

HAWAI'I STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

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

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM LBPD-HONOLULU

Aloha Kākou Dear Readers,

It is high summer season with all the buzz and bustle one might expect for this time of the year. As a kid, summer brought lots of excitement and anticipation for great things to come including the local library summer reading program and time spent outdoors with family and friends. Today, that is still true! June marked the start of the annual Summer Reading Challenge for the Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) with a most appropriate theme of “E Heluhelu Kākou – ‘Umeke Kā‘eo,” a full calabash, both in the literal sense, and more broadly in a community filled with knowledge and understanding. The National Library Service Summer Reading Program started in mid-June as well with an equally appropriate summer time theme of “Unearth a Story” featuring speakers and special soundscape descriptive audio recordings from places of natural beauty including our very own Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Both the HSPLS and the NLS offerings are filled with great opportunities to enjoy reading and information exchange with some pretty cool people, and who knows, participants might even win some prizes including tickets from the Alaska/Hawaiian Airlines Group. If you are reading books that you didn't get from the library, call us so we can add your books to the Summer Reading totals. In this summer update I think you'll find some exciting new options for reading, for connecting with the community, and increasing your awareness of the world around us. So enjoy the season, and above all... Keep Reading! Mahalo nui loa, Matthew Brown

HAWAI'I LBPD UPDATE

- **LBPD Radio Reading Service: Streaming Now Available!** The library is excited to announce that the online streamed version of our Radio Reading Service is now available at: <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/lbpd/> This service is accessible to any registered LBPD patron so long as they have internet access, at any place, on any island, in any state, wherever you might be around the world. If you would like access to the streamed version of LBPD Radio Reading Service, give us a call at the library at 808-733-8444 and we'll turn on the permissions for your account. All you will need is a library card which can be made for you over the phone if you don't already have one.
- **LBPD Book Club:** Monthly meetings are continuing, and the theme for the gathering on Saturday, August 8 at 1:00 pm is science fiction. If you need help finding a book just give us a call. We'll continue with our summer schedule in September with a book club meeting on the 12th. We'll go back to the first Saturday of each month starting in October. Hope you can join us for the fun at the library.
- **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 monthly D&D program continues at the library, with most sessions held on Fridays, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. However we have made some plans for occasional Saturday sessions to allow folks who are working during the week to also participate in the fun. Give the library a call to check on upcoming dates and scenarios. 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.
- **'Ōlelo Hawai'i Book Narrators Needed:** In some exciting news several volunteers have stepped forward to work on recording books in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and other Pacific languages, and we're

hoping to get these materials up and running on BARD as soon as possible. Additionally, the NLS has made a special field recording kit available to us which will be helpful for potential book narrators who are not able to come to the library in Waikiki. We still need more readers, both for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and other Pacific languages, so whether in Honolulu or on a neighbor island, 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.
- 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 still wondering how old the library is, here's another clue – LBPD predates the FDR Administration!

NEWS FROM NLS AND THE NETWORK

- NLS Summer Reading Soundscape: Here's a link to the NLS Summer Reading Program website produced in conjunction with the Braille Institute which includes the Soundscape of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park:
<https://www.brailleinstitute.org/summer-reading-program/>
Other Soundscapes are provided as well.
- NLS Summer Reading Program: More broadly, the NLS Summer Reading Program theme for this year is "Unearth a Story," which features events, information, and other resources about National Parks and Monuments around the country. 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/services-and-resources/summer-reading/>

- Many Faces of BARD: Following is the link to the popular NLS “Many Faces of BARD” series. The most recent recordings include topics addressing accessing and downloading reading materials for the DA-2 machines. Here’s the link: www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/many-faces-of-bard.
- BARD MOBILE for iOS/iPadOS update: NLS is in the process of updating BARD Mobile for iphone and ipad users to version 2.2.6. If your account is set up for automatic updates no action is required on your part. If your settings are aligned for manual updating you can access the new version at the Apple App Store. Upgrades include full compatibility with iOS 26, improved searching and sorting functions, known bug fixes, VoiceOver improvement, and technical enhancements concerning offline tokens.
- NLS Patron Corner: NLS is continuing to run periodic Patron Corner online sessions covering a variety of topics. While these sessions are conducted live on Zoom, recordings are made available from each session. The most recent topic was the celebration of 20 years of BARD. Here’s the link to previous sessions: <https://www.loc.gov/nls/news-and-updates/patron-corner/>
- BARD on Amazon Smart Speaker: NLS has updated the BARD login system to offer the option of accessing the BARD website using Amazon credentials. If you are interested in accessing BARD through your Amazon account you must link the two accounts. However, the Amazon login will only work on the website, but not with other BARD platforms like BARD Mobile on Android and iPhone devices. It is primarily designed to be used with the Smart Speaker. In order to link your BARD account with Amazon contact the Amazon Support Center at 1-888-280-4331.
- 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/>

- **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.

IN OTHER NEWS

- **NFB Newsline:** Marcus Bass is the 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/>
- **Free Meta Glasses for Veterans:** Are you a veteran? If so, you are eligible for a special opportunity to get Ray Ban Meta glasses for free through a partnership with the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA). The first step is to contact BVA and they will get the process started. Here's their link: <https://bva.org/ray-ban-meta-ai-glasses-interest-form/>
- **Disaster Preparedness:** The current edition of the HECO Disaster Preparedness booklet is available on the library website in various accessible formats. While we've been fortunate so far this summer, remember peak hurricane season in the mid-Pacific runs from August through October, so don't wait to prepare. Check out the information in the HECO booklet in order to prepare:
<https://www.librarieshawaii.org/lbpd/#emergencypreparedness>

- Office of Elections Notice: Here's an update from the Office of Elections regarding the upcoming August 8 primary, and November 3 general elections including some reminders.

1. **HAWAII IS A VOTE- BY- MAIL STATE.** Your Election ballot will arrive by mail. Registered Hawaii voters automatically receive a mail ballot for every election.
2. **CHECK THAT YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION IS CURRENT.** Visit elections.hawaii.org 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. You can update your registration online or by submitting a paper copy of the Voter Registration Application, available at your local library or post office.
3. **SIGN UP FOR BALLOT NOTIFICATIONS.** You can 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.
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 the ballot arrives, review statements from the candidates using our online voter guide at elections.hawaii.gov. You must sign the return envelope for your ballot to be counted.
5. **YOUR BALLOT MUST BE RECEIVED BY 7 PM ON ELECTION DAY.** Official Ballot Drop Box: Voted ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at a ballot drop box. Visit elections.hawaii.gov for location details. Ballots received after the deadline cannot be counted.
6. **ELECTIONS ARE ACCESSIBLE.** If you need assistance, consider the following list of 3 items:
 - a. Visit a voter service center to vote using accessible voting equipment.
 - b. Request an electronic ballot and mark your ballot using your personal compatible device. Learn more and sign up at elections.hawaii.gov.

c. 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, but not from your employer, union or any candidate.

7. LEARN MORE at elections.hawaii.gov, or (808) 453-8683.

NEW READS

Large Type Books (fiction)

The Shark House; by Sara Ackerman (LT 15589).

The Crossroads; by C.J. Box (LT 15864).

Sharp Force; by Patricia Cornwell (LT15603).

We Are All Guilty Here; by Karin Slaughter (LT 15807).

Yours Truly; by Abby Jimenez (LT 15834).

Dog Person; by Camille Pagan (LT 15841).

Large Type Books (non-fiction)

100 Rules for Living to 100: An Optimist Guide to a Happy Life; by Dick Van Dyke (LT 15661).

History Matters; by David McCullough (LT15664).

The Gunfighters: How Texas Made the Wild West; by Byran Burrough (LT15668).

Softly, As I Leave You: Life After Elvis; by Priscilla Beaulieu Presley (LT15670).

Strangers in the Land: Exclusion, Belonging, and the Epic Story of the Chinese in America; by Michael Luo (LT 15816)

The Devil Reached Towards the Sky: An Oral History of the Making and Unleashing of the Atomic Bomb; by Garrett M. Graff (LT15818)

Digital Audio (fiction)

Evil Bones; by Kathy Reichs (DB134013)

An Inside Job; by Daniel Silva (DB131804)

Edge of Honor; by Brad Thor (DB131455)

The Astral Libray; by Kate Quinn (DB135786)

The View From Lake Como; by Adriana Trigiani (DB130762)

Murder by Cheesecake; by Rachel Ekstrom-Courage (DB130229)

Digital Audio (non-fiction)

Desi Arnaz: The Man Who Invented Television; by Todd S. Purdum (DB130581)

We Did Ok, Kid; by Anthony Hopkins (DB133498)

The Aviator and the Showman: Amelia Earhart, George Putnam, and the Marriage that Made an American Idol; by Laurie G. Shapiro (DB130989)

Midnight Flyboys: The American Bomber Crews and Allied Secret Agents Who Aided the French Resistance in World War II; by Bruce Henderson (DB136623)

On Air: The Triumph and Tumult of NPR; by Steve Oney (DB129899)

A Walk in the Park: The True Story of a Spectacular Misadventure in the Grand Canyon; by Kevin Fedarko (DB122177)

Braille (fiction) for order from NLS

26 Beauties; by James Patterson (BR26733)

Black Wolf; by Louise Penny (BR26615)

Fortune Teller; by Jana DeLeon (BR26524)

Identity; by Nora Roberts (BR26530)

Braille (non-fiction) for order from NLS

American Cake: From Colonial Gingerbread to Classic Layer, the Stories and Recipes Behind More Than 125 of Our Best-Loved Cakes from Past to Present; by Anne Byrn (BR26683)

Joy of Well-Being: A Practical Guide to a Happy, Healthy, Long Life; by Colleen Wachob (BR25000)

Knitting Without Needles: A Stylish Introduction to Finger and Arm Knitting; by Anne Weil (BR26686)

Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact, and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook; by Hampton Sides (BR26346)

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS AND CALENDAR ITEMS

LBPD will be closed on the following holidays:

- Friday, August 21 – Statehood Day
- Monday, September 7 – Labor Day

Important Dates and Programs:

- Saturday, July 11 – Book Club
- Friday, July 17 – Kanikapila
- Saturday, July 18 – Dungeons and Dragons
- Friday, August 7 – Introduction to AI and Chat GPT

- Saturday, August 8 – Book Club
- Thursday, August 27 – Introduction to Home Economics
- Saturday, September 12 – Book Club

FINAL NOTES

On behalf of your entire LBPD 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@librarieshawaii.org or call 808-733-8444.



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**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND
OR HANDICAPPED**

