



Maui's Best Kept Secret

Did you know there is a place on Maui where you can get a book for a dime? You can thanks to Maui Friends of the Library. The MFOL was founded in 1912 for the purpose of helping to maintain the Maui county public libraries. One of the Society's sources of funding is the gathering and selling of discarded and donated books. In the early days of the MFOL, Book Fair Days, held in various shopping centers, were the only way to dispose of the books. Today these books are available year-round at the MFOL Used Books in Puunene. The old building is part of the Puunene School, which ceased operating as a school many years ago.

The Maui Friends of the Library is a non-profit, all volunteer organization that serves the people of Maui county in two ways. By operating MFOL Used Books, the Friends provide a place for libraries and individuals alike to donate their used books and other media. Not only does this keep these items out of the landfill, but it provides a place where everyone on Maui can own used books for pocket change donations. The Friends then use these donations as well as membership dues to fund various items and programs for Maui county public libraries which fall outside of their budget. Some of our recent grants include sponsoring performances by "Uncle" Wayne Watkins at the libraries and repairs to the Maui bookmobile.

A visit to MFOL Used Books is always worthwhile. Staffed exclusively by volunteers, who are knowledgeable and accommodating to say the least, this book store is surely "bargain city," with hardbacks, paperbacks, and magazines available for a ten cent donation each (a few books of exceptional quality may be marked with a sticker suggesting a slightly higher donation). Our estimate is that we have in excess of 180,000 books to choose from! A selection of audio books, cassettes, VHS tapes, CDs, and DVDs is also available.

The MFOL seeks donations of used books and other media in good condition. The items can be dropped off at MFOL Used books, Tuesday through Saturday, 9am to 4pm. The staff can provide a receipt for the donation. If you have any questions please call the store at 871-6563.

As an all volunteer organization, the MFOL is constantly seeking individuals to help operate the Used Book store. Help is needed sorting and shelving books, assisting patrons, and operating the cash register. Most needed are volunteers who can work a morning or afternoon shift one day a week on an ongoing basis. One major perk of volunteering is getting first crack at the newly donated books! Anyone wishing to know more should contact our volunteer coordinator John at 268-2976.



MFOL Used Books is located behind the old Puunene School near the HC&S sugar mill in Puunene. It can be challenging to find at first, but is worth the effort.

From Kihei (Mokulele Highway), make a right turn onto Hansen Road at the light, and then another quick right onto Old Puunene Avenue. Drive through the Sugar Mill until you see a "Books" sign on a telephone pole. Then turn left onto East Camp 5 Road. Drive by the Puunene School (on your right), look for the next "Books" sign. Then turn right and follow the road until it ends.

From Kahului, take the new highway towards Kihei and turn left at the stop light onto Hansen Road. Make a quick right onto Old Puunene Avenue and drive through the Sugar Mill and then follow the previous directions above.

Open Tue - Sat, 9am - 4pm
Closed major holidays
(808) 871-6563

