



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/18/2026

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: CAA

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2147, SD1, RELATING TO LOVE MY LIBRARY DAY.

Purpose of Bill: Designates the first Friday in February of each year as "Love My Library Day" in the State. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB2147.

The Department supports this measure as it recognizes and celebrates the vital role libraries, including school libraries, play in education and community enrichment.

The designation of "Love My Library Day" will have a positive impact on the Department by raising the profile of school libraries and the essential work of school librarians. This increased visibility can lead to greater community understanding of the resources and support school libraries provide, potentially fostering increased volunteerism and advocacy for these crucial educational spaces. It also reinforces the importance of library services in supporting student success from early childhood through higher education, to promote the love of reading and literacy across content and student interest areas.

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



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Cheney Kaku
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Andrea Eshelman
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO HAWAI'I HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE & THE ARTS

Item: SB 2147, SD1 – Relating to Love My Library Day

Position: Support

Hearing: Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 10:30 am, Room 309

Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the committee,

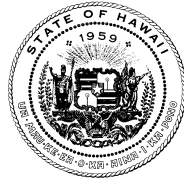
The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports** S.B. 2147, SD1, which designates the first Friday in February of each year as "Love My Library Day". Libraries serve as essential community anchors that foster lifelong learning, civic engagement, and equity. By designating this day, the State acknowledges that libraries remain critical in the digital age, providing residents with access to technology, cultural programming, and resources for professional growth.

Furthermore, school libraries are fundamental to the success of our students. Evidence highlights that students achieve higher scores in reading and math when supported by full-time librarians, and collaboration between teachers and librarians is key to better educational outcomes. This legislation will raise public awareness for the vital role librarians play and encourage the necessary investment to sustain these institutions for future generations. We urge the committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo.

JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



STACEY A. ALDRICH
STATE LIBRARIAN
Ke Po'o Hale Waihona Puke Moku'āina

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
(808) 586-3704

House Committee on Culture & Arts
March 18, 2026, 10:30a.m.
State Capitol, Room 309

SB 2147 SD1 – Relating to Love My Library Day

To: Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Culture & Arts

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) **strongly supports** SB 2147 SD1 which designates the first Friday in February of each year as "Love My Library Day" in the State.

SB 2147 SD1 recognizes what communities across Hawai'i already know in their hearts: **our libraries are essential to the public good**—for keiki, teens, adults, and kūpuna alike. Libraries are among the few places left where everyone is welcome, where no one has to “buy something to belong,” and where opportunity is available to all.

This bill matters because it lifts up the full truth of what libraries do every day. Our libraries are **community anchors** that promote **lifelong learning, equity, civic engagement, and access to information and culture**.

In a state as geographically spread out and diverse as ours, libraries are also one of the most powerful equalizers we have. For many families—especially in rural, underserved, and low-income communities—libraries are where people go to access broadband, computers, support for students, early literacy opportunities, job-seeking resources, and trusted help navigating essential services.

H.B. 2001 also acknowledges an important reality: **libraries strengthen democracy**. Libraries help people access government services and provide space for public dialogue—services that ensure residents can participate fully in civic life.

And in today's fast-moving digital world, libraries have not become less relevant—they have become more vital than ever. The need for trusted information, digital skills, workforce support, and safe community space has only grown.

Designating the **first Friday in February** as “Love My Library Day” is meaningful because it invites residents across the islands to do something simple, powerful, and unifying: **show up for one another in a shared public space built on knowledge and aloha.**

This day is not a state holiday, but it is a statewide statement—a reminder that our libraries don't just store knowledge; they **spark possibility.**

“Love My Library Day” creates an annual moment for families, schools, and communities to celebrate the ways libraries enrich lives—and to renew our shared commitment to sustaining and strengthening them for future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2147 SD1 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai'i State Public Library System.



March 16, 2026

Chair Jeanne Kapela,
House Committee on Culture & Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: SB2147 SD1, Hearing of March 18, 2026
Relating to Love My Library Day

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee,

Friends of the Library of Hawai'i **strongly supports** SB2147. This measure reinforces the important role libraries play in our communities and celebrates their importance as centers of learning and points of access to ideas and information. As an essential part of the educational ecosystem, libraries of all types provide users with the tools and resources they need to succeed, grow, and thrive.

Friends of the Library of Hawai'i supports and promotes public library services in Hawai'i through our statewide public library system. Public libraries serve as pillars of democracy, providing equitable access to information, opportunity, and lifelong learning for patrons of all ages and backgrounds. The Hawai'i State Public Library System is dedicated to inspiring curiosity and creating opportunities for all to read, learn, and connect.

Our organization is proud to have participated in past Love My Library Day celebrations organized by the Hawai'i Library Association. We commend the Hawai'i State Legislature for its efforts to recognize, on an annual basis, the essential role libraries play in strengthening our communities and supporting education across Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Nainoa Mau
Executive Director

SB-2147-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 4:54:42 PM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunyeen Pai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Esteemed Members:

My name is Sunyeen Pai, and I am a retired community college librarian who has had the privilege of serving our state at both UH Mānoa and Kapi'olani Community College. I am here today in strong support of SB 2147, SD1, Relating to Love My Library Day.

From the moment a keiki sits down for their first story time to the day a kupuna discovers new government services through the internet, libraries are woven into the fabric of our lives. Yet too often, we take for granted the extraordinary breadth of services they provide — quietly and without fanfare — for every member of our community.

Our school and university librarians equip students with the critical thinking and research skills they need to succeed in higher education and the workforce. They actively work to reduce the financial burden on students by lowering barriers to textbooks and technology. Our public libraries teach keiki to read, offer child-centered programs that support working parents, and serve as trusted sources of civic and democratic education for all ages. For residents without home internet access, libraries bridge the digital divide through free technology and training. And in times of crisis — from hurricanes to wildfires — our libraries have stepped up as community refuges, providing shelter, distributing emergency supplies, and connecting families with vital state and federal services.

Libraries do all of this not for a select few, but for everyone — regardless of income, background, or circumstance.

"Love My Library Day" is an opportunity to pause and acknowledge what libraries truly mean to Hawai'i. It is a chance to celebrate the dedicated librarians and staff who serve our communities every day, to educate the public about the full range of services available to them, and to reaffirm our collective commitment to funding and supporting these essential institutions.

I urge you to support this measure. Our libraries deserve to be celebrated and our public reminded of these invaluable services that our state provides.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sunyeen Pai, PhD, Retired Professor and Community College Librarian

SB-2147-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:43:36 AM

Testimony for CAA on 3/18/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meera Garud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Satoru Kong, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in **strong support for SB2147**, which would designate the first Friday in February of each year as "Love My Library Day" in Hawai‘i.

A “Love My Library Day” would be an opportunity to raise awareness of the many ways that Hawai‘i’s libraries support communities statewide. As a library professional, I hear many say they have fond memories of their library growing up, but they are unaware of the resources available today.

People are surprised and excited to learn that with a public library card, they have free access to streaming movies and videos, ebooks and audiobooks, Mango languages, genealogy databases, and ukulele. Many are inspired to return to their library to take advantage of these resources.

People are surprised to learn that today’s school librarians teach skills such as media literacy, AI literacy, and information literacy, in addition to promoting a love of reading. However, they are disappointed to learn that only one in four public schools have a licensed school librarian and wonder what can be done to increase student access.

Designating a “Love My Library Day” would provide a strong platform to raise awareness of the valuable resources available at our libraries, and learn about ways to help make libraries stronger. **Mahalo for considering this bill and for supporting its earlier companion bill HB2001.**