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## **Hawai'i Library Association Statement on Racism and Violence**

The Hawai'i Library Association stands with library workers, patrons, and the communities we serve who are discriminated against and are subject to violence based solely on their race or ethnicity. We do this in support of our brothers and sisters in the ALA Black Caucus "[Statement Condemning Increased Violence and Racism Towards Black Americans and People of Color](#)"

Libraries, at their core, are communities where all are welcome. We stand for diversity, equity, inclusion, and open access to information. The pervasive and institutionalized racism in our society today denies these principles, promotes oppression, and dehumanizes our brothers and sisters. We must work together to end such racism and discrimination.

While libraries have long considered themselves as neutral ground, there is no neutrality in the face of oppression. Using power and structure to limit others is contrary to our principles and mission. All have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. All have the right to have their voice heard. We cannot be silent. We cannot just stand by. Change will not happen overnight. But it will only happen as we work together. Libraries can facilitate this work by providing safe spaces, by helping educate, and by supporting those who feel voiceless. Let us stand together and lift up those who have been pushed down, kneeled upon, and discarded. Let us stand together as libraries, as communities, and as sisters and brothers. Let us stand together and support those who need it most. Let us stand together so Black People and People of Color can breathe freely. Let us stand together as one 'ohana.

Michael Aldrich  
President, Hawai'i Library Association