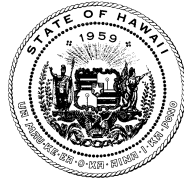


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

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

October 9, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Kuraya, Chairperson
Finance & Infrastructure Committee
Board of Education

FROM: Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian 

SUBJECT: Board Action on the Hawai'i State Public Library System's Supplemental
Operating and Capital Improvement Projects Budget Requests for the Fiscal Year
2027

The Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) respectfully requests the support of the Board of Education for our supplemental operating and capital improvement projects (CIP) budget requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. The HSPLS proposed budget reflects the guidelines outlined in Finance Memorandum 25-13 and Finance Memorandum 25-17, FY27 Supplemental Budget Policies and Guidelines (FB2025-2027).

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS) is to spark curiosity and open doors for everyone to read, learn, and connect. With 51 branches across six islands and two bookmobiles, HSPLS serves as a statewide network of community hubs that ensure equitable access to information, stories, learning opportunities, technology, and welcoming spaces for all. From families attending keiki story times, to job seekers crafting resumes, to kūpuna sharing and learning new skills like mahjong, our libraries are vibrant gathering places that support every stage of life.

Beyond offering traditional collections of books and print materials, HSPLS plays a critical role in bridging the digital divide. Libraries provide access to computers, Wi-Fi, and digital literacy training. These resources are especially vital in rural and neighbor island communities where the library may be the only source of reliable internet. In this way, our public libraries are true equalizers, ensuring that knowledge, opportunity, and connection are available to everyone.

HSPLS' supplemental budget request for FY2027 reflects an understanding of the uncertainty of the federal budget funding and the second half of the Fiscal Biennium 2025-2027.

OVERVIEW OF FB2025-FY2027 REQUESTS

Our supplemental operating and CIP budget request for FY2026-2027 focuses on security and continued work to update our library spaces. (see **Attachment A**).

	FY2026 BUDGET	FY2027 BUDGET REQUEST
General Funds	\$45,798,553	\$47,632,130
Total FTE (Permanent & Temporary)	566.5	566.5
<u>New Requests for FY2026-2027 (bold)</u>		
<i>Increase to security services base budget</i>	\$1,200,000	\$1,500,000
<i>Temporary library location for Wahiawa during construction</i>	\$200,000	\$200,000
<i>Temporary library location for Pearl City during construction</i>	\$150,000	\$150,000
<i>Temporary library location for Makawao during construction</i>	\$84,000	\$84,000
<i>Librarian IV position for Branch Manager of new Waikoloa Public Library (six months' salary beginning FY27)</i>		\$31,548
<i>Increase to Repair and Maintenance base budget</i>	\$500,000	
<i>Automated Handling System for book processing and delivery</i>	\$500,000	\$250,000
Total General Funds	\$47,850,582	\$49,132,130
Special Funds	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Federal Funds	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Total Operating Budget	\$53,850,582	\$55,132,130

GENERAL FUND REQUEST

Security (Guard Services)

HSPLS did not have a successful experience with the guard company that began in FY24. In FY25, due to continuing issues, we went through the process to identify a new guard service to better meet the needs of our libraries. The cost of the new services is higher than our previous contract. We are requesting that \$1,500,000 be added to our base budget to meet the increased cost of security guard services to ensure that our staff and patrons have safety support.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND REQUEST

CIP PROJECTS	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 BUDGET REQUEST
Health and Safety	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000
Kapa'a Planning & Design Funding	\$2,000,000	
Planning and Design for Mililani, 'Ewa Beach, Kalihi-Palama and Kaimuki		\$5,000,000

HSPLS is requesting funding to start the planning and design process for four libraries. This will allow us to update our library spaces to meet current and future community needs. Investing in our public libraries is one of the most effective ways to strengthen Hawai'i's communities, and it expands access to reading, learning, and connection for all. Mahalo for your thoughtful review and consideration.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Mallory Fujitani, Special Assistant to the State Librarian, at mallory.fujitani@librarieshawaii.org or (808) 586-3714.

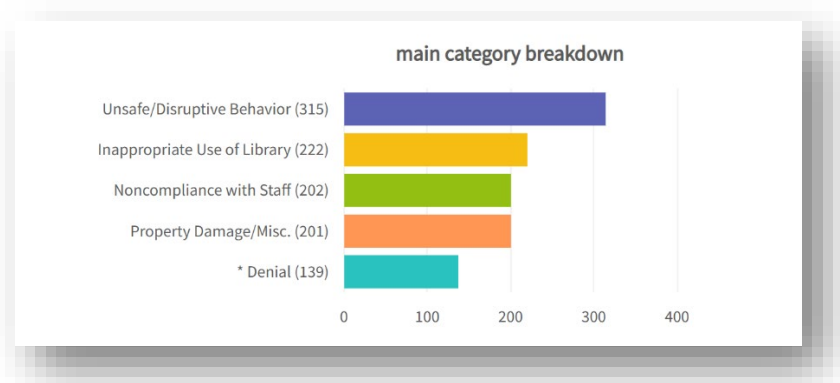
ATTACHMENT A

HSPLS SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BUDGET REQUESTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

GENERAL FUND REQUEST

Security - \$1,500,000

We need security guards to deal with disruptive behaviors and create safe spaces in libraries for patrons and staff. In FY2025, we had 624 incident reports from our libraries. The chart below covers the types of incidents that our staff have been experiencing.



On October 1, 2025, we switched over to a new security guard company due to ongoing issues with the prior security guard company. We used the State Procurement Office Vendor List for Security Guards to identify our new vendor, which is the same company that the Department of Education and Legislature use.

The new guard company is more expensive than the previous vendor, forcing us to prioritize the libraries that require security guard services. Based on an analysis of the data, including the number and types of incidents reported from 2022 to present, we determined that these six libraries would be the least impacted without guard service: 'Āina Haina, Hanapēpē, Hawai'i Kai, Laupahoehoe, Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD), and Waialua. For example, 'Āina Haina had a total of 10 incident reports over three years. In comparison, Kaimuki had 52 incidents over the same period. Another example is Waialua. At one point, this branch had a night guard to deal with specific issues occurring after hours, but current data show the night guard is no longer needed.

Our current security budget is \$2.9 million which isn't sufficient for a full contract year with the new security guard company. We need an additional \$1.5 million added to the base budget to continue guard services across the State. This would also provide some additional funding to restore some, but not all, of the guard services that were reduced when we switched to the new guard company. The funding would also allow us to use temporary guards to respond to specific security issues or challenges.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FUND REQUEST

Planning and Design - \$5 million

With the majority of our buildings being more than 50 years old, we continue to improve and upgrade the library spaces in our communities. We are focusing on whole-building renovations versus fixing the most pressing issues one at a time. CIP funding is being requested to start planning and design for:

- 'Ewa Beach Public Library (1971)
- Kaimuki Public Library (1965)
- Kalihi-Palama Public Library (1949)
- Mililani Public Library (1984)

The libraries that are on this list have not had any major updates in more than 20 years. As a result, most of these buildings will need major infrastructure and equipment improvements, including replacement of air conditioning systems. As we do whole building improvements, we also look at upgrades needed to redesign our spaces for efficiency and to incorporate future new services and programs that meet emerging community needs.