



For Immediate Release

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NEARLY 5,000 STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FROM READY TO LEARN PROGRAM

HONOLULU—Helping Hands Hawaii’s (HHH) Ready to Learn program (RTL) helped more than 4,800 low-income and homeless students return to school with new school supplies during its initial back-to-school effort. Free school supplies will be available to low-income or homeless students year round.

During the annual summer drive, the community donated more than \$16,000 and 14 pallets of assorted school supplies. Combined, this will assist approximately 3,600 school-aged students by providing the tools they need to help them receive a quality education. This includes donations collected on Neighbor Islands at RTL’s official banking partner American Savings Bank and at KITV’s School Tools event. Neighbor Island donations stayed on-island to benefit local students.

Additionally, volunteers logged more than 1,500 hours to help the program run smoothly and efficiently.

About Ready to Learn and Helping Hands Hawaii

Ready to Learn was founded in 1999 in partnership with the late U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and his wife 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 6,000 students each year. For more information about the RTL program, contact rtl@helpinghandshawaii.org.

Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through our variety of 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, visit www.helpinghandshawaii.org.

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