



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
'OIHANA HALE WAIHONA PUKE AUPUNI O KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII'
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Monday, April 3, 2023
3:00 pm
Conference Room 229**

**By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian**

**SCR 70 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AMEND FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAW TO
EXPLICITLY PROTECT CURRENT LENDING PRACTICES OF NONPROFIT ONLINE LIBRARIES**

TO: Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair
Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) **supports** SCR 70 urging the United States Congress to amend federal copyright law to explicitly protect current lending practices of nonprofit online libraries.

Libraries are recognized as vital community resources that provide access to free information and resources creating equal opportunities to learn and grow. However, current licensing models for ebooks are increasingly unsustainable for public libraries and threaten their ability to serve their communities. These licensing models limit the diversity of authors accessible to the public, and they prevent less well-known authors from gaining much-needed exposure to the reading public.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
SCR 70
April 3, 2023
Page 2

There is a pressing need for the United States Congress to update the Copyright law to maintain the balance between the intellectual property rights of authors, their right to fair compensation, and the right of nonprofit libraries to make these works accessible to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.