

JAN 21 2026

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.



S.B. NO. 2147

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:

Karl Rhoads



S.B. NO. 2147

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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