



NEWS IS GETTING AROUND THE PACIFIC

March 2009

Hawaii State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
402 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu HI 96815
Phone 733-8444 Neighbor Islands call 1-800-559-4096

SPECIAL EDITION

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARIES!

During the current Hawaii State Legislative session, the Hawaii State Public Library System faces severe budget reductions that will result in the closure of libraries and the layoff of staff.

It's vitally important to demonstrate your love and support for public libraries today by making a phone call, sending an email, or writing a letter to your state legislators!

1. Identify yourself and share which public library you and your family use.

2. State your message about the importance of the library, and that you are counting on your legislator to ensure that libraries are adequately funded.

"I am calling/writing to urge you to support HSPLS's recommendation to approve no more than a 10% Budget Reduction. A minimal budget reduction will allow the library system to keep all their branches open and avoid staff layoffs."

3. Be specific about how the budget cuts will negatively affect your favorite library services and programs.

Select from the following and express how you have benefited from one of these services or describe how one of these programs enriched you or your family's life:

Bestseller Hot Picks, High Demand titles for Children and Teens, Digital E-books, audio books, E-Music, online databases (business, health, college preparation, career information), E-Reference (Ask A Librarian), Hawaiian materials, Internet Access, Baby Lap Sit/Preschool/Toddler Storytimes, Foreign Language Materials, DVDs, Compact Discs, Public Performance Programs, special exhibits and displays, Summer Reading Programs for all ages.

4. Express how a reduction in library services and programs will negatively impact you/your children/your family/your community/your state.

Suggestions: How would you feel if your library's public service hours were reduced? How would you feel if your library is targeted for closure? How would you feel if your favorite services were eliminated, or staff that has served you and your family is released from duty?

5. Be brief--one page is easier to read, and will likely be read!

6. Express your appreciation for your legislator's careful consideration and support.

"I respectfully request your support to approve no more than a 10% Budget Reduction for the Hawaii State Public Library System. Your consideration to retain these critically-needed library programs and services is greatly appreciated!"

Include your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number to allow your legislator to respond to you.

State Representatives:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/house/members/members.asp>

State Senators:

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/senate/members/members.asp>

Mahalo for your continuing support!