
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIBRARIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 312, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 **"§312- Imagination library of Hawaii program;**
5 **established.** (a) The state librarian shall establish an
6 imagination library of Hawaii program to provide one free book
7 each month to eligible children.

8 (b) The state librarian shall contract with a nonprofit
9 organization to implement the imagination library of Hawaii
10 program established pursuant to this section. In implementing
11 the program, the nonprofit organization shall:

12 (1) Provide an amount of at least fifty per cent of the
13 funds required to carry out the program;
14 (2) Promote the statewide development of local book
15 gifting programs;
16 (3) Provide outreach to local communities about developing
17 local book-gifting programs in those communities;



1 (4) Recruit community partners to assist in the
2 implementation and administration of local book
3 gifting programs;
4 (5) Advance and strengthen local book-gifting programs to
5 increase enrollment in the program;
6 (6) Develop community engagement related to local
7 book-gifting programs; and
8 (7) Enter into a contract with a national nonprofit
9 foundation to provide age-appropriate, high-quality
10 books each month to eligible children at no cost.
11 (c) The state librarian may adopt rules pursuant to
12 chapter 91 necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.
13 (d) As used in this section:
14 "Eligible children" means children from birth through five
15 years of age who reside in the State.
16 "National nonprofit foundation" means a nonprofit entity
17 with a national presence that exists for the purpose of working
18 with local entities to identify and provide age-appropriate,
19 high quality books each month to eligible children at no cost to
20 families."



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
4 the implementation of the imagination library of Hawaii program
5 established by section 312- , Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state
7 public library system for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

10

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 1934

Report Title:

State Librarian; Libraries; Imagination Library of Hawaii Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the State Librarian to establish an Imagination Library of Hawaii Program to provide one free book each month to children from birth through five years of age who reside in the State. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

