

**BOARD OF EDUCATION GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
January 7, 2010**

**Hawaii State Library's Government Documents Section
Federal Documents Section**

Good Afternoon. My name is Stewart Chun and I am here to discuss the many programs and services provided by the Hawaii State Library's Federal Documents Section. The Hawaii State Library has been a selective member of the Federal Depository Library Program since 1929 providing free access to the wealth of information published by the Government Printing Office, GPO. The Federal Documents Section was formed in 1971 to insure the integrity of the collection.

Over the years, we have accumulated wonderful reference sources that are unique because these federal publications that were selected by us belong to the federal government and not to the Hawaii State Public Library System, HSPLS. The information in our collection is copyright free with few exceptions.

The diversity of information in our collection includes patent # 2790, the first known Hawaii patent filed in 1842, for an instrument for measuring sails from Captain John Dominis of the Sandwich Islands. Captain Dominis was the father of John O. Dominis, the husband of Queen Liliuokalani. We also have the new citizenship resource kit to assist resident aliens in passing the test. For a recent display to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the moon landing with Apollo 11, we were able to fill the entire bookcase with publications from our section reporting on various aspects of this landmark event. We know about one person using our legal research resources to file suit against the federal government, Pro Se. Currently, he is at the federal appeals level and still using our resources to answer the various legal aspects of his appeal. Although we are not a law library, we are able to meet his legal information needs.

We try to obtain publications from many federal government agencies, but our collection has space and computer network limitations that make it impossible for us to hold all the documents and resources that are available in a variety of formats. Most of the documents we select cannot be found in the HSPLS public catalog and we are currently working on a system to manually input our holdings onto a MS Access database. We will share the contents of our collection on our homepage at www.hspls.org/feddocs with other public and depository libraries and individuals.

The Federal Documents Section has a dedicated Internet computer that meets federal guidelines for access to information maintained by our federal government. As an example, our computer, with our depository library status, allows us free access to passworded databases, such as STAT-USA, which provides economic statistics, international market research and trade leads from

across the federal government. Another valuable database is the National Climatic Data Center Online Document Library that gives weather information for any weather station in the country. People have used this information to find the weather condition on a particular day which was important in a lawsuit they were filing. We are considering establishing exclusive access to other databases as they become available.

Our section is also a member of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, PTDL, since 1989, and is the only one in the Hawaii and Pacific area to focus on this highly specialized field. We are given a variety of patent and trademark resources that include unique tools for customers to conduct their own intellectual property searches for a \$50 subscription fee that we purchase with our book funds, one of the best bargains around. We receive materials that belong to the PTDL in exchange for allowing free public access and for maintaining the integrity of the collection. This collection includes the complete issued plant patents that can only be viewed in microfiche or print formats. We are the only library in Hawaii with this resource because color is important to the issued patent, and other formats don't allow for the required color control.

We are one of two public libraries on Oahu still processing new passport applications as a Passport Acceptance Facility, and each of our staff members is a certified Passport Acceptance Agent. We started this service in 2003 as an extension of our collection and to provide a valuable public service, our family-friendly hours on Saturdays. We use the passport execution fees to pay for expensive reference sources that cannot be covered by our normal book fund budget or a Friends of the Library grant like the backfile of the American Statistics Index, a microfiche collection of significant statistical publications published by GPO which was most useful right after the 2004 flood at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, UH, and an upgrade to make our Congressional Record microfiche collection to make them easier to read, which helped one customer in finding the information that was not available at the nearby Supreme Court Law Library. This year, because of the extreme cuts in the book budget, almost all the passport fees we collected were given to the other sections for their book purchases.

We are the Hawaii State Data Center Affiliate for the Hawaii State Library, as of 2007. We assist people looking for statistical census reports on Hawaii's population from 1900, and also participate in the Tax Forms Outlet Program to help distribute Internal Revenue Service forms and publications to our visitors. We have a variety of resources to help anyone find the answers to their tax questions.

Finally, our staff is trained to research many types of federal-related information and materials. Because budget cuts have forced HSPLS to eliminate our training budget, grants from the Friends of the Library of Hawaii have been necessary to

allow staff members to attend training seminars and conferences that are only available in Washington D.C. These continuing education sessions are intended to help us maintain and improve our expertise in all aspects of being a government documents librarian, especially in the patent and trademark subject areas. We have shared the knowledge learned with other local librarians. For example I gave a presentation at the 2009 Hawaii Library Association Conference on "Recognizing Legal Information From Legal Advice." This session was based on similar sessions I have attended over the years at the various PTDLF training seminars.

The Federal Documents Section is a unique resource in the islands and our trained staff provides assistance and access to materials that may otherwise be difficult to find, especially with the recent dropping of the depository status at the Queen Hospital's Hawaii Medical Library, for medical information, and the Municipal Reference & Records Center at Honolulu Hale, for engineering and transportation resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you this afternoon, and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Hawaii State Library's Federal Documents Section.