



For Immediate Release

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READY TO LEARN PROGRAM RAISES NEARLY \$44,400 IN MONETARY AND SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS TO HELP LOW-INCOME AND HOMELESS STUDENTS IN HAWAII

HONOLULU—Helping Hands Hawaii’s (HHH) 16th annual Ready to Learn (R2L) program school supply drive concluded last month and raised more than \$44,380 in total monetary and school supply donations. It collected approximately \$10,780 in financial contributions and enough school supplies to create more than 3,360 kits (valued at \$10 each) for low-income and homeless students. HHH distributed more than 4,070 educational kits to students before the start of the 2015-2016 school year and will continue to build and disperse school supply kits to students all year long.

Together with Community Partners (listed below), HHH collected crayons, scissors, glue, folder paper, composition books, spiral notebooks, pencils/pens, erasers, rulers, calculators, portfolios, 2" three-ring binders and backpacks to create two educational kits aimed at students in grades K-5 and grades 6-12. KITV’s annual School Tools effort and HHH’s new banking partner, American Savings Bank, provided generous amounts of support and brought additional community awareness to the R2L program that will enable HHH to serve more students in need throughout the year.

Community Partners who contributed to the 2015 R2L program are listed in alphabetical order:

AC Warehouse	Fisher Hawaii	National Interstate Insurance
American Savings Bank	Hawaiian Tel Federal Credit Union	PHOCUSED
Ashley Furniture	HHF Planners	Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise
CS Wo & Sons	Hickam Family Health Clinics	S&K Sales
DTRIC	Ikeda & Wong CPA	Sam’s Club
Exchange Club of Downtown Honolulu	Kiewit Kobayashi	UHA Health
Express Employment Professionals	KITV	University of Hawaii
Fantastic Sams	Leavitt Yamane & Soldner	Walmart

These local businesses and groups supported R2L by promoting the program, collecting school supplies and monetary donations and volunteering their time to pack educational supply kits for the students. Their efforts included internal school supply drives, special events, such as silent auctions and employee events, and external school supply drives that reached out to their client base for support.

Students who participate in the R2L program are referred through participating organizations like Catholic Charities Hawaii, The Salvation Army, Child & Family Service, Parents & Children Together, Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center, Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Department of Human Services and other well-established social service providers. These referrals will continue throughout the 2015-2016 school year, and students will receive assistance and school supply support through HHH's Community Clearinghouse.

"It is wonderful to see so many organizations in our community giving back to and supporting education for our next generation," said Jan Harada, President and CEO of Helping Hands Hawaii. "The collaboration we experienced throughout the Ready to Learn program is the type of community building that will lead to partnerships that shape our future, and we are so grateful for the support we have received this year."

About Ready 2 Learn

R2L was founded in 1999 in partnership with the late U.S. Senator Daniel and Maggie Inouye. Its purpose is to ensure that low-income and homeless students throughout Hawaii have basic school supplies for their education. In 2005, HHH assumed statewide administration of this initiative and has continued to perpetuate the Inouyes' vision. Together with our community partners, HHH assists more than 8,000 students each year. For more information about the R2L program, contact James Li at 440-3812.

About Helping Hands Hawaii

Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through our various programs, we provide a full continuum of care and help people overcome obstacles like homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse and language access. Our strong partnerships with local social service providers and innovative approaches strengthen our community by helping people to help themselves. To learn more about HHH, its programs or services, please visit www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org.

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