



For Immediate Release

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HELPING HANDS HAWAII DONATES 500 SCHOOL SUPPLY KITS TO OPERATION HOMEFRONT HAWAII'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL BRIGADE™

HONOLULU—Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) will donate 500 school supply kits to Operation Homefront Hawaii's Back-to-School Brigade™ event. This new partnership extends HHH's ability to assist the community by supporting military families in need and is part of the agency's annual Ready to Learn (RTL) program.

Operation Homefront Hawaii will distribute the school supply kits to school-aged children of junior enlisted and wounded, ill or injured military families on July 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hokulani Community Center (298 Main St) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam. The event is open to all branches of the military, but families must pre-register with Operation Homefront Hawaii by July 1. To register, visit www.operationhomefront.net/event/list.

"Thanks to our terrific partnership with Helping Hands Hawaii, Operation Homefront will ease the financial burden of the back-to-school season for hundreds of deserving military families in Hawaii," Operation Homefront Chief Operating Officer, Retired Air Force Brigadier Gen. Robert Thomas said. "The Back-to-School Brigade™ is one of many ways in which Operation Homefront builds strong, stable and secure military families so that they thrive – not solely get by – in the communities they've worked so hard to protect."

Each kit is valued at approximately \$10. Kits will include commonly requested school supply items, such as 24-count crayons, composition books, 4 oz. glue, scissors, three-prong portfolios, one-subject spiral notebooks, college or wide-rule folder paper, black or blue ballpoint pens, rulers and calculators.

"The late Senator Daniel Inouye and his wife Maggie founded the Ready to Learn program with us to give Hawaii's keiki the tools they need to succeed in school," said HHH President and CEO Jan Harada. "I believe Sen. Inouye would be so proud to know that this program has grown to support all of Hawaii's children, civilian and military, whose families are experiencing difficulties. We are delighted to partner with Operation Homefront Hawaii and are honored to do what we can to support our local military families."

The RTL program gives free school supplies to children from low-income and homeless families. School supplies and monetary donations are being collected through July 31 by HHH and its Community Partners at various [Collection Points](#) in the community. Individuals and businesses are encouraged to become Community Partners to support RTL by organizing fundraising drives or volunteering.

To participate in RTL, visit www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org to download an RTL Community Partner Application, and submit the form to rtl@helpinghandshawaii.org. An RTL team member will contact the donor with additional information and assistance with planning and organizing a school supply drive.

Donors may also make monetary gifts to the RTL program through the following methods:

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Online: Visit www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org and click on the PayPal link to make a donation. Contributions from June 1 to July 31 are automatically earmarked for the RTL program.

Mail: Checks made payable to “Helping Hands Hawaii” can be mailed to Ready to Learn Program, c/o Helping Hands Hawaii, 2100 N. Nimitz Hwy., Honolulu, HI 96819. Write “Ready to Learn” in the memo section and your donation will be directed to the program.

In-Person: Cash, check and school supply donations are accepted on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Helping Hands Hawaii’s main office at 2100 N. Nimitz Hwy., Honolulu, HI 96819 and Hilo office at 305 Wailuku Dr., Unit #6A, Hilo, HI 96720.

About Ready to Learn and Helping Hands Hawaii

Ready to Learn 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 7,000 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, please visit www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org.

About Operation Homefront

The Back-to-School Brigade™ is a way to provide junior enlisted and wounded, ill or injured military families with school supplies to help offset the financial burden that often comes with preparing children to return to school. A national nonprofit, Operation Homefront builds strong, stable, and secure military families so that they can thrive in the communities they have worked so hard to protect. With more than 3,200 volunteers nationwide, Operation Homefront has provided assistance to tens of thousands of military families since its inception shortly after 9/11. Recognized for superior performance by leading independent charity oversight groups, 92 percent of Operation Homefront’s expenditures go directly to programs that provide support to our military families. For more information, go to www.OperationHomefront.net.

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