

Hawai'i State Public Library System

House Committee on Education Informational Briefing

Thursday, January 15, 2025
State Capitol, CR329 at 2 p.m.

Presented by Stacey A. Aldrich | State Librarian & Mallory Fujitani | Special Assistant to the State Librarian



Hawai'i State Public Library System

The Hawai'i State Public Library System provides service with aloha. We value and welcome all. We are courteous, helpful, knowledgeable, and dedicated to serving our communities.

Our Mission

The Hawai'i State Public Library System inspires curiosity and creates opportunities for all to read, learn, and connect.

Our Vision

Nourished minds.
Thriving Hawai'i communities.
Enriched generations.



2025 Year in Review

LIBRARY SERVICES

From digital learning to packed programs and busy branches, 2025 was a year of growth powered by our library community—here's what you helped make possible.



+122.1%

Mobile App
Launches



+66.4%

Gale Course
Enrollments



+24.8%

Mango Language
Sessions



+7%

Checkouts of eBooks,
audiobooks, and eMagazines



+23.8%

Programs Offered



+18.8%

Program Attendance



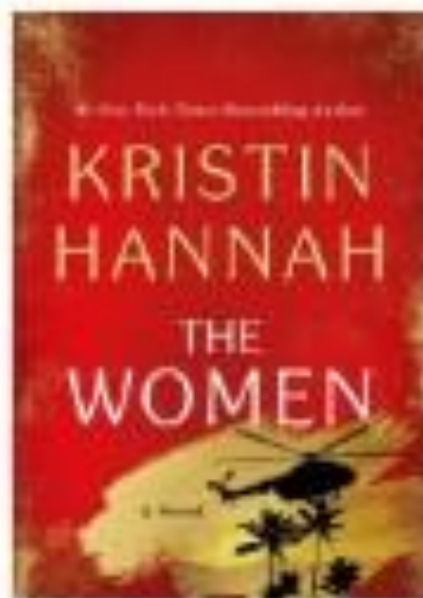
+10%

Library Visits

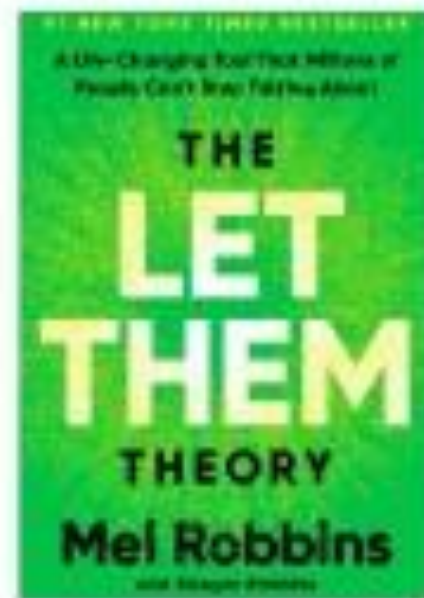
2025 Year in Review



Our community made their favorites loud and clear. These titles led the way!



ADULT
Fiction & Nonfiction



YOUNG ADULT
Fiction & Nonfiction



JUVENILE
Fiction & Nonfiction

Strategic Framework

The HSPLS Strategic Framework provides a simple map for how we think about our organization in relation to the work we do to serve our communities. Our libraries are about people, places, collections and programs/services.



Areas of Focus

Four Areas of Focus help us fine tune our yearly goals, prioritize our work, and allocate our resources to better meet the needs of our communities. Each fiscal year, staff identify which areas they are going to focus on and plan for what they will work on. This report provides highlights from this calendar year. A more detailed report will be available at the end of the fiscal year.

The image displays four rectangular cards arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each card has a unique watercolor background and contains text in a bold, black, serif font. The top-left card has an orange and red watercolor background. The top-right card has a pink and purple watercolor background. The bottom-left card has a green and yellow watercolor background. The bottom-right card has a light blue and white watercolor background.

**STRENGTHENING
LITERACY**

**IGNITING OUR
DIGITAL FUTURE**

**CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
LIFE ENRICHMENT**

**DEEPENING
COMMUNITY
RELATIONSHIPS**

Strengthening Literacy



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

- 23,467 participants
- 44% increase
- Kids logged 5.3+M minutes
- 21,077 visits to the library to get and record the word of the week

Igniting our Digital Futures



Left to right: Board of Education Vice Chair Bill Arakaki, State Librarian Stacey Aldrich, Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke, Māpunawai, Inc Director Ka'ala Souza.
(Photo courtesy: Office of the Lieutenant)

DIGITAL NAVIGATORS PROGRAM

- Launched on October 1, 2025
- Provides one-on-one support for those who need help with technology
- 488 appointments in October and November

Igniting our Digital Futures



Book Smart Locker Pilot

- Goal is to expand access to library materials
- Pilot site: Hana
- Launching in 2026

Creating Opportunities for Life Enrichment



concerts in libraries silent disco

Crafting Sessions

Vibrant Hawai'i

Lei Making Club

Book Clubs

Movie Nights

Active Seniors Chair Exercise

Read to a Therapy Dog

Baby Clothing & Gear Swap

Karaoke

Kaua'i Live Poetry Society

Fiber Crafts Club

Ukuleles

Pre-school Story Time

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Food Dehydrators

Seed Libraries

Mango Languages



Deepening Community Relationships



REBRANDING PROJECT

- Goal: ensure that Hawai'i public libraries are responsive to the needs of community members, and ensure that families and individuals are aware of the extensive offerings so more people can take advantage of them
- Launched in May 2025
- Average monthly new borrower registrations grew from 3,328 in 2023 to 4,529 by mid-2025, a 28% increase
- Use of online resources increased
- Read rate of Library eNews increased from 36.5% to 45-51%
- July 2025 saw a peak of more than 15,000 program attendees statewide

Federal Funding

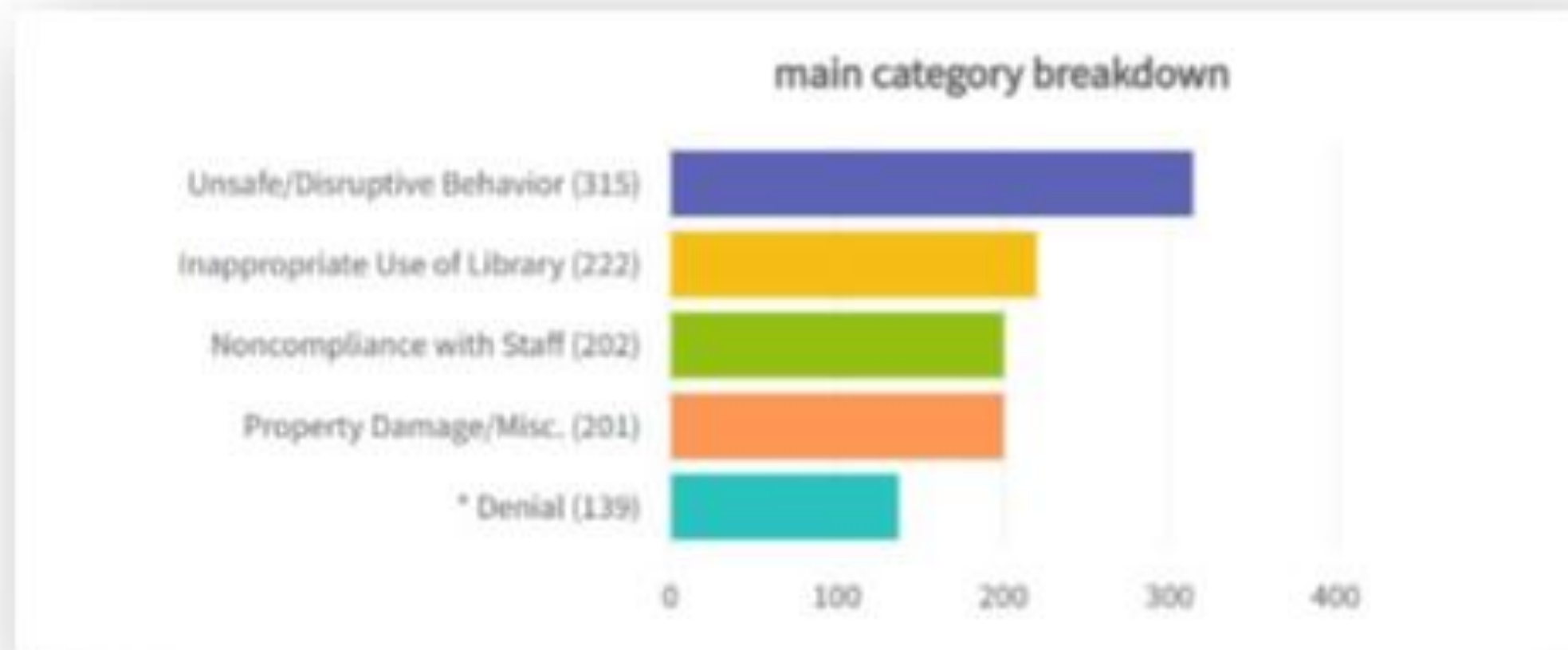


- FEDERAL AGENCY:** Institute of Museum and Library Services
- GRANT PROGRAM:** Library Services and Technology Act | Grants to States
- FUNDING LEVEL:** FFY24 = \$1,541,630, FFY25 = \$1,539,292, **FFY26 = ?**
- FUNDS SUPPORT:** Public access to technology, internet connectivity, HSPLS integrated library system software, online database subscriptions and courses, and staff development.
- IF FUNDING IS LOST:** Statewide, communities will lose access to information and learning resources that is otherwise not available.

General Funding Request

Security - \$1,500,000

We need security guards to deal with disruptive behaviors and create safe spaces in libraries for patrons and staff. In FY2025, we had 624 incident reports from our libraries. The chart below covers the types of incidents that our staff have been experiencing.



Capital Improvement Project Funding Request

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND REQUEST

Planning and Design - \$5 million

The libraries that are on this list have not had any major updates in more than 20 years. However, more than just age, we anticipate that all of these buildings will need major infrastructure and equipment upgrades, including replacement of air conditioning systems. As we do whole building improvements, we also look at upgrades as an opportunity to redesign our spaces for efficiency and to incorporate future new services, programs and equipment that could meet emerging community needs.



'Ewa Beach Public & School Library
Circa 1971



Kaimuki Public Library
Circa 1965



Mililani Public Library
Circa 1984



Kalihi-Pālana Public Library
Circa 1984



**"The public library is where
place and possibility meet."**

Stuart Dybek, Poet and Writer



Mahalo!

Questions?

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