

Board of Education General Meeting
May 21, 2009

HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Good afternoon Chair Toguchi, members of the Board of Education and Superintendent Hamamoto.

My name is Miriam Sato, head of the Hawai'i State Library's Business, Science and Technology Section. I am here today to talk about some of the outreach events in which the Hawai'i State Public Library System has participated in recent months. Outreach events provide an alternative way to inform library users and especially, potential users of the materials and services available to them.

On Friday, March 6, 2009, the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) was invited to participate in the 2009 National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) Fair sponsored by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) and the US Postal Service. This was a part of a national campaign to celebrate National Consumer Protection Week. The goal at the fair was to highlight HSPLS's efforts to educate consumers in Hawaii about consumer and financial issues and to make everyone aware of materials available in the libraries on consumer and financial issues. Lizhen Zhao and Colette Young of the Social Science and Philosophy Section of the Hawai'i State Library (HSL) Gail Urago, of the Business, Science and Technology Section, and I were able to participate at the fair. Gail created two new bookmarks on "Protecting Your Money" and "Money – Credit." Lizhen created a bookmark on "Protecting yourself from Scams & Fraud." Revisions of bibliographies on "Interviewing," "Job Hunting," and "Resumes" were also done for the fair. Thanks to our Library Development Services Section, we were able to give away CDs to those who visited our table. We were also able to promote tax check off box donations, supporting libraries with your legislator, as well as online databases and ebooks.



Gail and Lizhen with a fair attendee

We estimated that we talked with about 250 people about the various services HSPLS provides. According to DCCA, there was an increase in fair attendees from last year.

On Thursday March 12, 2009, the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) and the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) participated in the Family Caregiver Awareness Day at the Capitol. Fusako Miyashiro, head of LBPH, Colette Young, head of the Social Science and Philosophy Section of the Hawai'i State Library and I were among the 45 exhibitors talking to legislators and their aides as well as caregivers about the services HSPLS and LBPH offer to them. This great venue showed the legislators what services HSPLS continues to provide to the community, especially the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It was an opportunity to promote support for the libraries while talking informally with the legislators and their aides who stopped by the table. We estimate that we talked with 150 caregivers, legislators, and legislative aides. Revisions of the bookmarks "Caregiving" by Lizhen Zhao and "Aging Smartly" were distributed.



Fusako and Colette talking with caregivers.

Financial literacy was the theme at Tamarind Park on April 8, 2009. The Financial Literacy Fair was sponsored by DCCA. This was the second year that HSPLS was invited and participated at the fair. New bookmarks "For Women" and "Encore Careers" and revisions of "Retirement Planning" and "Financial Literacy" were prepared for this fair. Although the attendees seemed fewer this year, the fair allowed us the opportunity to promote the services that the public libraries can provide for those who have a library card. Many were surprised that they didn't have to physically come into a library to partake of the services we provide. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote our eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMusic and online databases. The appeal of being able to download an eAudiobook and be able to listen to it in their cars or while walking or exercising or at home was very attractive to

attendees. This year we also took a cassette player, tapes, a large type book and informational materials from the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. It was a nice venue to promote their services as well.



Miriam and Gail sharing with Lt. Governor Aiona at the Financial Literacy Fair 4/8/09



Gail and Miriam sharing with fair goers

The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was invited to the Special Parents Information Network's Conference on April 25, 2009. Fusako Miyashiro invited us to share her table to promote ebooks and eAudiobooks and our online databases. Fusako, Debbie, a LBPH volunteer and I talked to about a 125 conference participants about the services provided by LBPH and other HSPLS libraries. Three new bookmarks were prepared for the conference – "Parents of Special Needs Children" by Laura Gerwitz, "Helping Children with Special Needs" by Lizhen Zhao, and "Parenting." We were able to share with the neighbor island participants who lived quite a distance from their community library, the online databases and Overdrive. They were excited at the prospect of being able to borrow ebooks and eAudiobooks and to research information from home. One parent mentioned this was great because their school no longer had a school library available to their students.

May 4-5, 2009 offered HSPLS an opportunity to promote our services, especially Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, at the 25th Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities. This was the first time we participated at this particular event. We were able to share our services with both local and international participants. A couple of conference participants from the United Kingdom (UK), one of whom was wheelchair bound, were amazed at the services we offer to our patrons, especially the ebooks and audiobooks and the online databases. He took bookmarks and brochures to share with his library in the UK hoping they would be able to provide similar services. He mentioned how progressive we were. We talked with a number of special education teachers from Oahu and the neighbor islands who were enthused about the public library and were glad to learn about eBooks and the online databases, especially, the Science Resource Center which has a new feature of Read Speak. This feature reads the text of the article. The teachers thought this feature would be useful for some of their students with learning disabilities. Laura Gerwitz prepared a bookmark on "Autism and Asperger's Syndrome" and a bookmark on "Disabilities" was also done.

These are just a few of the outreach opportunities we have been able to share the many services HSPLS provides to the residents of Hawai'i with a valid library card. We appreciate the support of the Board of Education and State Librarian Richard Burns in allowing us to do these outreach projects.