

HAWAI'I STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

402 Kapahulu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815, (808) 733-8444, 1-800-559-4096

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM LBPD-HONOLULU

Aloha Kākou Dear Readers,

As we transition into the fall season it is easy to remember traditions that go along with this time of the year. People gathering resources, considering their long range plans for the coming year - just three months away now, assessing accomplishments over the past seasons, and perhaps renewing a focus on short term preparedness. LBPD has been doing all of these things. Over the past few months we've joined others in the community marking the 35th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act, responded to a tsunami threat, and participated in the annual statewide Summer Reading Challenge along with others throughout the islands. The library contributed to the community in each of these cases as well as many others. In preparation for the days and weeks ahead, as of October 1 we will have an additional staff member, Arnold Bornios, joining the library filling the long-frozen Library Assistant III position. We couldn't be happier to have him on the team. He will be an important addition to our staff as we work to respond to new and different challenges. The budget environment continues to be uncertain, but thankfully as a state funded agency we do have a good degree of stability in our operations, and the Library of Congress National Library Service remains committed to their federal programs as well. Moving into the fall we will continue to be alert for seasonal and natural circumstances that could present a hazard to our readers, and we will use our new ability to broadcast emergency management public information

broadcasts over the radio reading service to keep you informed. We will also be taking the time to encourage readers to “read freely,” especially during the month of October with the “Free Readers Read Freely” program. We hope you can join us in selecting new and different materials that might offer you a new perspective throughout the month and continuing on into the new year. Through it all, please know your LBPD staff is here to support you and your information needs, and that we appreciate all the support and care you show toward each of us on a daily basis. Wishing you and yours all the best for the rest of 2025 and on into the New Year. Mahalo nui loa, Matthew Brown

HAWAI‘I LBPD UPDATE

- Summer Reading Challenge 2025: You should know that for this year’s challenge LBPD patrons read 5,199 books, the third highest total for any library across the entire state! That’s an amazing statistic for a library with a relatively small patron base.
- LBPD Book Club: The monthly meetings continue on O‘ahu the first Saturday of every month. We would love to get book clubs started on the neighbor islands. If you live on a neighbor island and are interested, please get ahold of us at LBPD.
- Dungeons & Dragons: The D&D pilot program continues at LBPD and participants are having a great time. Each event is limited to a single day, so there is no concern about missing out on a previous event. The group is taking October off, but they will pick back up in November. Give the library a call for more information.
- ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Book Narrators Needed: The library is moving ahead with efforts to start recording books in Hawaiian and other Pacific languages. If you know of anyone that might be a good candidate to help us in this important effort please get in contact with us at the library.
- Public Outreach Events: LBPD staff is participating in the Young at Heart Expo at the Blaisdell Center on September 26 and 27,

and at the Active Senior Expo at the Convention Center on November 14 and 15. If you have suggestions for outreach or guest speaking opportunities for LBPD staff, please let us know and we will follow up with you. We need help in getting the word out about our library services.

- Halloween Kanikapila: We had so much fun in June during the Summer Reading Kanikapila at the library that we are scheduling another musical jam session at the library. Bring your musical talents, or just your enjoyment of music, to the library on Friday, October 31 at 12:00 pm for a fun, spooktacular, musical event. Costumes are allowed and encouraged for the day. The library will provide light refreshments.
- Braille Events: Keep your calendars open for Friday, January 30, 2026 for the Louis Braille Birthday Party at LBPD. That will also serve as the kickoff for the Braille Challenge 2026 season for students learning braille.
- Digital Literacy: After a break over the summer and into the fall LBPD is looking forward to welcoming back computer classes and individual learning opportunities with digital navigators in 2026. These sessions are made possible through special funding that the entire library system across the state has received, and the LBPD opportunities will be tailored to the needs as expressed by our library patrons. Stay tuned for more information on times and dates. If you're on a neighbor island, we're working on extending these sessions to you as well!

NEWS FROM NLS AND THE NETWORK

- BARD and Open Forums: NLS continues to host open forums and to provide information on tips and best practices for using NLS resources. In particular, the "Many Faces of BARD" webpage is a great tool for learning about updates and tips for using the application. In particular NLS is hosting special sessions on the recent BARD updates each week. Here's a link to the site which includes recordings of previous sessions:

<https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/many-faces-of-BARD/>

- **New Digital Talking Book Machine:** The DA-2 allotment for Hawai'i is in shipping now and will likely arrive in October. If you enjoy using your digital talking book machine, but also want the ability to download from BARD directly to your machine, then the DA-2 may be for you. Please contact the library to let us know you would like to know more about the device. The current model talking book machines will continue in use and are perfectly fine for readers who enjoy getting books and magazines on cartridge without the additional download feature.
- **Alexa Smart Speaker with BARD:** Beta testing of BARD using the Alexa Smart Speakers continues, and NLS is looking for more people to participate in these trials. You can contact LBPD to let us know you would like to participate, or you can register directly with NLS to be a tester at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mtb-open-beta>
- **Kindle Fire Operating System Update for BARD:** The operating system for Kindle Fire devices is being updated to be more fully integrated with the BARD app and will include fixes to known bugs. The update is available through the Amazon Appstore.
- **Book Request:** Do you have a favorite book that you can't find, or perhaps an area of newly found interest, but there just aren't any titles available on BARD? If that's the case, please consider contacting LBPD to let us know. We have had excellent luck getting a diverse range of materials accepted into the NLS transcribing queue back in Washington, so give us a call or send in an email.

IN OTHER NEWS

NFB Hawaii State Convention: The annual National Federation of the Blind-Hawai'i convention is scheduled for October 10-11 at the Elks Lodge in Waikiki, and this year's theme is: "Pūpūkahi i holomua," or "Unite in order to progress." For more information

about this important information exchange and networking opportunity check out the NFB-Hawaii website at:
<https://hawaii.nfb.org/Convention2025>

NFB Newsline: Speaking of NFB, if you haven't already signed up for the NFB Newsline service don't wait any longer. Contact LBPD staff to get signed up, and for more information check out the NFB Newsline website at:
<https://nfbnewslinehawaii.org/home/faqs/>

White Cane Walk Day: Ho'opono Services for the Blind will host its 33rd annual in-person White Cane Day Walk and Resource Fair on Friday, October 17 at 9:30 am starting in the State Capitol Rotunda. Events should conclude by 12:00 pm. The purpose of this event is to increase the public's awareness of the white cane and its significance and importance for persons who are blind and visually impaired. Please come and join us. The walk will start and end at the State Capitol Rotunda this year due to our first ever Resource Fair. If you have any questions, please call Gavan Abe at 808-586-5275 or email at gabe@dhs.hawaii.gov

Office of Elections Notice: The Office of Election and The Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) would like to invite you to learn more about voting in the upcoming 2026 elections in Hawaii. Election officials will be sharing information about Hawaii's Vote by Mail process including:

- voter registration
- receiving your ballot in the mail and marking and returning your ballot
- information on ballot notification
- information on election accessibility options for people with disabilities. Additionally, election officials will be providing information on the accessibility features of the accessible voting machine that will be available at Voter Service Center and provide information on Hawaii's accessible electronic ballot option. Hope you will be able to join us.

When: Friday January 23, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM till 12:30 P.M.

Location: Hawaii State Library for The Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD), 402 Kapahulu Ave. Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Hope to see you there! Please RSVP to LBPD at 808-733-8444

Visit the Office of Election webpage for additional voting resources at elections.hawaii.gov or call 808-453-8683

NEW AND SEASONAL READS (MULTIPLE FORMATS)

Adult Non-Fiction:

- **Save Our Souls**, by Matthew Pearl (LT 15396);
- **Sinners All Bow**, by Kate Winkler Dawson (LT 15412);
- **Christmas Move Cookbook**, by Julia Rutland (LT 14018);
- **Till Murder Do Us Part: A True-Crime Thriller**, by James Patterson (DB 102321);
- **Trespassers at the Golden Gate: A True Account of Love, Murder, and Madness in Gilded-Age San Francisco**, by Gary Krist (DB 127852);
- **Debbie Macomber Christmas Cookbook**, by Debbie Macomber (DB 114666)
- **Chicken Soup for the Soul: A Book of Christmas Miracles: 101 Stories of Hope and Happiness**, by Amy Newmark (DB 89914);

Adult Fiction:

- **Halloween Party Murder**, by Leslie Meier, Lee Hollis & Barbara Ross (LT 13689)
- **Between a Flock and a Hard Place**, by Donna Andrews (LT 14974)
- **Return to Wyldcliffe Heights**, by Carol Goodman (LT 15276)
- **Night and Day**, by John Connolly (LT 15229)
- **Christmas in Bethel**, by Richard Paul Evans (LT 15187)

- **Christmas With the Queen**, by Hazel Gaynor (LT 15275)
- **A Christmas Duet**, by Debbie Macomber (LT 15284)
- **The House at the End of the World**, by Dean Koontz (DB 121303)
- **The More the Terrier**, by David Rosenfelt (DB 124949)
- **Trick or Treat Murder**, by Leslie Meier (DBC 03436)
- **The Girl from Greenwich Street**, by Lauren Willig (DB 129806)
- **The Christmas Inn**, by Pamela Kelley (DB 124450)
- **Let It Snow**, by Nancy Thayer (DB 121508)

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

LBPD will be closed on the following holidays:

- Tuesday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day
- Thursday, November 27 – Thanksgiving Day
- Thursday, December 25 – Christmas Day
- Thursday, January 1 – New Year’s Day

FINAL NOTES

On behalf of your entire LBPD staff and our volunteers here in Honolulu, we wish you a wonderful fall and end to 2025. As you continue with your seasonal activities, please take time to read and enjoy the many diverse materials and programs available through your library. If there is something that you would like to read, and it isn’t available in your preferred format, please let us know as we have options for making materials available. Even if there aren’t any special request, please give us a call anyway so we can catch up with you.

This newsletter was produced by volunteers and the staff of the Hawai‘i State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. If you have any questions or comments, please contact our Managing Librarian. Email matthew.brown@librarieshawaii.org or call 808-733-8444.



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**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND
OR HANDICAPPED**