
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 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 the Hawaii 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, and United States public libraries receive more
3 than 1,300,000,000 visits annually. Furthermore, Americans
4 visit libraries nearly twice as often as they go to the movies.
5 These statistics highlight how librarians work tirelessly to
6 adapt to changing technologies, meet the evolving needs of the
7 public, and support educational institutions from preschool to
8 postsecondary. In times of crisis, such as natural disasters or
9 public health emergencies, libraries have also functioned as
10 resilience hubs by providing aid, information, and community
11 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 found that elementary, middle, and high school



1 students tended to have higher test scores in schools where
2 increased collaboration occurred between classroom teachers and
3 school librarians. These statistics underscore an important
4 truth in the education system that proves students and schools
5 perform better when there is active collaboration with
6 librarians and 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.



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)

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

