

State Librarian's Report November 18, 2014

1. Pahoa Public and School Library to Remain Open, Offer Free After-Hours WiFi

HSPLS has developed contingency plans to keep Pahoa Public and School Library open as much as possible in the event that the library is cut off from the rest of the Big Island by the ongoing lava flow. It is expected that harmful gasses and vapors will be released when the lava is crossing Highway 130, so the Library will close at that time and reopen as soon as it is safe for patrons and staff to return. Air quality monitors are in place, and Library staff is in frequent contact with the Hawaii Civil Defense Agency. During this critical time, the Library will offer free after hours Wi-Fi service that will be accessible 24/7 as far as the signal extends beyond the perimeter of the building. In addition, Mountain View Public and School Library and Keaau Public and School Library will also offer this free Wi-Fi access for area residents. Wi-Fi users are advised to connect to the "HSPLS-Lava" network.



2. HSPLS Cumulative Ebook Circulation Tops 1 Million

The Hawaii State Public Library System's (HSPLS) cumulative eBook circulation has reached a major milestone, with 1,001,738 circulations as of September 2014. HSPLS' extremely popular and well-used ebook collection and circulation continue to grow, with 220,000 checkouts last year, a 43% increase over the previous year.

3. HSPLS Receives Seymour Simon Grant for StarWalk Kids Media

HSPLS has received a Seymour Simon Grant to subscribe to StarWalk Kids Media, a collection of more than 520 children's streaming ebooks that can be accessed by an unlimited number of simultaneous users. Access to this collection for HSPLS would normally have cost more than \$18,000. This new collection will be available beginning January 2015.



4. Fifteen HSPLS Libraries Receive Junior Maker Space Kits

LEGO Systems, Inc. and the Association for Library Services to Children donated 15 Junior Maker Spaces toolkits to HSPLS, which will be distributed to libraries throughout the state. Intended primarily for children aged 4-7, the goal is to help develop areas for children to make and create in their libraries. Making is the simple act of doing; it is not an end result or finished project – it is what is learned through the process. With the Junior Maker Space kits, our libraries will expand opportunities for children to tinker, experiment, play, explore and make. Each toolkit includes approximately 10,000 LEGO bricks, a poster and activity guide.

5. HSPLS Receives \$65,234 in Tax Refund Donations

Hawaii's public libraries received \$65,234 in tax refund donations from January through June of this year, as thousands of taxpayers continued to demonstrate their support for the Hawaii State Public Library System by donating a portion of their 2014 tax refunds to the HSPLS Special Fund. Since January 2005, Hawaii taxpayers have donated \$775,038 to the HSPLS Special Fund.

6. Generous Volunteers Contribute 117,060 Hours to HSPLS Libraries

A total of 2,455 volunteers (adults and youth) contributed 117,060 hours of service to 48 HSPLS libraries and two support offices during Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. If HSPLS had paid for this work, even at the current minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, the total cost would have been \$848,685. Among the most common duties that library volunteers perform are assisting with the summer reading programs, cleaning and shelving books, shelf reading and sorting donations.

7. Molokai Kulaia Ho'olaulea

Residents, paddlers, and visitors attending the Kulaia Ho'olaulea crowded the front lawn of Molokai Public Library from 5 – 10 pm on Friday, Sept. 19. The event, organized by the Molokai Canoe Festivals Committee, welcomed paddlers coming to the island for the annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai canoe race and paid tribute to the Molokai crewmembers on the worldwide voyage of the Hokule`a. The festival featured entertainment by Ho'okena, Raiatea Helm, and local musicians. There was a brand new canoe built by a Molokai canoe builder on display in front of the Library, and Ala Malama Avenue, the street fronting the Library, was lined with various vendors, crafters, food booths and cultural practitioners.



8. HSPLS Vacancies Reach Five Year Low

Now that the statewide hiring freeze is over, HSPLS has been working diligently to fill vacant positions. As of July 31, only sixty three of HSPLS' 547.5 permanent positions were vacant. This marks a five year low, and in the past 10 years, there were only three months that ended with fewer vacant positions (September, October and November 2008).

9. Makawao Public Library Landscaping Project Completed

Makawao Public Library recently completed a special landscaping project with funding provided by the Maui Friends of the Library. A new Native Hawaiian Garden has been created featuring four different endangered native hibiscus, red ginger, ti plants, and 'ilima papa. Each species is labeled with its Hawaiian name, common name and scientific name to educate the public about native plants. Improvements have also been made to the rest of Library grounds which are now more beautiful, more useable and safer for our patrons and the public. Special recognition and thanks to Makawao staff member Kathleen (Molokai) Kehlor Harper who designed and executed the project outside of her regular 20 work week. We are extremely grateful for her expertise and dedication and for the support of the Maui Friends of the Library.

