

Hawai'i's Keiki

Need

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS



KEIKI WILL...

... develop as self-directed problem solvers and responsible citizens

... enter college and careers with critical thinking, technology, and research skills

... enjoy a welcoming and safe place to explore reading for fun and learning

... take advantage of the library as “the classroom to the entire school”

BECAUSE LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARIANS ...

... collaborate with teachers to enhance learning with print materials, ebooks, and electronic databases

... are highly-skilled teachers who have completed a master's degree with specialized courses in information literacy

... create robust, inclusive collections that reflect the specific information needs of each unique school community

... provide flexible learning spaces for students, teachers, and the whole school community

LESS THAN 1/3 OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE A LICENSED SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

- Only 31% of Hawai'i's 257 public department (DOE) schools have a licensed school librarian (arch.k12.hi.us/reports/ssir)
- This means only 39% of DOE students attend a school with a licensed school librarian
- Many schools have outdated libraries and rely on fundraisers to purchase library materials

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

- Supplement weighted student formula so all students have a licensed school librarian and an up-to-date library
- School administrators should hire a licensed school librarian and allocate funds for updated, relevant library resources

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Issue a resolution on the value of strong school libraries and licensed school librarians
- Consider legislation that addresses equitable student access to well-resourced and staffed school libraries
- Consider successful state bipartisan legislation (such as NJ S588 2023) which requires instruction on information literacy

This brief was created by the Hawai'i Association of School Librarians, the Hawai'i Library Association, and the Hawai'i State Teachers Association.
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