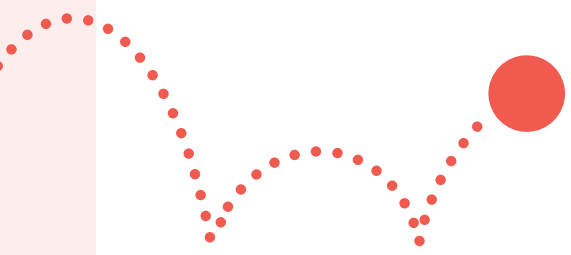




Share the *love and joy*  
of reading aloud.



# Feed Me A Story... and feed me for life.

In the early 1990s, the Governor's Council for Literacy and Lifelong Learning and the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise promoted an overwhelmingly successful nationwide reading campaign to share the value of reading aloud to children. That campaign encouraged parents and caregivers to read aloud to their children daily so children would develop a love for reading from an early age. In the 27 years since that campaign, studies and research have found:

- Reading aloud daily to children contributes significantly to children's academic success, including developing early literacy skills (National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study)
- Parents reading aloud with their children strengthens child-parent relationships (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Since 1996, Read To Me International has not only promoted this research, but has provided programs to support families and educators to harness the power of reading aloud to youth. Reading continues to bring families together and helps children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Read To Me International is proud to support Hawai'i's families, caregivers, and educators as we collectively strive to create the best possible future for our keiki.

2018-2019 Highlights:

- Launched Readers Rallies at Kahauiki Village, a community designed to provide affordable and permanent housing to homeless families
- Earned national recognition for our Haku Mo'olelo coaching program offered to incarcerated women to write, illustrate, publish, and record their own children's storybook to send home to their families
- Presented at 240 events, schools, community partner programs, and prisons across five islands: Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu

A love for reading and its benefits goes beyond a child performing well in school. The act of reading aloud together promotes opportunities for families, educators, and children to connect, laugh, play, empathize, and converse. We extend our most heartfelt mahalo to donors, partners, volunteers, staff and board for your support and belief that reading positively transforms lives.

With aloha,



**Kara Kusunoki**  
Executive Director



**Lynne Waihee**  
President

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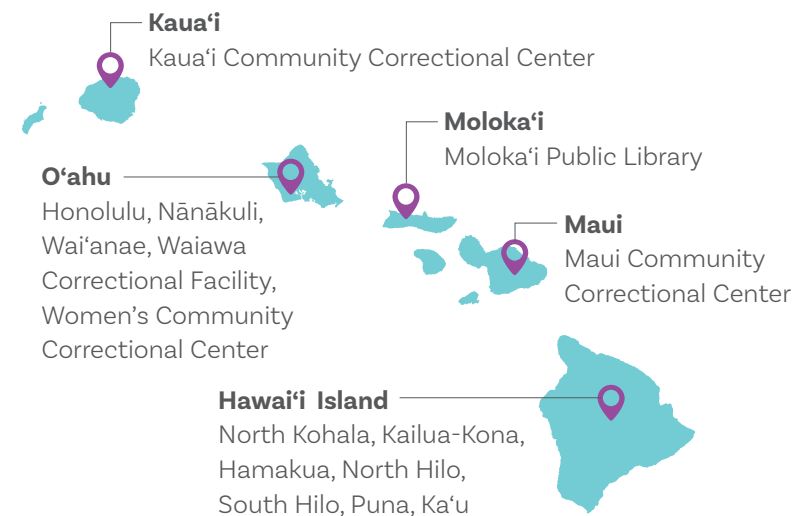
**Shannon Murphy**,  
*Executive Administrator*

**Shondell Palacio**,  
*Mā'ili Site Assistant*

**Leolani Pias**, *Assistant*

# Where we *Serve*:

**WE FOCUS** our efforts in Hawai'i's communities with the greatest needs.



# By the *Numbers*:



**BASED ON RESEARCH FINDINGS** about the significance of reading, the mission of Read To Me International (RTMI) is to share the love and joy of reading aloud. Our goal is that every child will be read to every day. Since its incorporation in 1996, RTMI has seen children grow academically, socially, and emotionally when adults commit to reading daily to them.

**RTMI SERVES AND SUPPORTS AN AVERAGE OF 7,000 PEOPLE ANNUALLY THROUGH PROGRAMS, PRESENTATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS. THE FOLLOWING IS A SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACTIVITIES THIS PAST YEAR:**

# 2,400

children attended a read aloud workshop hosted by RTMI

# 700

books were distributed to children participating in County of Hawai'i's Summer Fun Program across seven of its nine districts

# 375

children's books and audio recordings were sent home to children of incarcerated parents and grandparents to strengthen family relationships

# 175

educators, parents, and caregivers attended RTMI's annual literacy conference

# 125

RTMI10 program alumni and their families attended alumni events to further family engagement

# 30

formerly homeless families, including 50 children, attended quarterly Readers Rallies

# Our Programs and *Impact:*



Volunteers coach participants throughout the writing and illustration process.

## HAKU MO'OLELO (To "Compose Stories")

A parent-coaching curriculum designed for residents of the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC). Participants write, illustrate, and record their own children's storybooks, which are sent home to their children along with the audio recording.

- Over 60 books published
- 100% of participants agree or strongly agree that they learned more ways to engage their children in reading through the program

## READERS RALLIES

A program for formerly homeless families living at Kahauiki Village, an affordable plantation-style community. All residents are invited to quarterly readers rallies, which combine read aloud activities with musical entertainment.

- 30 families attended Readers Rallies
- 120 books were given to children, who chose their own books at the rally



## READ, REVIVE, RESTORE

A session for residents of State community correctional facilities to read and audio-record age-appropriate books for their children. Incarcerated parents record reading aloud a child's storybook and send both the book and audio recording to their children.

- 375 books and recordings were sent home to children from incarcerated family members
- 90% of Maui Community Correctional Center program participants plan to read aloud more because of the program

» "I learned that adjusting your tone and body language is very important when reading to a child."

~ Hasanna, Participant



## RTM10 ("READ TO ME 10 MINUTES A DAY")

A weekly comprehensive parent-coaching program offered to families in Nānākuli and Wai'anae. Coaches provide parents with reading strategies and resources to practice in class, then apply it with their children at home and school.

- 100% of participants report having more confidence when reading aloud to their children
- 100% of participants read to their children at least three times a week and incorporated new read aloud tips learned in class

» I attribute a lot of their success to my application of the strategies learned from RTM10. I still read to them, even though they can now read independently. *Reading is now more of an evening ritual* often accompanied with a bedtime prayer."

~ Egelagi, RTM10 program graduate and father of four children

## READ TO ME LITERACY CONFERENCE

An annual, national-quality conference providing educators, parents, and caregivers with read-aloud strategies and resources to nurture and grow children's love of reading.

- 95% of conferee survey respondents identified a strategy, technique, tool, or resource they will use with children related to an area of reading instruction or guided oral reading
- 100% of participants reported that the conference met their professional development needs



Vice Principal Suzanne Ochi (left) and Principal Kasie Kaleohano (right) turn conference learning into action at Waiākeawaena Elementary.

» "We used *what we learned* at the Read To Me International conference for our opening inclusion activity!"

~ Suzanne Ochi, Vice Principal at Waiākeawaena Elementary

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is *reading aloud to children.*"

~ The National Commission on Reading: Becoming a Nation of Readers

# Major Funders (\$300+):

Aimoku & Dorien McClellan  
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 ALTRES  
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 Avalon Group  
 Beta Beta Gamma Foundation  
 Capitol Consultants of Hawai'i  
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 Valerie Kato  
 Wenona Harris  
 Women's Fund of Hawai'i



## Financials:

For Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)

<b>Revenue and Support</b>		
	Government Grants and Contracts	\$200,000
	Fundraising Events	\$108,500
	Contributions	\$116,762
	Other Income	\$29,232
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>		<b>\$454,494</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Staffing	\$192,063
	General Operating	\$85,649
	Programs and Conference	\$54,727
	Community Events	\$520
	Fundraising	\$19,272
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$352,231</b>
	Net assets, beginning of year	\$314,258
	Net assets, end of year	\$415,614
<b>Change in net assets</b>		<b>\$101,356</b>

In the preparation of this report, we try to avoid errors and omissions. Please accept our apologies in advance if any are found and contact us for corrections.



“At the time we take our last breath, I don’t think we will take inventory of our physical possessions. Instead, I think we will reflect upon the depth and breadth of the *contribution we’ve made to the lives of others* and embrace and appreciate and be steeped in thankfulness for a life well-lived.”

~ Duane Kurisu, Founder and Chairman of aio; Organizer of Kahauiki Village

Thank you also to the many other caring individuals and organizations that provided in-kind items, services, or cash to Read To Me International. We appreciate your support to share the love and joy of reading aloud. Please see our website for a full listing of donors.



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@readtomeintl  
#readtomeintl

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Phone: (808) 955-7600

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[readtomeintl.org](http://readtomeintl.org)

Read To Me International (RTMI) is an IRS Section 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity incorporated in 1996. RTMI provides free programs and presentations to promote the love and joy of reading aloud so that Hawai'i's families can benefit from reading aloud together. Our core values which guide our work are service, caring and love, and belief in the human potential.

Read To Me International thanks its many partners for their collaboration and support to share the love and joy of reading aloud.



Our annual report is printed as a community service by **RICOH**