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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LOVE MY LIBRARY DAY.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that all libraries,  
2 including public libraries, school libraries, and higher  
3 education libraries, are essential for the public good.  
4 Libraries are vital community anchors that promote lifelong  
5 learning, equity, civic engagement, and access to information  
6 and culture. In Hawaii, libraries serve as inclusive and safe  
7 gathering spaces for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and  
8 abilities. As trusted institutions rooted in the community,  
9 libraries uphold the democratic ideal that knowledge should be  
10 freely available to all, and that every person deserves access  
11 to the tools that are necessary for educational, personal, and  
12 professional growth.

13       The legislature further finds that Hawaii's public library  
14 system, the only statewide public library system in the United  
15 States, has been a cherished part of the State's educational and  
16 cultural fabric for over a century. Across the State, libraries  
17 offer more than books; they provide access to computers and



1 broadband, host cultural programming, support students and  
2 families, foster early literacy, serve kupuna and veterans, and  
3 provide job-seeking resources and business information. Many  
4 residents, especially those in rural, underserved, or low-income  
5 communities, depend on libraries for access to essential  
6 services that promote upward mobility and civic inclusion.

7       The legislature acknowledges the vital role libraries play  
8 in fostering civic engagement across the United States.

9 According to the American Library Association, roughly ninety  
10 per cent of public libraries help patrons access government  
11 services such as voter registration, tax forms, and social  
12 assistance programs. Additionally, close to eighty per cent of  
13 libraries provide a meeting space for community organizations  
14 and civic discussions, serving as a trusted, neutral hub for  
15 public dialogue. Moreover, libraries offer critical services  
16 that foster civic engagement, empowering citizens to think  
17 critically and participate in the country's democracy.

18       The legislature recognizes that in the digital age,  
19 libraries have not become obsolete but have become even more  
20 essential. According to the American Library Association,  
21 seventy-six per cent of Americans reported visiting a library in



1 the past year, totaling over 1,300,000,000 visits. Furthermore,  
2 Americans utilize and visit public libraries, school libraries,  
3 and higher education libraries fifty per cent more than they go  
4 to the movies. These statistics highlight how librarians work  
5 tirelessly to adapt to changing technologies, meet the evolving  
6 needs of the public, and support educational institutions from  
7 preschool to postsecondary. In times of crisis, such as natural  
8 disasters or public health emergencies, libraries have also  
9 functioned as resilience hubs by providing aid, information, and  
10 community support.

11 The legislature additionally finds that school libraries  
12 and higher education libraries play a pivotal role in education  
13 and prepare the State's youth for the future, empowering them to  
14 be the best and brightest in society. Numerous research studies  
15 have demonstrated that students in schools with school  
16 librarians have better outcomes. A 2023 study found that North  
17 Carolina students with a full-time school librarian scored  
18 significantly higher on reading and math than similar students  
19 who did not have a full-time librarian. Furthermore, a 2007  
20 study in Indiana demonstrated improved test scores for  
21 elementary, middle, and high school students when increased



1 collaboration took place between classroom teachers and school  
2 librarians. These statistics underscore an important truth in  
3 the education system that proves students and schools perform  
4 better when there is active collaboration with librarians and  
5 libraries.

6 Moreover, the legislature believes that public awareness  
7 and appreciation for libraries must be cultivated to ensure  
8 their continued strength and sustainability. Designating a  
9 "Love My Library Day" will not only encourage individuals and  
10 families to visit their local libraries but will also offer an  
11 opportunity for communities to celebrate the many ways libraries  
12 enrich their lives. Designating a "Love My Library Day" will  
13 also serve as a call to action, highlighting the need for  
14 ongoing investment, volunteerism, and public support to sustain  
15 and expand library services for future generations.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate the  
17 first Friday in February of each year as "Love My Library Day"  
18 in the State to honor the essential role that libraries and  
19 library workers play in strengthening our communities, expanding  
20 access to knowledge, and promoting lifelong learning and aloha  
21 across Hawaii.



# H.B. NO. 2001

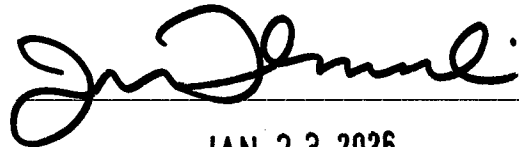
SECTION 2. Chapter 8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§8- Love My Library Day. The first Friday in February of each year shall be known and designated as "Love My Library Day". This day is not and shall not be construed to be a state holiday."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2026



# H.B. NO. 2001

**Report Title:**

Love My Library Day; Observed Day

**Description:**

Designates the first Friday in February of each year as "love My Library Day" in the State.

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