



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 2012

Dear Parents:

As the end of the school year approaches, we all begin to dread “summer slide.” This is not a scary theme park ride, but an alarming academic trend in which students who do not read on a regular basis during their summer break from school fall behind in reading achievement. To prevent this “summer slide” and encourage students to build literacy skills during their time away from the classroom, the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) will implement its’ “808 Books R Great!” summer reading campaign. As part of this campaign, the HIDOE has partnered with the Hawaii State Public Libraries (HSPLS) and Lexile® to provide valuable resources and tools to help your child get ready to read.

The library has always been a great place to visit during the summer months to find good books and this year is no exception. The HSPLS will offer the 2012 Children’s Summer Reading Program from June 4 to July 7. The program invites children and their families to visit the library weekly, read at least one book per week, and receive free reading incentives, while supplies last. For more information on the program or where to find one of the 50 HSPLS libraries statewide visit the HSPLS website at [www.librarieshawaii.org](http://www.librarieshawaii.org).

With the assistance from our partners at Lexile®, the HIDOE is able to provide outstanding resources and tools this summer to help you generate a list of books your child will find both interesting and challenging. Use the “Find a Book” search tool to look online for thousands of book titles using your child’s grade level or if applicable their Lexile measure. A Lexile measure provides information about an individual’s reading ability or the difficulty of a text like a book or magazine article used by some schools and grade levels. A Lexile measure is not necessary when using the “Find a Book” tool. The search tool is free and can be found at [www.lexile.com/fab/hawaii](http://www.lexile.com/fab/hawaii).

Please join me this summer by participating in the “808 Books R Great!” campaign. For more information please visit our website at [www.808booksrgreat.net](http://www.808booksrgreat.net). You can also contact us by email at [doe\\_info@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:doe_info@notes.k12.hi.us) or call us at 586-3230.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathryn S. Matayoshi".

Kathryn S. Matayoshi  
Superintendent