

HAWAI'I STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

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

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM LBPD-HONOLULU

Aloha Kākou Dear Readers,

This spring finds LBPD in the midst of a busy season to be sure. Since our last update in January we've had DoE students taking part in the annual Braille Challenge, Book Club meetings, Dungeons and Dragons sessions, a kanikapila, and a variety of other programs. Unfortunately, some of our intended events had to be put on hold with the rough round of weather we've experienced across the state over the last two months. You can take heart though as we are working to reschedule many of the events that had to be cancelled previously. There are two items to highlight here upfront in this edition. First, the library wants to extend many congratulations to the four students who completed the annual Braille Challenge and represented Hawai'i in this international competition hosted by the Braille Institute. Second, we send out congratulations on the promotion of LBPD staff member Ava Romualdo into the Transcribing Section Library Tech V position at LBPD. Well done! Please keep us on speed dial and give us a call or email to let us know how we can best serve you. Enjoy this spring season, and we hope to talk to you in the near future. Mahalo nui loa, Matthew Brown.

HAWAI'I LBPD UPDATE

- LBPD Book Club: The monthly meetings are continuing, and the theme for the gathering on Saturday, May 2 at 1:00 pm is autobiographies. The subsequent meeting will be on June 6 at

1:00 pm, theme to be determined. Please note, the August, and September book club meetings will be held on the second Saturday of each month due to scheduled holiday closures: July 11, August 8, and September 12. We'll return to the first Saturday schedule in October. Hope you can join us for the fun at the library.

- Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Yes, it is almost that time of year again! The annual Summer Reading Challenge will start on Monday, June 1 and it runs through the end of July. This year's theme is Umeke Kaeo, or a full calabash. Think of it as having a community filled with many resources including plenty of good things to eat. Make sure to jump in with gusto to this year's challenge. Reading is always fun, and you may find yourself on the winning end of some special prizes. It is sure to be a good time!
- Tech Skills: The Digital Navigator Program continues at LBPD each Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning. If you would like assistance with your technology including your phone or laptop, please give the library a call to set up an appointment.
- Dungeons & Dragons: The D&D program continues with the next gathering at LBPD on Friday, May 15 at 11:00 am through 3:00 pm, with another session on Friday June 19. 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.
- 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Book Narrators Needed: Library volunteers have completed recording our first books in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and Samoan, and are now starting on additional materials. However, we still need lots of help in this area in order to record in Hawaiian and other Pacific languages. If you know of anyone that might be a good candidate to help us in this important project please get in contact with us at the library.
- Feedback: Hawai'i LBPD is blessed with a pool of wonderful volunteers that help us in many ways including with recording,

and also reading stories and announcements for the radio reading service. Please let us know if you enjoy a particular reader so we can share your feedback.

- **Community Resources:** Did you know that the Hawai'i State Public Library System offers access to the Candid database for free? That's a connection to information about 1.9 million-plus nonprofits and 304,000 plus grantmakers that can benefit community support organizations like food banks and shelters. Candid also has great information about volunteer opportunities and job openings at local nonprofits, as well as access to research grants and related funding sources for nonprofit organizations. Any of the 51 branches across the statewide library system can help you with access.
- **Library Birthday:** Your Hawai'i Library for the Blind and Print Disabled will be celebrating a birthday later this year and we hope you'll be able to join us. Be on the lookout for more information about a date and time. If you are wondering how old the library is, here's a clue – LBPD service in Hawai'i is older than Social Security!

NEWS FROM NLS AND THE NETWORK

- **NLS Summer Reading:** Hawai'i LBPD isn't the only library hosting a summer reading series. The NLS Summer Reading Program theme for this year is "Unearth a Story," which will feature events, information, and other resources about National Parks and Monuments around the country, including our very own Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The program will include links to online resource and special "discovery" options, and will run from June 15 to August 15. Follow the NLS homepage for more information at: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/>
- **Many Faces of BARD:** NLS continues to host the popular "Many Faces of BARD" series of online forums, and recordings of each session are being made available as well. One recent forum that may be of interest to some readers addresses downloading books to the new DA-2 digital talking book machines which

Hawai'i LBPDP has started to receive. Here's the link to that session: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/March-2026-Many-Faces-of-BARD-Automatic-Downloading-on-the-DA2.mp3>

- That All May E-Read Braille e-reader Forums: These forums featuring questions and topics directly related to using the Braille e-readers continues 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: Over the last several years the USPS has modified postal drop boxes in most locations around the country due to a significant uptick in vandalism cases. The old style drop boxes allowed people to place destructive materials in the mail box resulting in lost mail. Unfortunately, the modified boxes can no longer take the cartridge cases as they are too thick. One option for returning cartridge cases is of course through the unmodified package drops located at all post offices. However, that may not always be convenient. Another option may be to schedule a pickup at your residence through the USPS website at: <https://tools.usps.com/schedule-pickup-steps.htm> If you need assistance completing this scheduled pickup request you can contact the library for assistance.
- 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 LBPDP 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.

IN OTHER NEWS

- NFB Newsline: Marcus Bass is the new NFB Hawai'i Newsline point of contact. In that capacity he is looking forward to reaching out and visiting people around the state. If you haven't already signed up for the NFB Newsline service don't wait any longer. Let Marcus know, or you may contact LBPD staff to get signed up. More information is available at the NFB Newsline website at: <https://nfbnewslineHawai'i.org/home/faqs/>
- Disaster Relief: Were you affected by the extreme weather conditions during March and early April? If you experienced significant damage to your property you may be eligible for relief. The deadline for applying for disaster relief for individual assistance has been extended to June 14, 2026, but don't wait. If you have questions, or if you are prepared to file a claim, in addition to contacting your insurance company you should connect to FEMA at: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/help/faqs>
- Disaster Preparedness: The current edition of the HECO Disaster Preparedness booklet is available on the library website in various accessible formats. The National Weather Service is predicting this coming summer and fall will be impacted by a strong El Nino effect which means warmer sea surface temperatures and a corresponding greater potential for hurricanes. Check out the information in the HECO booklet in order to prepare in advance: <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/lbpd/#emergencypreparedness>
- 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 Hawai'i. Reminders for the 2026 Elections brought to you by the Office of Elections
 - Ahead of the 2026 Primary Election on August 8 and General Election on November 3, the Hawai'i Office of Elections has a few key reminders for Hawai'i voters:

1. Hawai'i is a vote-by-mail state. Your Primary Election ballot will arrive by mail. Registered Hawai'i voters automatically receive a mail ballot for every election.
2. Check that your voter registration is current. Visit [elections.Hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) or call (808) 453-VOTE (8683) to verify that your voter registration is accurate. If you have moved or changed your mailing address, you must update your voter registration to ensure that your mail ballot is sent to your current address. Conveniently update online or by submitting a Voter Registration Application. Voter Registration Applications are also available at post offices or libraries.
3. Sign up for ballot notifications. Be able to track when your ballot has been mailed and when it's been received through ballot notifications. Sign up to receive alerts by text, email, or a phone message at [elections.Hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov).
4. Sign your ballot return envelope. You can expect to receive your ballot packet by July 21 for the Primary Election and October 16 for the General Election. Before your ballot arrives, review statements from the candidates using our online voter guide at [elections.Hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov). You must sign the return envelope for your ballot to be counted.
5. Your ballot must be received by 7:00 pm on Election Day. Voted ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at a ballot drop box. Visit [elections.Hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) for location details. Ballots received after the deadline cannot be counted.
6. Elections are accessible. In need of assistance? Consider the following:
 - 1) Visit a voter service center to vote using accessible voting equipment. Visit [elections.Hawaii.gov](https://elections.hawaii.gov) or call (808) 453-VOTE (8683) for a list of voter service center locations in your county. You can view a video of the

accessible ballot marking device, Verity Touch Writer, at elections.Hawai'i.gov.

2) Request an electronic ballot and mark your ballot using your personal compatible device. Voters with print disabilities may opt-in for the electronically transmitted ballot through the Online Voter Registration System or through the Voter Registration Application. You can access a demonstration ballot at elections.Hawai'i.gov.

3) If you need assistance through the election process, including registering to vote, or reviewing, marking, and returning your ballot, you are allowed to receive assistance. It is important to note that to protect you against voter intimidation, you are prohibited from receiving assistance from a candidate on the ballot, or your employer or union agent.

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

NEW READS

Sourdough By: Robin Sloan (**LT 11361**)

A Doomful of Sugar: A Maple Syrup Series; Bk. 1 By: Catherine Burns (**LT 14974**)

Star-Crossed Egg Tarts: Magical Fortune Cookie Series; Bk. 2 By: Jennifer Chow (**LT 15479**)

Death by Chocolate Pumpkin Muffin: Death by Chocolate Mystery; Bk. 8 By: Sarah Graves (**LT 15435**)

Arsenic and Adobo: Tita Rosies Kitchen Mystery; Bk. 1 By: Mia P. Manansala (**DB 103534**)

Pink Lemonade Cake Murder: Hannah Swenson Mystery: Bk. 29
By: Joanne Fluke (**DB 119887**)

Noodle Shop: Noodle Shop Mystery; Bk. 1-3 By: Viviane Chien
(**DB 95088**)

Devonshire Scream: Tea Shop Mystery; Bk. 17 By: Laura Childs
(**DB 110068**)

Kitchens of the Great Midwest By: J. Ryan Stradal (**BR 21172**)

Five Quarters of the Orange By: Joanne Harris (**BR 13842**)

Adult Non. Fiction

Voracious: A hungry Reader Cooks Her Way Through Great Books
By: Cara Nicoletti (**LT 10135**)

Kitchen Yarns: Notes on Life, Love, and Food By: Ann Hood (**LT 12389**)

Poor Man's Feast: A Love Story of Comfort, Desire, and the Art of Simple Cooking By: Elissa Altman (**LT 13775**)

Diabetic Delights Dessert By: Juile Ann Shaffer (**LT 15167**)

5 Ingredient Cookbook: Quick and Easy 5 Ingredient Recipes
By: Louise Davidson (**LT 15343**)

Best of the Large Print Cookbooks By: Kunkel, M. G. (**LT 15342**)

Barefoot Contessa Back to Basics: Fabulous Flavor from Basic Ingredients By: Ina Garten (**DB 68509**)

Martha: The Cookbook: 100 Favorite Recipes, with Lessons and Stories from My Kitchen By: Martha Stewart (**DB 132091**)

What I Ate in One Year By: Stanley Tucci (**DB 125284**)

I'm Just Here for the Food: Food + Heat=Cooking By: Alton Brown
(**DB 60619**)

Every Day's A Party By: Emeril Lagasse (**DB 51231**)

From Julia's Kitchen By: Julia Child (**DB 13729**)

Where I Come From: Life Lessons from a Latino Chef By: Aaron Sanchez (**BR 23006**)

My Shangai: Recipes and Stories from a City on the Water By: Betty Liu (**BR 24306**)

My Paris Market Cookbook: A Culinary Tour of French Flavors and Seasonal Recipes By: Emily Dilling (**BR 21496**)

Homemade: How to Make Hundreds of Everyday Products Fast, Fresh, and More Naturally By: Don Earnest/Reader's Digest Association (**BR 18087**)

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AND CALENDAR ITEMS

LCPD will be closed on the following holidays:

- Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day
- Thursday, June 11 – Kamehameha Day
- Friday, July 3 – Independence Day
- Wednesday, July 8 – Declaration of Independence Commemoration
- Summer Book Club Dates: July 11, August 8, September 12.

FINAL NOTES

On behalf of your entire LCPD staff and our volunteers here in Honolulu, we send out our aloha to you. Please take time to read

and also to meet up with fellow community members and enjoy each others' company. If there is something that you would like to read that you haven't found, or if there is a program or information opportunity that you would like to explore, please let us know here at the library. We truly look forward to your calls!

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@librariesHawai'i.org or call 808-733-8444.



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**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND
OR HANDICAPPED**

