



NEWS

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PIZZA HUT HAWAII DONATES \$60,000 TO READ TO ME INTERNATIONAL

HONOLULU (June 13, 2003) – Read to Me International Foundation, a Hawaii-based nonprofit organization that actively promotes reading aloud to children, has received a grant of \$60,000 from the Hawaii Pizza Hut Literacy Fund. Monies will be used to fund a variety of programs, primarily the Read to Me Conference, June 19-20, 2003 at the Hawaii Convention Center.

“Through Pizza Hut Hawaii’s generosity and support of literacy programs in Hawaii, we’re able to present the second Read to Me Conference for parents, educators and service providers,” said Liane Kam, Executive Director of the Read to Me International Foundation. Added the Foundation’s Board of Directors President Lynne Waihee, “This year’s Read to Me Conference is expected to draw some 600 participants who will go back to their homes, classrooms and programs excited about applying strategies and ideas to enrich their read aloud activities with their children.”

Part of the grant will be used towards the sponsorship of the Leeward “Run and Read for Literacy” event, a one-mile walk/run followed by read alouds, book-based craft activities and a book fair. The Foundation also will produce a 50-minute “Read to Me” CD that will feature local children’s books and songs that will be read aloud by local

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celebrities. Pizza Hut Hawaii will distribute the CDs through the company's statewide locations. Other programs funded by the grant include read aloud presentations in schools and communities statewide; expansion of the Foundation's newsletter and website; and a Prison Read to Me project that will help incarcerated women at the Women's Correctional Facility to become more involved in their children's literacy development and share the love of reading through their own recording of books on tape.

Read to Me International Foundation was incorporated in 1996 and has its roots in a partnership created in 1992 by the Governor's Council for Literacy and Lifelong Learning and the Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise Chapter. The Foundation's mission is to share the love and joy of reading aloud and a goal of having every child read to at least 10 minutes every day. It actively promotes reading aloud through local and national presentations, multi-media campaigns, educational materials, and various project such as the Read to Me conference and literacy events. For more information on the conference or other programs, call Read to Me International at 955-7600.

Pizza Hut Hawaii, a kama'aina company since 1971, has 46 locations in Hawaii, 5 in Guam and 1 in Saipan. Pizza Hut Hawaii is a strong advocate for literacy, and since 1992, the company has successfully raised more than \$3,000,000 for Hawaii literacy programs through its popular "Carryout for Literacy" campaign.

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