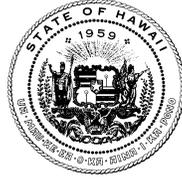


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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

**Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
February 13, 2026, 1:00p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229**

SB 2147 – Relating to Love My Library Day

To: Sen. Chris Lee, Chair
Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

Sen. Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

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

SB 2147 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 and your continued support of our communities and the Hawai‘i State Public Library System.



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

Date: 02/13/2026

Time: 01:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: WLA/EDU

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB2147, 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 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.



February 10, 2026

Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Chair Chris Lee,
Senate Committees on Education and Water, Land, Culture and the Arts
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: SB2147, Hearing of February 13, 2026
Relating to Love My Library Day

Aloha Chairs Kim and Lee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

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 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



HOALOHA PROJECT

Serving foster keiki of Hawai'i

Aloha Chair Hashem, Chair Kim, and Members of the Committees,

Hoaloha Project respectfully offers **strong support** for SB2147. Libraries are far more than places that hold books and knowledge; they serve as vital resource centers that support our most vulnerable residents. Across the state, libraries provide free access to the internet for job searches, homework, and essential services – resources that many families and youth, especially those without caregivers to guide them, simply could not otherwise access. They are safe, welcoming spaces where keiki can explore learning opportunities, study for tests, and pursue educational goals at no cost.

For foster youth in particular, who often lack parents or guardians to teach financial literacy, study skills, or provide access to technology, libraries are indispensable. These community anchors help fill gaps in support by offering tools and guidance that help young people build their futures. Public libraries also host programs and provide staff assistance that can open doors to new learning experiences and personal growth.

By recognizing the importance of libraries and celebrating their role in lifelong learning, SB2147 encourages ongoing investment, volunteerism, and public appreciation for institutions that strengthen our communities. For these reasons, Hoaloha Project respectfully urges your support and passage of SB2147.

Mahalo for your consideration and for backing resources that empower Hawaii's keiki.





1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819
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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Cheney Kaku
Secretary-Treasurer

Andrea Eshelman
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
&
HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

Item: SB 2147 – Relating to Love My Library Day

Position: Support

Hearing: Friday, February 13, 2026, 1:00 pm, Room 229

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

Dear Chairs Kim and Lee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Inouye, and members of the committees,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) **supports** S.B. 2147, which establishes 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.

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:51:44 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Patrick Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Anything that promotes reading with students is a win! This is a wonderful idea.

Mahalo

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:16:44 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

2147 SB RELATING TO LOVE MY LIBRARY DAY.

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:06:49 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I KĀKO‘O this bill and all efforts to show appreciation to our state libraries. My life has been positively impacted by the many hours spent among the stacks from my childhood all the way until now. Libraries are an excellent resource for our communities and despite the availability of the internet, books are an avenue for imagination to bloom. Fostering appreciation and recognition for the many people who dedicate their lives to our libraries is important.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello

‘Ōla‘a, Puna, Hawai‘i

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:17:11 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Kim and Lee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

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 services, 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.

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 12:55:15 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rose Chismar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 11, 2026

Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Chair Chris Lee,

Senate Committees on Education and Water, Land, Culture and the Arts

RE: SB2147, Hearing of February 13, 2026

Relating to Love My Library Day

Dear Chairs Kim and Lee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

As a regular library goer I strongly support SB2147. 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.

As a year round volunteer for the Friends of the Library of Hawai'i I support library services in Hawai'i and have good memories of taking my school age children to the Kaimuki Library often.

I believe public libraries serve as pillars of democracy, providing equitable access to information, opportunity, and lifelong learning for patrons of all ages and all walks of life.

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.

With aloha,

Rose Chismar

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:05:35 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Perone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is important because the future of Hawaii depends on our children who will be moving into leadership roles when we are gone. The best way to educate our children to be future leaders is to help them develop a love of reading and to understand the importance of libraries. Passing this important bill is critical to prepare our future generations to become Hawaii leaders.

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 4:11:45 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Starkey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO: Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Chair Chris Lee

Senate Committees on Education and Water, Land, Culture, and the Arts

Hawai'i State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: SB2147, Hearing of February 13, 2026

Relating to Love My Library Day

Aloha Chairs Kim and Lee, Vice Chairs Kidani and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB2147. 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.

Since I was a small kid, I believed that if you can read, you can do anything. And the library is the place that helps everyone do everything. Libraries are vital anchors in our communities, bringing people together for the love of learning, reading, and curiosity. 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. At least, over my lifetime, that's what the library gave to me.

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 information across Hawai'i.

I speak as a dedicated supporter of these institutions, as I volunteer at the Kailua branch and participate in Friends of the Library of Hawai'i fundraising events. I respectfully urge your committees to pass SB2147.

Mahalo for your time and for your support of our libraries,

Diane Starkey

Kailua, HI

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:02:18 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
An Vo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Water, Land, Culture and the Arts Committee and the Education Committee.

My name is An and I'm a public health student on O'ahu. I'm testifying in strong support of SB2147.

My elementary school took my class to the library every week to borrow a book. I read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Tuck Everlasting*, and more. As an adult, I visit my local Hawai'i library to read all the *Harry Potter* books. I enjoy how they have cultural and educational events and other services like ukelele rentals. I appreciate my library and haven't explored all of its resources yet, but it is a place where, through books, I can learn from people of the past. I wish more people appreciated the library, and having a day to celebrate it would be a fun reminder that people should not be glued to electronics - they should gain knowledge the traditional way through a good book.

Please support SB2147.

Mahalo nui loa,
An
Honolulu, HI

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 9:56:27 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabrina Nicole Thomas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitted by Dr. Sabrina Thomas
Mililani

My name is Sabrina, and I am a mother of three writing in strong support of SB2147, which would designate the first Friday of February as “Love My Library Day.”

As a parent, I see every day how essential libraries are to our children’s literacy and learning. My kids have grown up attending library story times, joining summer reading challenges, and participating in educational programs that spark their curiosity. Our local library has been more than just a building full of books, it’s been a community gathering place that supports learning, imagination, and connection for people of all ages.

“Love My Library Day” would create a perfect annual moment early in the legislative calendar to celebrate and highlight the importance of libraries across Hawai‘i. It encourages families, schools, and community members to come together, recognize the critical work of library staff, and reaffirm our collective commitment to literacy and public access to knowledge.

Strong literacy builds strong communities. When we invest attention and appreciation in our libraries, we invest directly in the future of our children and in the lifelong learning of all residents. I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB2147 and help Hawaii show our love for libraries in a meaningful, annual way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important bill.

With aloha,

Sabrina Thomas

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 12:13:35 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophie LeFebvre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2147, which designates the first Friday in February as “Love My Library Day” in the State of Hawai‘i.

Libraries matter more than people sometimes give them credit for. They are places where students go to finish assignments, research topics, prepare for exams, and explore interests beyond what is required in class. For many students; including me, libraries also provide reliable internet, technology, and a quiet space to focus and resources that are not always guaranteed at home.

Recognizing “Love My Library Day” is a meaningful way to show that literacy and access to knowledge are priorities in our state. It encourages communities to value these spaces and acknowledges the librarians who consistently support students’ academic growth. Even a simple designation reinforces the message that learning can always extend beyond the classroom.

Libraries are not just entertainment; they are part of the foundation of educational opportunity. For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of SB 2147.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony

LATE

SB-2147

Submitted on: 2/12/2026 4:13:17 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/13/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Floyd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support libraries!