Brenda Freitas-Obregon was born and raised in Kapalama Uka, Oahu, and now resides in Waimalu, Oahu. As Children’s Librarian at the Kalihi-Palama Public Library where she is known as Auntie Brenda, she revels in sharing the love of books and reading with children of all ages, and their families.

Brenda is a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her dream to be Children’s Librarian came true when she started her professional career at the Edna Allyn Room of the Hawaii State Library. Over the years, she has worked at Aina Haina, Ewa Beach, Kalihi-Palama, Waimanalo, and Liliha Libraries on Oahu. During this time she presented puppet shows at all of the public libraries on Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, and Maui.

From 1985 to 1987, she initiated the outreach services of the Alu Like, Inc., Native Hawaiian Library Project with a touring resource van, books by mail, homework centers, and workshops for parents. She toured New Zealand, and all the Neighbor Islands except Niihau, with storytelling, read aloud, and cultural programs.

After several years as the library system’s Statewide Young Adult Coordinator, selecting materials and planning programs for teenagers, Brenda has returned to her first true passion of being a Children’s Librarian. And as all things come full circle, she’s back at her childhood community library. Brenda continues to be a lecturer, reader, and storyteller of folktales for audiences of babies to grandparents, at libraries, schools, camps, conferences, museums, and celebrations of all kinds.

Sampling of Auntie Brenda’s programs:
A-B-C Zoo: An Alphabet of Animal Tales is a lively, participatory storytelling experience for the youngest child, from preschool through early elementary school. Children may sing, sign and dance.

Out of the Golden Box is a storytelling presentation of legends and folktales from continents and islands around the world suitable for elementary school ages.

He Hawaii Au, is a sharing of stories from the islands of Hawai‘i and is adapted to needs of each program’s audience. He Hawaii Au is recommended for audiences of older elementary students to adults as the main stories are normally long and complicated. However, when the audiences are younger the program can be quickly adapted to provide shorter and simpler tales. Here is a sampling of the more popular stories included in He Hawaii Au: “Sharks Abound In Mana On Kauai,” “Rain Falls In Hilo,” “The Lava Flows In Puna,” and “Did You Know That Pele, The Volcano Goddess, Had An Older Sister?” Aunty Brenda includes many additional stories about the journeys of goddesses and the deeds of the common folks.