The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) has received an additional 2% budget cut, and more cuts are expected. If our budget is cut any more than the 10% the Governor and the Board of Education have proposed, we will be forced to close libraries and lay off staff; there is simply nowhere else to cut.

We need our Library Advocates (those who love public libraries) to once again show their support during this legislative session. We need you to write letters, send emails and faxes to your state legislators to let them know how you or your family have benefited from, and been enriched by, services and programs provided by Hawaii's public libraries, and the negative impact closing your library will have on yourselves and your community.

Here are some helpful tips on how you can become an effective library advocate:

- **Identify yourself** as a constituent and share which public library you and your family use.
- **State your message.** Let your elected officials know how important the library is to you, and that you need them to work to keep Hawaii’s public libraries open and operating in our communities.
- **Be specific.** State how your library closing will affect you and your family.
- **Write from the heart.** Provide a personal story and focus on the people who depend on library services. Share real life stories of how the library makes a difference in the lives of constituents and what will be lost if your library closes.
- **Be brief** – one page is easier to read, and will more likely be read.
- **Include your name, mailing address, email address and telephone number** to allow your legislator to respond to you.

Here are the links, email addresses, phone & fax numbers you will need:

- **House Education Committee** (includes Public Libraries) – http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/house/comm/commEDN.asp

Mark Your Calendars

Feb. 14 -16 – Presidents Day Holiday; for public service hours visit www.librarieshawaii.org or call your local library.

Support Your Public Libraries

Be a Library Advocate

**“Quotable Quotes”**

“Business in HSPLS Libraries continues to increase,” said State Librarian Richard Burns. “Virtually every statistic we track has increased in comparison with last year. Circulation statewide during the first six months of this fiscal year has increased five percent, library visits and internet use have gone up and we are seeing our patrons increasingly turning to their public libraries as an essential coping and recovery resource during these difficult times.”

Your Tax Donation Buys Books

Annual donations to the Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) via a check-off box on State tax forms topped $99,000 in 2008. This record amount enabled HSPLS to purchase additional copies of children’s books and a variety of adult books published about Hawaii, which benefited library users of all ages statewide.

“We would like to remind Hawaii’s taxpayers of this convenient way to support their public libraries and thank them for their support,” said State Librarian Richard Burns.

Since the check-off box was added to tax forms four years ago the total amount donated to HSPLS is more than $340,000. Taxpayers are able to make donations of $2.00 from an Individual Tax Return and $4.00 from a Joint Return.

Tax Forms Available at Libraries

Need tax forms? Public libraries statewide will serve as distribution outlets for Hawaii State tax forms, thanks to a continuing partnership between the Hawaii State Public Library System and the State Department of Taxation.

Library staff will supply the forms, but are not trained to assist with tax ques-

See Tax Forms, back page

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**Recommended Children’s Books**

By Hawaii State Library Children’s Librarians

### Ron Hirschi, Yuko Green (Illustrator)

**WINTER IS FOR WHALES, A BOOK OF HAWAIIAN SEASONS**  
(Preschool-Gr. 2)

Explore the seasons of the islands through the behavior patterns of the humpback whale, whose arrival announces the coming of winter. A lift-the-flap book filled with factoids about each season’s plants and animals.

### Stephanie Feeney

**SUN AND RAIN: EXPLORING SEASONS IN HAWAII**  
(Preschool-K)

Colorful photographs of local children, plants, places and events reveal the subtle differences between wet and dry seasons in Hawaii.

### Graham Salisbury

**NIGHT OF THE HOWLING DOGS**  
(Gr. 4-8)

Based on an actual event in 1975, a group of boy scouts camping on a peninsula off the south flank of Kilauea find their survival skills unexpectedly tested when they experience an earthquake followed by a tsunami. (A “2009 Nene Award Recommended Booklist” title; for more titles visit: http://nene.k12.hi.us.)

### Stacie Kanno

Stacie Kanno, 2008 Public Librarian of the Year and Kapolei Public Library Manager (1st row, 2nd from left), was honored Jan. 28 by the City Council, City & County of Honolulu, and presented with an Honorary Certificate by Council Chair Todd Apo (standing next to her). Other Council members (counterclockwise from left) in the photo are Donovan dela Cruz, Charles Djou, Nestor Garcia, Duke Bainum, Rod Tam and Gary Okino. Also honored was Peggy Ann Pavao, 2009 Leeward District Teacher of the Year from Kapolei Middle School.

### Tax Forms

For assistance, call the Department of Taxation’s Tax Information Line: 587-4242 on Oahu; from Neighbor Islands, call toll-free at 1-800-222-3229. For the hearing impaired: call 587-1418 on Oahu; from Neighbor Islands, call toll-free at 1-800-887-8974. Telephone lines will be open Monday-Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., except on State holidays. Visit www.state.hi.us/tax for more information.


Do you need Federal tax forms? Many public libraries will serve as distribution outlets for Federal tax forms. Call your local library to find out if they will be distributing Federal tax forms or for an alternate library nearest you.

In addition, you can obtain Federal tax forms via the “LegalForms” database or by visiting the Federal IRS website to print or download forms: www.irs.ustreas.gov/formspubs/index.html. Select forms and publications by any one of the many search strategies listed. This website also includes other Federal tax information.

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**Support Libraries**, from front page

House Education Committee Chair: **Roy M. Takumi**  
(D-36th)

Email reptakumi@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
Phone 808-586-6170; fax 808-586-6171

House Education Committee Vice-Chair: **Lyla B. Berg**  
(D-18th)

Email repberg@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
Phone 808-586-6510; fax 808-586-6511

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**Directory of State Senators**

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

**Senate Education and Housing Committee** (includes Public Libraries) –  
http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/site1/senate/comm/commEDH.asp

Senate Education and Housing Committee Chair: **Norman Sakamoto**  
(D-15th)

Email sensakamoto@Capitol.hawaii.gov  
Phone 808-586-8585; Fax 808-586-8588

Additional information will be posted on the HSPLS website at www.libershawaii.org. If we can be of any assistance or if you have any questions, please contact your local library or the Library Development Services Section: phone 808-831-6878; email: 1ds@libershawaii.org.

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**Milestones: Library Anniversaries**

Best Wishes and Congratulations to:  
**Bond Memorial Public Library** (Big Island), 80 years on Jan. 26, 2009  
**Hana Public & School Library** (Maui), 25 years on Jan. 14, 2009

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**Contact Information**

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