



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

**Date:** 02/06/2026

**Time:** 09:30 AM

**Location:** 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**Committee:** CAA

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** HB2001, 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.

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB2001.

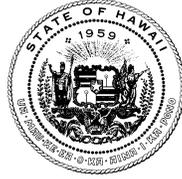
The Department supports this measure as it recognizes and celebrates the vital role libraries, including school libraries, play in education and community enrichment.

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.

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  
February 6, 2026, 9:30 am  
State Capitol, Room 309**

**HB 2001 – 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 HB 2001 which designates the first Friday in February of each year as "Love My Library Day" in the State.

H.B. 2001 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 HB 2001 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai‘i State Public Library System.



February 4, 2026

Chair Justin Woodson,  
House Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: HB2001, Hearing of February 6, 2026  
Relating to Love My Library Day

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

Friends of the Library of Hawai'i **strongly supports** HB2001. This measure reinforces the important role libraries play in our communities and celebrates their importance as centers of learning and 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. The Hawai'i State Public Library System is dedicated to inspiring curiosity and creating opportunities for all to read, learn, and connect. Public libraries serve as pillars of democracy, providing equitable access to information, opportunity, and lifelong learning for patrons of all ages and backgrounds.

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

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:47:49 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rose Chismar	Friends of the Library of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 4, 2026

Chair Justin Woodson,  
House Committee on Education Hawai'i State Capitol Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: HB2001, Hearing of February 6, 2026 Relating to Love My Library Day

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice Chair La Chica, and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support HB2001. This measure reinforces the important role libraries play in our communities and celebrates their importance as centers of learning and 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.

The Hawai'i State Public Library System is dedicated to inspiring curiosity and creating opportunities for all to read, learn, and connect. Public libraries serve as pillars of democracy, providing equitable access to information, opportunity, and lifelong learning for patrons of all ages and backgrounds.

I 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 our state.

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:01:33 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

As a constituent of House District 2, I support this measure.

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:12:56 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Krystal Kakimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB2001, the celebration of libraries, and the many ways they support a healthy community.

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:30:27 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I would like every day to be "Love Your Library Day"

In this day of internet and AI, data can be changed in the blink of an eye. Paper we can hold in our hands takes and would take a lot longer to be redacted and altered. We need Libraris to store house information in solid form.

I grew up in a very rural poor area, and we were blessed with a library in our community. I looked forward to every visit there.

It is free and accessible to ALL !!! So grateful for the new libraris in the Puna district.

Aloha & Mahalo

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:42:20 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ellen-Rae Cachola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kapela, Vice Chair Kong, and members of the Culture and Arts Committee,

Please support HB 2001 Relating to Love my Library Day. School, public, and academic libraries touch the lives of people at all ages of their lives by nurturing their right to read and to be informed, to navigate challenges, and to participate in our society.

Designating one day of the year to recognize libraries builds morale support for library staff who have been made to feel that their work doesn't matter.

When our governments invest in libraries to collect and provide access to books, multi-media, technology, and cultural resources, it shows their belief in human capacity to strive to do better, and to participate in democracy.

It is up to individuals to decide to practice their rights. I do see in the news that technology changes are decreasing reading, especially among younger generations. This is troubling because our laws and institutional policies and procedures are written in text. If people don't develop the focused discipline or inner passion to read, will they have the diligence to follow laws, or will they just do things as they are told without reading themselves to fact check?

There is a need for societal messaging that to love your library is to love yourself, and to love your community. Libraries grow people intellectually and empathetically to engage with society and the world. The Love my Library bill is one way to powerfully send these affirmative messages to society. Please support HB2001 Love my Library Day.

Mahalo,  
Ellen-Rae Cachola

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:44:30 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meera Garud	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support for HB2001**, 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 island-wide. As a library professional, 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 access to streaming services, ebooks and audiobooks, Mango languages, genealogy databases, and even 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 help raise awareness of the important ways libraries enrich our lives, and opportunities to make them stronger. Mahalo for considering this bill.

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:09:03 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathee Hoover LeBuse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2001 in recognizing the critical importance of libraries in our community, as pillars of education and civil society. Our public libraries are *exemplary*, pivoting to help us survive COVID with innovative strategies, and always adopting new services to respond to changing needs. Thank you for recognizing them and their legions of dedicated employees!

Mahalo, Kathee H. LeBuse

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:19:00 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Annika Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kapela and committee,

I am a student at UH Mānoa studying Library and Information Science and a lifelong user of the Hawai‘i State Public Library System. Libraries are a vital part of my life and my community, and I am enthused to see that the Love My Library Day bill has made it to the first committee. Hawai‘i has a rich library history (for example, we allowed women to use the public library before most of the United States started doing that!) and Love My Library Day will encourage more community members to get involved with their local libraries. Libraries offer innumerable benefits to their communities, boosting test scores in local schools, increasing civic engagement, and supporting literacy efforts, all of which are more important now as ever.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this bill and being wonderful supporters of libraries!

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:33:53 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matthew-Ian Blancaflor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee:

Hello, my name is Matthew-Ian Blancaflor, and I'm writing in support of bill HB2001. I believe that having a day to commemorate libraries would be fantastic, as they are often times an unseen pillar of the community. When I went to the Kapolei Library recently and saw they had ukuleles for rent, it made me incredibly happy. It really cemented in my mind the idea that the library wasn't just for books, but that it allows you to get your foot in the door of whatever you want to do! Whether it be learning to be an engineer by studying textbooks, or being a musician by borrowing an ukulele.

When I was a child I wanted to play ukulele for the longest time but didn't have access to one until my high school years. I think that having access to try things out like this would remove the financial barrier of ownership for a lot of people.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this, and have a good day!

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:11:38 PM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Perone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The future of our communities, our state, our country depend on our children. An important way that children learn how to be their best selves as adults is through reading. Public libraries are the key to our future. I support this bill, which will significantly bring attention to books and reading.

**HB-2001**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:26:37 AM

Testimony for CAA on 2/6/2026 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sunyeen Pai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. As a retired professor and librarian who worked at UH Manoa and Kapiolani Community College, I witness personally the educational and civic benefits that public, school, higher education, archival, and museum libraries provide to our community, from keiki to kupuna. My public library in Kaimuki is always crowded and full of people enjoying the educational benefits and access to online resources that our state provides.

Sometimes we take "free" things for granted, so this day of acknowledgement is so important to let our communities and decision makers know this is a service the state and our libraries provide for their benefit and use.