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HAWAII PIZZA HUT AWARDS THREE LITERACY GRANTS

(September 9, 2013) Hawaii Pizza Hut, through the Hawaii Pizza Hut Literacy Fund at Hawai'i Community Foundation, has awarded more than \$30,000 to three organizations working to increase the literacy rate among Hawaii's children.

Book Trust, a Maui group that provides books to public school children in an effort to encourage a lifelong love of learning, received \$7,000 from the Pizza Hut Literacy grant. Book Trust will make it possible for students to buy up to \$7 worth of books through book fairs.

The Honolulu Theatre for Youth will receive \$15,000 to be used toward a program that trains teachers to use drama techniques to bring reading exercises to life for their students. Teachers learn how to use drama and theatre techniques to enhance their classes, with HTY instructors available for follow-up coaching.

A grant of \$10,200 was also awarded to **Read to Me International**, which runs a workshop designed to help educators, librarians, parents and those working with children from ages 4 to 10. Read to Me will bring in guest speaker and children's author Mem Fox to take part in the workshop. The purpose is to show how reading aloud to children helps them develop their writing skills.

Pizza Hut has 37 locations in Hawaii and has raised millions of dollars for literacy programs since 1992. Hawaii Pizza Hut has been doing business in the islands for over 40 years and is "Hawaii's Favorite Pizza."

With 97 years of community service, the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) is the leading philanthropic institution in the state. HCF is a steward of more than 650 funds, including more than 180 scholarship funds, created by donors who desire to transform lives and improve communities. In 2012, more than \$45 million in grants and contracts were distributed statewide. HCF also serves as a resource on community issues and trends in the nonprofit sector. For more information, visit www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org.

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