreed to sponsor regional prizes of cool electronic gadgets that every teen would dream about owning, such as flash memory

camcorders, netbooks, LCD DVD/TV combos, neon-colored earbuds, Personal Pan Pizza certificates, and more. We are planning a fun prize drawing featuring all the Oahu branch winners for our Teen Summer Reading finale at a shopping mall later this summer.

Following the huge success of last summer's in branch prize drawings of iPod Shuffles, the Friends of the Library of Hawaii has again graciously offered to provide all libraries with this popular teen prize.

The Summer Reading Programs are definitely the most high profile event that our libraries conduct annually. We are always heartened by the patron turn out, record attendance at our performance programs, and positive comments we receive through our evaluations. We were also delighted by the support we received this year from some of the schools, such as Waianae Intermediate and Kaimuki High Schools, who have contacted our office to request digital summer reading flyers to post on their school websites. It has always been our intent to be good partners with our school colleagues to reinforce the reading habits and skills students learn through out the year during the summer break. It is our hope that we can continue to build on this partnership with our school colleagues to spread the word and encourage students to read during the summer.

On behalf of the staff and patrons of the Hawaii State Public Library System, thank you to all the members of the Board of Education for your continuing support!