



STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM  
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN  
44 MERCHANT STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 20, 2012

TO: The Honorable Don Horner, Chairperson  
Board of Education

FROM: Richard Burns, State Librarian  
Hawaii State Public Library System

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Burns".

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF A PROPOSAL TO RENAME KAPAA PUBLIC LIBRARY'S CHILDREN'S ROOM AS THE PRISCILLA TAM LEONG ROOM**

1. **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Education (Board) approve The Hawaii State Public Library System's (HSPLS) proposal to rename the Kapaa Public Library's Children's Room as the Priscilla Tam Leong Room.

2. **RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon Board approval.

3. **RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE**

Upon Board approval.

4. **DISCUSSION**

a. Conditions leading to the recommendation

Board policy 9100, "Naming of Hawaii State Public Library Facilities Policy," states "A room or section within any library facility may be named for past distinguished staff, donors of library facilities, donors of substantial sums of money to the benefit of the Hawaii State Public Library System, or for any other person for meritorious reason."

The family of the late Mrs. Priscilla Tam Leong would like to donate \$25,000 to Kapaa Public Library and request that the Children's Room be named after Mrs. Leong. Mrs. Leong was dedicated to Kauai's libraries and children. Born on Kauai, Mrs. Leong was a long-time

librarian at Kapaa Elementary School. In addition, she worked to help open the Kapaa Public Library in March 1955 and was on the library's staff as a special part-time assistant working with children. Mrs. Leong also helped establish and maintain the Friends of the Kapaa Public Library, where she was President until 2011. She was also the Chair of the Kauai District Library Advisory Commission.

The staff of Kapaa Public Library supports the naming of their Children's Room in memory of Mrs. Leong.

b. Previous action of the Board on the same or similar matter

None.

c. Other policies affected

None.

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

The following library rooms have been named in honor of individuals who have made life-long contributions to Hawaii's libraries and literature.

- **Hawaii State Library's Edna Allyn Room:** When the Library of Hawaii opened its doors to the public in February 1913, Edna I. Allyn was its head librarian. She served from 1913 to 1927. Her work actually started several years before the Library of Hawaii was built, when she was hired to bring together the collections of the Honolulu Reading Room and the Hawaiian Historical Society. She was very instrumental in working with Governor Frear to obtain funding from Andrew Carnegie to have the Library of Hawaii built as a free library. After this success, she worked to have county libraries built in each of the other territory counties. She is included in Notable Women of Hawaii.
- **Hawaii State Library's Samuel Manaiakalani Kamakau Room:** The Hawaii and Pacific Section's Reading Room was renamed the Samuel M. Kamakau Room in a dedication ceremony held on October 29, 1994. The new name honors the great Hawaiian historian who also served his community as an outstanding writer, scholar, jurist, and legislator. Spearheading the efforts to recognize Kamakau, as well as four other Native Hawaiian men of letters -- David Malo, John Papa Ii, Kepelino, and S.N. Haleole -- were the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, the Board of Education and the State Legislature. Present-day Hawaiians and citizens of Hawaii are indebted to these five individuals who

recognized the importance of committing Hawaiian historical and cultural knowledge into a permanent record for future generations. More information may be found at <http://www.hawaii.gov/hidocs/kamakau.html>

- **Kapolei Public Library's James and Abigail Campbell Reading Room:** The Campbell Estate donated the land for the Kapolei Public Library as well as \$50,000 for a core collection of library materials. In anticipation of the library's long-awaited opening, the Estate donated an additional \$50,000. The reading room, which contains artifacts of Campbell history, was named the "James and Abigail Campbell Reading Room" in recognition of the Estate's generosity and many contributions to the community.
- **Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped J. Garner Anthony Memorial Room:** Mr. Anthony's family donated funds to purchase and install the library's compact shelving. His family continues to donate funds quarterly.
- **Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Willis S. Duniway Memorial Room:** Mrs. Duniway donated \$50,000 to LBPH, and her estate continues to donate funds quarterly. The name of the room was changed to the Duniway Memorial Room to recognize both Mr. and Mrs. Duniway's support of this library.
- **Waimanalo Public & School Library's Robert E. Gibson Reading Room:** The room contains a plaque that reads: "In recognition & appreciation for his inspiration, guidance, leadership & years of dedication to education, libraries & life-long learning. This reading room is named in honor of Robert E. Gibson, on the occasion of the Waimanalo Public & School Library's 10th anniversary & "Doc's" 90th birthday. 1988"

e. Arguments against the recommendation

There are many worthy individuals who are enriching and supporting our libraries every day that it would be difficult to single out individuals for this special recognition and honor without possibly slighting others who may be equally as deserving.

f. Findings and conclusions of the Board committee

To be determined.

g. Other agencies or departments of the State involved in the action

None.

- h. Possible reaction of the public, professional organizations, unions, DOE staff and/or others to the recommendations

Based on the information provided by the State Librarian, the Kapaa Public Library Branch Manager and others, the Kapaa community is in support of the proposed renaming of Kapaa Public Library's Children's Room as the Priscilla Tam Leong Room. Mrs. Leong was an active figure in the Kapaa community and the community members are supportive of the public acknowledgement of Mrs. Leong's contributions to Kapaa Public library and the community.

- i. Educational implications

None.

- j. Personnel implications

None.

- k. Facilities implications

A favorable decision would call for the placement of an appropriate plaque or other signage.

- l. Financial implications

A favorable decision would result in the cost of an appropriate plaque or other signage and the cost of a dedication ceremony.

**5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

None.