



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

April 7, 2011

TO: The Honorable Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson
Hawaii State Board of Education

FROM: Carol Mon Lee, Chairperson *Carol Mon Lee*
Committee on Legislation, Public Charter Schools & Public Libraries
Hawaii State Board of Education

**SUBJECT: Discussion/Recommendation for Board Action on Rescinding the
Executive Order No. 1623 Pertaining to the Holualoa Public Library**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Education support the Hawaii State Public Library System's request to the state of Hawaii to rescind Executive Order no. 1623 dated May 20, 1954, for the Holualoa Public Library.

2. RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE

Upon Board approval.

3. RECOMMENDED COMPLIANCE DATE

Upon Board approval.

4. DISCUSSION

a. Condition leading to the recommendation

The Holualoa Public Library has been closed since July 1, 2009. The permanent Library Technician VII position assigned to the library has been vacant since December 28, 2007. HSPLS was forced to close the library as a result of budget cuts and restrictions dating back to FY 2009. Due to the Governor's mandates at that time, HSPLS could not fill this vacant LT VII position and could no longer transfer or assign employees from the neighboring library (Kailua-Kona Public Library) to cover the Holualoa

public service hours of operation. Since its schedule had been scaled back to 12 hours a week prior to its closure, its numbers, statistics, and activities could not justify its reopening or filling a half-time position. For these reasons and factors, HSPLS strongly recommends rescinding the Executive Order no. 1623, and returning the site and building back to the State, under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). It is HSPLS' understanding that the Department of Education and the County of Hawaii have expressed great interest in taking over the facility. After DLNR and its Board approve our request to rescind the Executive Order, either party can then submit a formal request for the management and control of the Holualoa Public Library property and building.

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

On March 23, 2011, the Committee on Legislation, Public Charter Schools & Public Libraries voted to recommend that the Board support HSPLS' request to the state of Hawaii to rescind Executive Order no. 1623.

c. Other policies affected

None

d. Arguments in support of the recommendation

HSPLS can no longer financially support the Holualoa Public Library with staffing and operating costs. Even with only 12 hours of public service each week, its usage was decreasing steadily. Freeing the Kailua-Kona Library staff from having to continue covering this library allowed them to consolidate and provide more consistent services at the largest and busiest library on the east side of the Big Island.

e. Arguments against the recommendation

Some patrons may need to travel to Kailua-Kona Public Library for in-person services (less than 5 miles). The availability of HSPLS' online databases and other electronic resources and collections will help minimize this effect.

f. Findings and conclusions of the Board committee

None

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

DAGS, DLNR

The Honorable Garrett Toguchi
April 7, 2011

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

This action clears the way for utilizing this property to more effectively meet the needs of the community. It is HSPLS' understanding that the Department of Education, the County of Hawaii and community members have all indicated support for this proposal. There may be some disappointment that the building will no longer be used as a public library.

- i. Educational implication

None

- j. Personnel implications

None

- k. Facilities implications

None

- l. Financial implications

See no. 4d above

5. OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS

None