

HAWAI'I STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

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

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM LBPD-HONOLULU

Aloha Kākou Dear Readers,

Happy New Year! As we start 2026 there are new and exciting opportunities coming your way from LBPD to read, learn, and connect. Foremost, this year marks the library's 95th anniversary of service and there will be plenty of occasions to celebrate the milestone. We'll have special events at the library including the Louis Braille birthday celebration and a "season of braille" which will include the Braille Challenge. We are looking forward to several other reading challenges including one for school kids during the Winter Olympics, and then for everyone during the traditional summer period with a food-based theme this year. We're also anticipating more kanikapila-style events and celebration of the musical talents of our LBPD family of readers. For those interested in getting more comfortable with assistive technology there will be weekly sessions in the library. It is our intent to continue to work with partner organizations and the extended LBPD 'ohana to work on providing in-person opportunities on neighbor islands as well. In a more traditional role the library is working to expand the scope of the collection to ensure patrons have access to the materials they want, including materials that may not be in English. If there are particular books or topics in which you have an interest, please let library staff know. For each of us it is so important to stay informed and stay connected, and the library is here to help each of us do that. In the meantime, please know your LBPD family sends out best wishes to each of you for 2026! Mahalo nui loa, Matthew Brown.

HAWAI'I LBPD UPDATE

- **Feedback:** Hawaii LBPD is blessed with a pool of wonderful volunteers that help us in many ways including with recording books, and also reading stories and announcements for the radio reading service. Often these volunteers ask library staff for feedback about their recordings, in particular from our listeners and readers. While library staff is able to provide technical feedback, the narrators are interested in end user comments. If you do have feedback about any locally produced recordings at LBPD please contact the library either by phone or email and let us know your thoughts. We can then share them with our volunteers.
- **Tech Skills:** Do you have questions about how to use accessible tech on your phone, computer, or other device? Perhaps you want to learn about using screen readers? The Digital Navigator partnership between the Hawai'i State Public Library System and Mapunawai has come to LBPD. You can now sign up for sessions at the library for a designated one hour time period and get your questions answered. Reservations are required and can be made either by calling the library or through the Mapunawai website at: <https://book.mapunawai.com/lbpd> For neighbor island residents, stay tuned for more information about LBPD-linked digital navigator opportunities in the coming months.
- **Dungeons & Dragons:** The D&D program continues with the next gathering at LBPD on Friday, January 16 at 11:00 am through 3:00 pm. In 2025 the participants had some great fun during these sessions. As a reminder, each event is limited to a single day, so there is no concern about missing out on a previous event. No previous experience is required. Give the library a call for more information.
- **Braille Events:** Keep your calendars open for Friday, January 30, 2026 for the Louis Braille Birthday Party at LBPD, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. That will also serve as the kickoff for the Braille Challenge 2026 season for students learning braille. While the Braille Challenge is geared for school students through Grade 12,

all aspiring braille readers can participate in this Season of Braille in the January-March timeframe by making use of LBPD resources or taking advantage of the NLS Braille on Demand program. Give LBPD a call if you'd like to more about these opportunities.

- Winter Reading Challenge 2026: Read for the Gold! For students in grades K-12 during this year's Winter Olympic Games in Italy you will have the chance to participate in a special reading challenge right here at home. Make sure to check in with LBPD before the games start, and then read, read, read during the period of February 6-12! It is sure to be lots of fun!
- LBPD Book Club: The monthly meetings resume on February 7 at 1:00 pm after our short break for the New Year. As a reminder, the theme for the February meeting is "romance," and just in time for Valentines Day! Hope you can join us for the fun at the library.
- '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: 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.

NEWS FROM NLS AND THE NETWORK

- Many Faces of BARD Open Forums: NLS will resume English language BARD open forums on Thursday, February 12. The January session will be a special Spanish language presentation on Tuesday, January 13. Recordings of previous sessions, and information regarding upcoming sessions on these BARD related topics are available at the NLS website:

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

- That All May E-Read Braille e-reader Forums: These forums featuring questions and topics directly related to using the Braille e-readers will be continued in 2026. Links to past sessions as well as the upcoming monthly session are available here: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/that-all-may-eread/>
- Smart Speaking to the (Alexa) Smart Speaker Forums: For those interested in learning more about using the Alexa Smart Speaker with NLS resources, recordings of past presentations as well as announcements about future forums are available at this link: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/smart-speaking-to-the-smart-speaker/>
- Postal Service Operations: USPS support for NLS and LBPD operations continues to be a cornerstone of the national library network's program. During 2025 the ability to track outbound book and equipment shipments to patrons was implemented across the entire network which means libraries can now better advise readers about when they might be receiving their books. For any difficulties you may experience with the postal service in either receiving or returning materials to the library, please contact us here at LBPD so we can work with local station masters to correct the problem.
- 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 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.
- Are you curious about the latest resources posted on the NLS site? Check out the by-month update listings on the website: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/website-updates/>

IN OTHER NEWS

- **HAB Annual Convention:** The 59th annual Hawaii Association of the Blind (HAB) event is set for Saturday, March 7, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm at the Ala Moana Hotel. The theme for this year’s convention is: “Seeing Without Vision, Guided by Strength. Please RSVP by February 10 to Sherri Martinez at sherrimartinez46@gmail.com, or by calling 808-561-2026.
- **NFB Newsline:** 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/>
- **Office of Elections Notice:** The Office of Elections and 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: 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 READS (CELEBRATING BRAILLE)

AVAILABLE AT LBPD

- **SADAKO AND THE THOUSAND PAPER CRANES**, by Eleanor Coerr - HIB 00596 - (Seedlings)
- **TUCK EVERLASTING**, by Natalie Babbitt - HIB 00601 - (Seedlings)
- **A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS: THE BAD BEGINNING**, by Daniel Handler - HI1B 00602 - (Seedlings)
- **THE WILD ROBOT**, by Peter Brown - HIB 00604 - (Seedlings)
- **RISING TIDES**, by Nora Roberts - BR 21498
- **MOST WANTED**, by Lisa Scottoline - BR 21506
- **A GATHERING OF SECRETS**, by Linda Castillo- BR 23634
- **BLOODLESS: A PENDERGAST NOVEL**, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child - BR 23954
- **THE CASE OF THE MURDEROUS DR. CREAM**, by Dean Jobb (Non. Fiction-True Crime) - BR 23974
- **THE JUDGE'S LIST**, by John Grisham - BR 23986
- **FLYING ANGELS**, by Danielle Steel - BR 24001

BR ON DEMAND

- **WALK THE WIRE**, by David Baldacci - BR 23163
- **THE DARK HOURS**, by Michael Connelly - BR 23991
- **TRUE: THE FOUR SEASONS OF JACKIE ROBINSON**, by Kostya Kennedy (Non. Fiction) - BR 24195
- **HIGH NOTES**, by Danielle Steel - BR 24621
- **21ST BIRTHDAY**, by James Patterson - BR 24642
- **COUNTING MIRACLES**, by Nicholas Sparks - BR 25672
- **BURNING**, by Linda Castillo - BR 25682

- **GET COOKING: 150 SIMPLE RECIPES TO GET YOU STARTED IN THE KITCHEN**, by Mollie Katzen (Non. Fiction) - BR 26173
- **CAJUN FRIED FELONY**, by Jana DeLeon - BR 26292

IN PROCESS-COMING SOON

- **BUILT TO MOVE: THE TEN ESSENTIAL HABITS TO HELP YOU MOVE FREELY AND LIVE FULLY**, by Kelly Starrett (Non. Fiction) - BR 25119
- **THE WOMEN**, by Kristin Hannah - BR 25698
- **ROM-COMMERS**, by Katherine Center - BR 26383
- **IDENTITY**, by Nora Roberts - BR 26530
- **LETHAL PREY**, by John Sandford - BR 26218
- **BATTLE MOUNTAIN**, by C. J. Box - BR 26167
- **THE TEMPLAR'S LAST SECRET**, by Martin Walker - BR 26190
- **WHEN THE SEA CAME ALIVE: AN ORAL HISTORY OF D-DAY**, by Garrett M. Graff (Non. Fiction) - BR 26248

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

LBPDP will be closed on the following holidays:

- Monday, January 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Monday, February 16 – Presidents Day
- Thursday, March 26 – Prince Kuhio Day

FINAL NOTES

On behalf of your entire LBPDP staff and our volunteers here in Honolulu, we wish you a wonderful start to 2026. 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**