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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 the State, libraries serve as inclusive and  
7 safe gathering spaces for residents of all ages, backgrounds,  
8 and abilities. As trusted institutions rooted in the community,  
9 libraries uphold the democratic ideals that knowledge should be  
10 freely available to all and that every person deserves access to  
11 the tools that are necessary for educational, personal, and  
12 professional growth.

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



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

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

19       The legislature recognizes that in the digital age,  
20 libraries have not become obsolete but have become even more  
21 essential. According to the American Library Association,



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

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



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

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

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to designate the  
18 first Friday in February of each year as "Love My Library Day"  
19 in the State to honor the essential role that libraries and  
20 library workers play in strengthening our communities, expanding



1 access to knowledge, and promoting lifelong learning and aloha  
2 across the State.

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

6 "§8- Love My Library Day. The first Friday in February  
7 of each year shall be known and designated as "Love My Library  
8 Day". This day is not and shall not be construed to be a state  
9 holiday."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



S.B. NO. 2147  
S.D. 1

**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. (SD1)

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