Diane Eddy, a veteran HSPLS librarian and most recently Branch Manager of the McCully-Moiliili Public Library since 2005, has been selected as the new Director of the Hawaii State Library (HSL), effective March 1.

“We are very pleased that Diane has agreed to take on the challenge of directing Hawaii’s largest Public Library,” said State Librarian Richard Burns. “Her vast experience within HSPLS as well as in the private sector will be an asset for her as well as for the Hawaii State Public Library System.”

Eddy succeeds Florence Yee, another veteran librarian who retired in December 2007 after serving as HSL Director for the past three years. “I believe that the variety of experience that I’ve had over the years has prepared me to become Director of the Hawaii State Library because it represents a microcosm of the Hawaii State Public Library System,” said Eddy. “I look forward to the challenge, and believe that it will be a very interesting experience and an exciting place to work.”

In addition to leading the flagship Hawaii State Library, the Director oversees the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped, which not only is part of HSPLS but also serves as a Regional Library for the Library of Congress’ National Library Service for the Blind & Physically Handicapped.

Eddy’s librarian career has spanned more than 20 years with the Hawaii State Public Library System. Besides serving as Branch Manager of the McCully-Moiliili Public Library, she has previously served in Branch Manager positions at the Ewa Beach Public & School Library and at Kaimuki Public Library. Eddy has also served as a member of the HSPLS Reengineering Team, as a Children’s Librarian, Adult Services Librarian, Collection Agency Coordinator and as Grants Coordinator.

In addition, Eddy worked in the private sector for Waldenbooks, Inc. for more than a dozen years, serving as District Manager for Hawaii, as well as Bookstore Manager of the Kahala Mall and Pearridge Center stores.

Originally from Missouri, Eddy attended the University of Missouri where she had aspirations of becoming a journalist. However, midway through her undergraduate studies, she changed career goals and transferred to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. After graduating with honors and receiving a bachelor’s degree in Liberal Studies, Eddy decided to become a librarian and received a masters degree from the UH-Manoa Graduate School of Library Studies.
Keiki, Vote for the Nene Award

K ids, do you want to help select this year’s Nene Award-winning book — the favorite book chosen by the children of Hawaii?

Students in grades 4 through 6 are eligible to vote at participating school or public libraries through Friday, Mar. 14, 2008. You may only vote once.

In addition, March 14th is the deadline to submit entries for the four categories of Nene Award contests: essay, poster, performance, and digital arts. These contests are all centered on last year’s Nene Award winner, A Boy at War: A Novel of Pearl Harbor by Harry Mazer.

Visit the Nene Award website at http://nene.k12.hi.us to learn more about this award and find the recommended reading list, voting and contest instructions.

Contest winners will be invited to share their work at an award ceremony on Friday, May 9 aboard the Battleship Missouri Memorial when the new Nene Award-winning book will be announced. Also, librarians or teachers who submit votes will be invited to bring students to the award ceremony.

HSPLS Receives $3,500 in Books Donation

By Miriam Sato, Section Head, Hawaii State Library-Business, Science & Technology Section

T he Hawaii State Public Library System has received an additional $3,500 worth of informational materials from the Aloha Arborist Association, Carol Kwan Consulting LLC and Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture, as part of the Hawaii Public Tree Education Campaign. This campaign is funded by Kaulunani, an Urban Forestry Program of the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service. The majority of the materials donated will enable those who are interested in receiving continuing education credits for recertification as an Arborist or a Certified Tree Worker.

In addition, Tropica: color cyclopedia of exotic plants and trees was donated as part of this project. Besides the Hawaii State Library, copies of this title will be available at Kaimuki, Kaneohe, Kapolei, Pearl City, Lihue, Kahului, Hilo and Kailu-Kona Public Libraries.

Reminders for the Tax Season

S upport Public Libraries: Taxpayers can designate $2 of their refund ($4 for a joint return) as a contribution to the Hawaii State Public Library System Special Fund. Place a check mark in the appropriate check-off box on your State individual income tax return form. Your donation will benefit communities statewide through the purchase of library materials for all ages. Thank you for supporting Hawaii’s Public Libraries!

Hawaii State Tax Forms: Pick up State tax forms at your local public library, courtesy of a continuing partnership between the Hawaii State Public Library System and State Dept. of Taxation. Library staff will supply forms, but are not trained to assist with tax questions.

State Tax Forms-Other States: Visit www.librarieshawaii.org, under “e-RE-SOURCES” click on “Other Databases,” scroll down and select “LegalForms,” an online database from Thomson Gale. Click on the appropriate link to individual state tax offices; you can get Federal tax information or to print/download forms visit: www.irs.ustreas.gov/formspubs/index.html.

New Look for HSPLS Website

T he Hawaii State Public Library System has launched a new, redesigned website, State Librarian Richard Burns announced to the Board of Education’s Library Committee last month.

Highlights of the new website include featured library programs and presentations, a list of the latest Best Sellers, and an introduction to the new self-checkout units which speed up transactions. These and much more can be found at www.libraries-hawaii.org.