

January 2025:

Our Report On Funds Granted In 2024

How MFOL Works For Maui Libraries

The mission of our all-volunteer non-profit organization, Maui Friends of the Library (MFOL), is to provide support for the public library branches in Maui County, including Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi, the Holoholo Bookmobile, and other libraries. A primary task is raising the money to help finance the acquisition of new materials for each library, sustain subscriptions to newspapers and magazines, and fill in the gaps for community programs and equipment where state funding falls short.

As with last year and years before, all branch libraries in Maui County and the Holoholo Bookmobile received blanket grants of \$10,000 each branch, \$12,000 for the Bookmobile.

This annual funding may be used however each Branch Manager determines: new books, films, music, magazines and newspapers for their collections; for library programs and supplies for programs or special events.

Money from Maui Friends of the Library also help individual libraries with special requests of supplies, equipment, or furnishings which are not covered (or fall short) in their state-provided budgets.

Library Projects in 2024

This past year, MFOL was able to provide substantial funding for the following library projects, programs, and materials according to special requests by our Maui librarians.

- **\$5,800 for materials to process the replacement collection** in Lāhainā Library, which is being assembled while a new site is located. This includes bookcovers, carts, labeling supplies, etc. which are being used in a mobile processing unit.
- **\$5,000 for essential library supplies** and processing materials for several libraries (pooling their needs to save on shipping.)
- **\$4,600 for the Maui County Summer Reading program**, focusing on 2024 as the Year of the Hawaiian Forest Bird. A set of readings were selected by the Maui librarians, designed to support literacy and the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture;

participants who completed the tasks and readings received a replica of a Native Hawaiian bird. The Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project collaborated with this successful program.

- **\$3,851 for book carts** and other library supplies destined for Lāhainā Library, as the librarians process and prepare for a new location.



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Supporting Libraries Since 1912

- **\$3,500 to upgrade the break room** at the Kahului Library, including a sofa and a supply of drinking water for the year.

- **\$3,400 for a large laminating machine** shipping to Lānaʻi Library

- **\$1,800 for tote bags** for Makawao Library to use as participatory prizes for their 55th Anniversary Celebration. The tote bags feature a special design by a local artist.

- **\$1,800 for patio renovation** at Kahului Library, which is part of the employee kitchen and break area.

- **\$1,600 for library physical supplies** for Lāhainā and Wailuku.

- **\$1,400 for departmental supplies** for the new children's librarian at Kahului.

- **\$700 for outreach kits and event supplies** at Molokaʻi Library, including chairs, tables, and tents.

- **\$473 for "Growing Your Garden" bags** for the Holoholo Bookmobile's ongoing project.

- **\$468 for archival boxes** to house the Makawao Library's collection of all past issues of local Maui newspapers, *Maui Time* and *Haleakala Times*.

- **\$320 for miscellaneous library supplies** for Kahului.

PLUS:

- **\$33,000 in scholarship funds** for future librarians who are pursuing their graduate degrees in Library & Information Services!

How You Can Help

Please consider helping MFOL to support, promote, and enhance Maui's public libraries. You can do this by becoming an Annual Supporter, with a cash donation online or in the mail ... by donating gently-used books, CDs, and DVDs ... by shopping at our bookstores ... and by signing up for a weekly volunteer shift in our bookstores or warehouse. Every bit helps!

Maui Friends of the Library is able to achieve these accomplishments with the help of the community and our dedicated volunteers. From the

community, we receive monetary gifts as well as the all-important donations of used books and other media, which we re-sell at our three used bookstores on the island: the original store by the old Pu'unēnē School; our largest store, in Queen Ka'ahumanu Center; and our newest location in Kīhei.

Our bookstores are at the center of our non-profit fundraising activity for Maui libraries. But aside from helping the libraries, the volunteers of MFOL are delighted to help make books, music, and movies accessible and affordable to everyone on Maui!

Your purchases at our bookstores, and your donations of cash or sellable merchandise, directly benefit our Maui libraries!

LĀHAINĀ LIBRARY UPDATE

by Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian
Hawai'i State Public Library System

Aloha Maui Friends of the Library!

It's been just over a year since the devastating fires took the lives of too many community members and destroyed hundreds of homes, businesses and historic buildings, including our Lāhainā Public Library. We're thankful that our staff are safe and grateful to all those who have been helping the community heal.

We have focused on three phases: 1) immediate services, 2) a temporary library pop-up, and 3) a permanent location.

For the immediate phase, we deployed our Holoholo Books mobile to provide limited services to the residents of Lāhainā and West Maui. Mahalo to our amazing staff who have been delivering excellent services to the community. We will continue this service until we have temporary library space in the area.

We have been looking for a suitable location for a temporary library "pop-up" location, but space is limited due to the fires, and it's taking longer than we had hoped. We want to make sure that the community has more consistent services while we work to rebuild a new Lāhainā Public Library. We remain optimistic that we will find a temporary location.

Concurrently, we are working with community, county, and state planning representatives to identify a new permanent location for the Lāhainā Library. We will not rebuild on the current location on the coast because it is home to culturally significant Native Hawaiian sites. Once the permanent location is determined, we will initiate the planning, design, and permitting

process. FEMA has committed \$9.9 million to the rebuilding of the new library, but we know the actual cost will be far higher. We anticipate working with the governor and legislature to meet future funding needs.

While we know it will take a few years to build a new library, we will continue to ensure that there are library services, and work to create more consistent services through a temporary and later permanent location.

Our libraries are valuable community hubs that enhance social bonds and offer crucial services to all age groups and backgrounds. A big "Thank You" to the Maui Friends of the Library for continued dedication and support of the Hawai'i State Public Library System's mission to create opportunities for all to read, learn, and connect.

Mahalo, Stacey Aldrich

THANK GOODNESS FOR THE HOLOHOLO BOOKMOBILE!

Fire destroyed the Lāhainā Public Library (and our MFOL bookstore) in August, 2023, but ever since then, the west side community has been able to receive library services through the Holoholo Bookmobile. (As many will remember, Maui Friends of the Library raised the funds to purchase this bookmobile for the Maui County Public Library system in 2014.) Librarian Jessica Gleason and driver Michael Tinker have been making regular rounds to provide books and valuable connectivity for West Siders. **In fact, Jessica won a national "I Love My Librarian" Award for 2025!** (<https://ilovelibraries.org>)

Check the current Bookmobile schedule: <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/visit/bookmobiles/maui-bookmobile>

BURGERS & BOOKS

This past April, Maui Friends of the Library and the organization People for Educational Equality gave away more than 600 books to keiki who attended a special event, "Books, Burgers, and a Blessing" at the temporary campus of Kamehameha III Elementary School, which burned in the 2023 wildfire. The Rotary Club of Lāhainā Sunset assisted; Cool Cat Café and Duke's Beach House provided the burgers and food.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On behalf of Maui Friends of the Library Board of Directors, I want to give a huge mahalo for everyone's support of our organization and of the Maui County public libraries over the past year.

We are still in recovery from the wildfire in Lāhainā, where we lost the Lāhainā Public Library and our MFOL bookstore. We all still await the re-opening of a Lāhainā Public Library. (See the update at left from our State Library System.) Someday we hope to re-open a bookstore on the west side; however, at present, there is no retail space available that fits our needs.

But we have been busy! After the fire, we were able to set up a donation area in the facility next to the Lāhainā Civic Center where people could come in and get books at no cost. Children were thrilled to have access to books—as were their parents.

We were also able to open a new bookstore in Kīhei, and the community was extremely happy to have a bookstore located there for the first time in over 15 years! More than 100 people attended the grand opening.

The MFOL bookstores continue to flourish, and provide thousands and thousands of low-cost and free books for our community. Pu'unēnē had a very successful warehouse sale this past summer, with customers from across the island. The Kīhei store continues to grow and expand. The store at Queen Ka'ahumanu Center continues to have a very high volume of patrons. Lots of donated books are being dropped off at all locations. I am amazed every time I go to one of the bookstores to see how many books are waiting to go on the shelves!

Of course, our volunteers are the backbone of this organization. They are so dedicated and committed to MFOL, give so much of their time and effort, and always tell me how glad they are to be part of MFOL. Mahalo plenty for all the folks involved in MFOL—you are making a difference in the Maui community!!

— Flo Wiger, MFOL President



Volunteers the "Books, Burgers, and a Blessing" event at Kamehameha III School's temporary campus.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024 PROJECTS

Maui Friends of the Library (MFOL) has served the public libraries and the community of Maui this past year by donating more than \$100,000 in funding for Maui libraries, plus additional funding for projects in the libraries and participation in special events. Fueled by donations and by the sales generated at our bookstores, we have also passed along thousands of free books for keiki and adults at these special events. Here's a showcase of some projects and promotions.



Maui Summer Reading

MFOL funded incentives for the Maui County Libraries' Summer Reading Program, in association with the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project. Participants who completed a set of tasks and readings received a prize. In the photo, Makawao branch manager Dakota Cotton holds a replica of the 'Alala; inset shows the l'iwi bird stuffie used as prizes.



Comic Con 2024 Librarians from Makawao, Kahului, and Lahaina participated in Maui Comic Con 2024 at UH Maui College, with supplies funded by MFOL to help participants make buttons with recycled comic books. In the photo, L-R: Alika Seki, Comic Con founder and owner of Maui Comics; Chadde Holbron, Lāhainā branch manager; and Colleen Galvin, Kahului branch manager.

Earth Day at Montessori School

MFOL volunteers Donna and Sharon (in picture) set up a book table at Montessori School of Maui to help celebrate their Earth Day event in April with free books for keiki.



Halloween at QKC

Every year, we join in the festivities at Queen Ka'ahumanu Center to give away books to the Trick-Or-Treaters. It's fun!

July 4th in Makawao

At the Makawao Town Fourth of July block party, volunteers Charlie and Donna promoted MFOL and the Maui libraries as they gave away several hundred free books to keiki.

Christmas at QKC

This year, MFOL provided a sleigh-load of books for keiki who came to Queen Ka'ahumanu Center to have their photos taken with Santa!



Art at the Library

Art Time programs conducted throughout the year at Makawao Public Library enable community members to learn about and create their own artworks from pastels, watercolor, or clay. With supplies funded by MFOL, the programs are carried out in collaboration with the Maui Public Art Corps, who facilitated the installation of a Little Free Art Gallery (photo) where the community can exchange ideas and art.

Maui Friends of the Library ONGOING programs

Free Books for Educators

Maui teachers, tutors, and home-schoolers are invited to come to Pu'unēnē to pick and choose **FREE** books for school use. No appointment is needed to receive 25 children's/educational books at the store, from the selection. For more than 25 books at a time, a warehouse appointment is needed. Email, call, or visit the Pu'unēnē bookstore to arrange an appointment:

email: mauifriendsofthelibrary@hotmail.com

call: Pu'unēnē Bookstore, 808-871-6563

There may be additional events where a great deal of inventory will be available—for great deals! We usually have an annual Warehouse Sale in the spring or summer: watch the website for info on events, or ask to be included on the Educator Email list as well as our regular email list. Thousands of books have been given away, and thousands more are waiting for you!

The Kihei store also offers select free books for educators.

Discounts for Educators

Every day, educators can purchase books for 50% off at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Bookstore. **This discount is applicable in the used book categories of Kids, Juvenile, Young Adult, and Education.** (Categories are written inside the front cover of books, along with the price. Please note that we cannot extend any discounts on NEW books, or Hawaiian titles.) Any educator can take advantage of this discount: teachers, home-schoolers, special needs care-givers, tutors.

Scholarships for Librarians

Since 2009, Maui Friends of the Library has offered academic scholarships to Maui County residents pursuing a Master's or advanced graduate degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS) at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa campus, or through the University Center at the UH Maui College campus. More than a dozen recipients of these scholarships are currently serving in library positions in Maui. In 2024, MFOL granted a total of \$33,000 to students pursuing their library degrees! **Eligible students may apply online at MFOL.org, to request up to \$3,000 each semester.**

YOU can help!

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MFOL is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization; donations are tax-deductible

OUR BOOKSTORES

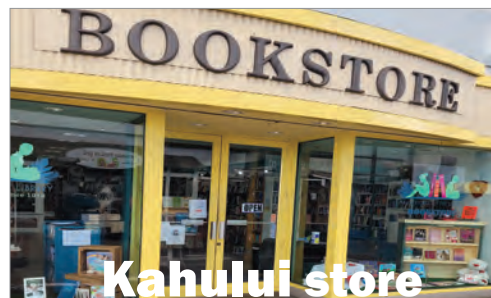


Kihei store

Located at 95 E. Lipoa St, Kihei

Hours: Mon - Sun • 10 AM - 6 PM

Phone: (808) 874-7095

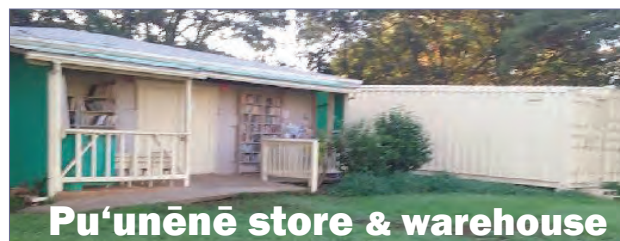


Kahului store

Located in Queen Ka'ahumanu Center (East wing), Kahului

Hours: Mon - Sat 10 AM - 6 PM • Sun 10 AM - 5 PM

Phone: (808) 877-2509



Pu'unēnē store & warehouse

Located by the old Pu'unēnē School (past the sugar mill)

Hours: Tue - Sat, 9 AM - 4 PM

Phone: (808) 871-6563



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Supporting Libraries Since 1912

**MFOL is an all-volunteer 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization
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