

**BOARD OF EDUCATION GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
November 18, 2010**

**State Librarian's Report**

**1. North Kohala Public Library Grand Opening**

North Kohala Public Library celebrated its grand opening Monday, November 8. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Governor Lingle and Senior Policy Advisor Linda Smith, North Kohala's Senator Dwight Takamine and Representative Mark Nakashima; State Comptroller Russ Saito and several other DAGS personnel; Director of Hawaiian Home Lands Kaulana Park, and many Hawaii State Public Library System staff members. The new Library is beautiful, its fits perfectly into its scenic location with large windows emphasizing views of the Kohala countryside, and was constructed with energy efficiency and environmentally sensitive design features, including windmills and photovoltaic energy systems, water catchment and reuse systems, and natural lighting and ventilation features, which are expected to make it the first state building in Hawaii to earn the coveted LEED Gold Certification. Thank you to Branch Manager Janet Lam, her staff Joleen Soares and Patsy Pasco, and countless community members, for all their hard work and the many long hours required to make the decades-old dream of a new library in North Kohala become a reality. Video of the Huki Puke, where some 2,000 community members and friends passed books the 1.3 miles from the new library to the old can be seen at:

<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2010/10/25/video-big-human-chain-helps-small-town-library-in-kapaau/>

Video from the Grand Opening can be seen at:

<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2010/11/09/video-north-kohala-public-library-opens/>



**2. HSPLS Recruitment Has Begun**

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/>.

### **3. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**

Hawaii's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) hosted their annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Waialae Country Club this past Veteran's Day, November 11. More than 70 volunteers, friends and family members, including several from neighbor islands, attended this celebration. Volunteers contributed nearly 3,000 hours of service to LBPH over the past year, and HSPLS is very appreciative of the contributions of volunteers to our libraries statewide.

### **4. Letters About Literature**

Letters About Literature is an annual national reading and writing program sponsored by the Library of Congress' Center for the Book, the Hawaii Center for the Book and Target. Students in grades 4-12 are asked to write a letter to an author who inspired them, and winning letter writers can win gift certificates and even a trip to Washington D.C. To enter, go to the Letters About Literature website at <http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org/>. Deadline is December 10th, 2010. For more information, please call the Hawaii State Library at 586-3555.

### **5. Recycling Display Earns Ilima Award**

The recycling display now touring Hawaii's public libraries has earned an Ilima Award of Excellence from the Hawaii chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. Developed by Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services, the display features Hawaii's new curbside recycling carts and life-size representations of the cast of the Green Channel's "Opalavision." A portion of the interactive display includes 3-minute videos featuring members of the cast taking viewers on a behind the scenes tour of Oahu's recycling and waste management systems, as well as episodes of "Opalavision." The display is in the last stages of its island-wide tour, and can be seen at Aina Haina Public Library this month and concludes in December at Wahiawa Public Library.



### **6. Building a New Library in Kohala**

Janet Lam, Manager of the new North Kohala Public Library is here to make this afternoon's presentation on Hawaii's newest library.

North Kohala Public Library  
Grand Opening, November 8, 2010



“Building a new library in Kohala”

Presented to the Board of Education,  
November 18, 2010

By North Kohala Librarian, Janet Lam

What it takes to build a new library



## 1. Time

Talk of a new library to replace Bond Memorial Public Library in Kapaau dates back to the **1980s**. At that time the quaint “house-like” structure opened in 1929 already seemed too small for the Kohala community. In an area with little entertainment aside from the outdoor activities afforded by wide open spaces, the people of Kohala have always been avid library users. With no movie theatres, shopping centers, etc., Bond Memorial Public Library has remained the busiest two person library branch in Hawaii for many, many years.

The people of Kohala asked for a new library.

*Meetings were held, studies were done.*

Time went on --

and in **1997**, one of your own board members, John Pennebacker acting as Special Assistant to the State Librarian, became actively involved with the preliminary discussions for a new library.

*Meetings were held, studies were done.*



Again time went on—

## 2. A Great Legislator...

In **2001**, using his community organizing skills, then representative, Dwight Takamine, energized the push for a new library for North Kohala.

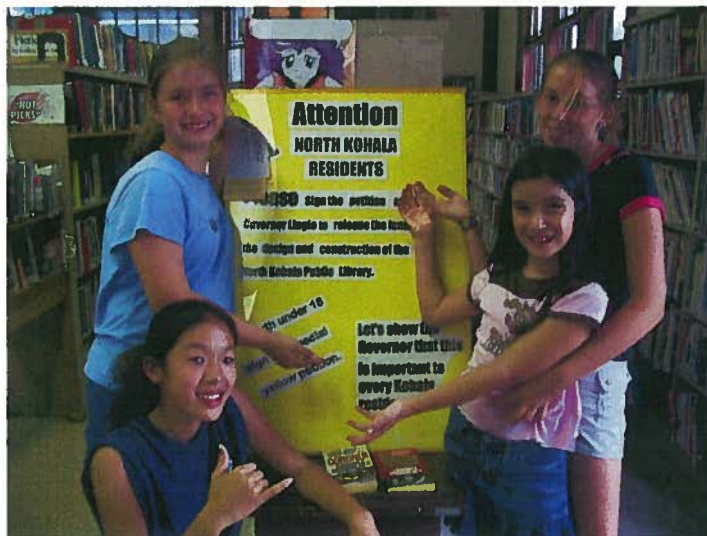


### And A Passionate Librarian

Dawn Shibano joined the Bond Memorial Library staff in 1998. She linked up with Dwight Takamine to inspire a community wide push for a new public library. Dawn used her communication skills to reach all ages and all groups in Kohala's diverse community.

*Meetings were held. Studies were done.*

In October **2005** the community loudly called for a new library, launching a letter writing campaign, and flooding the Governor's West Hawaii Advisory Council meeting with over 300 people. In response, Governor Lingle released design funds for Kohala's library.



### 3. A generous land donor

The Kohala based land company, Surety Kohala Corporation, offered to donate land for a new library. Several parcels of land were proposed. *Meetings were held. Studies were done.*

A 3.8 acre piece of land near Kohala's schools and adjacent to the primary shopping area was selected for the new North Kohala Public Library.

### 4. A Talented Architect ...

Architect Glenn Miura of the Honolulu design firm, CDS International, began to work with the Kohala Library Committee, shortly after Governor Lingle released the design funds in October 2005. Working from a list of wants and desires for a new library that Dawn Shibano and the Library Committee submitted, Glenn prepared a preliminary design. In September **2006**, Glenn visited the Bond Memorial Library to show the initial concepts to the committee.

*More meetings were held over the next two years.*

Based on the committee feedback, the architects prepared the final drawings which were put out to bid in April **2008**.

### A Top Notch Contractor , and dedicated Department of Accounting and General Services Team

The firm, Isemoto Contracting Co. was awarded the contract and construction began in March **2009**. The 18 month long construction project took place under the direction of Isemoto's project engineer, Hadley Null, and her talented crew.



DAGS engineer Miles Tagawa, DAGS Inspector Brian Jenkins, and Construction Foreman Lance Kajiwara worked closely--*holding meetings bi-weekly*-- throughout the project to assure quality control.

## 5. A Knowledgeable Library Administration Team

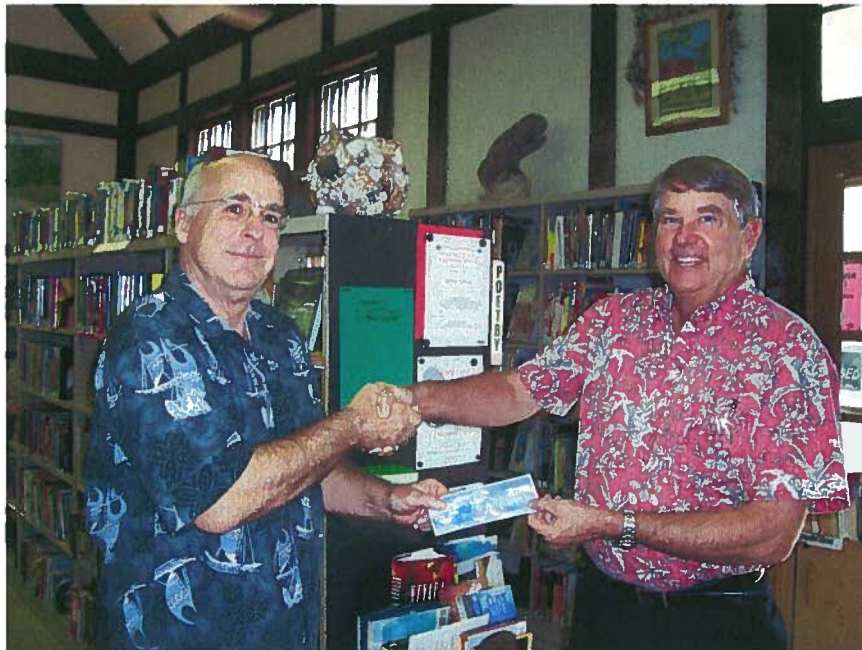
In the background, through the entire process, was the library system's administrative services officer, Keith Fujio. With expansive experience in library construction and renovation projects, Keith has the ability to focus on the big picture, make good decisions quickly and keep the lines of communication flowing between DAGS, the Construction Company, the library core administrative team, and the individual branch library staff. Keith's ability to manage a myriad of details is nothing short of amazing.

## 6. A Can-do Friends of the Library

The Friends of Bond Memorial Public Library accepted every challenge on the long road to building a public library. After years of campaigning for design and construction funds, the group accepted the challenge of a massive fundraising effort in December 2008 to cover the costs of furnishings and equipment for the new library.

*Monthly meetings were held. Plans were made.*

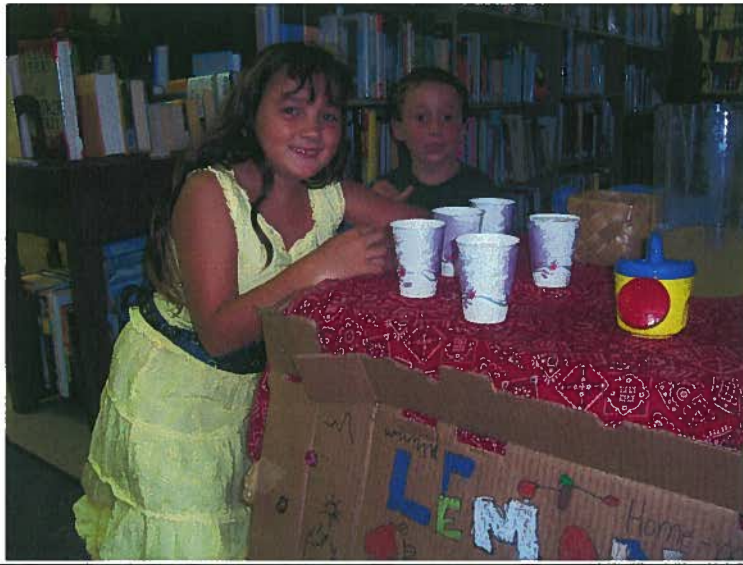
The friends began contacting potential donors, writing grant applications, and sponsoring community fundraising events. Within one year, they reached what had seemed like an impossible fund-raising goal--\$250,000.



Grants were received from many of Hawaii's major foundations, including the First Hawaiian Bank Foundation.

On a smaller scale, the entire Kohala community became involved in Library Fundraisers at every community event. People of every age came out to support

the library, even two young library users, Cloe and Julian Parks who held lemonade sales on behalf of the library.



And, on a much large scale, in October 2010, the Friends staged the Great Huki Puke —the largest book passing event ever. Up to 2,000 people turned out to pass the library books from Bond Memorial Public Library over one mile to the New North Kohala Public Library.



### What we didn't have

Was a librarian and library staff experienced in the library building process.

As the project moved through the various phases, I often wondered, "Why are they asking me these questions?" Questions such as, "Would you like a private upper level office with 360 degree views of Kohala?" Of course I wanted to say, "Yes!" In reality I had to say, "No, this is a small library and I am a public service librarian who belongs with the library users."

To other questions about colors, shelving, archive storage, wind mills and on and on, we wondered, "Shouldn't they be asking someone who knows about these things?" When we made decisions we wondered, "Doesn't somebody overlook our choices?"

At some point in the process we finally realized that no librarian's job description in the library system states, "Build a new public library as one of the duties."

The Bond Memorial Library staff took on the job as our 5% other duties. We studied plans, tried to decipher furniture schedules, attended construction meetings, and graphed shelving layouts. We did our best--

And with the help of Senator Dwight Takamine, Glenn Miura and his team of architects, the Isemoto Construction crew, the DAGS team, our own Keith Fujio, and the Friends of Bond Memorial Library-- we have created a library that will be the educational, social, and community center of North Kohala for—perhaps the next 80 years.