



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Makaha Elementary School

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November 18, 2015

Mr. Jed Gaines, Founder
Read Aloud America, Inc.
1314 South King Street, Suite G4
Honolulu, HI 96814

Dear Mr. Gaines,

Makaha Elementary School recently completed our last session of the Read Aloud Program (RAP) and we would like to express our deepest appreciation for your work in helping our families build stronger connections between the home and school.

Our parents and families may have initially been hooked into attending RAP nights because of the fun, food and prizes that make each evening enjoyable and exciting, but many parents have shared they returned to follow-up sessions because they were seeing a positive change in their child's attitude towards reading and school. Presenter Gino Pascual deserves high praise for engaging our families over the twelve-week journey, and your dedicated staff and volunteers also need to be acknowledged for their outstanding commitment in helping to make each RAP night a success.

As educators, our world centers on the time we have with our children in school; but in reality, our children spend most of their time at home. What makes RAP outstanding and supportive for our teachers and school is that the program models for parents **what** they can do at home, and **how** they can make reading an enjoyable family activity. RAP has provided our parents simple, but effective behaviors that they can use to change their child's reading attitudes and skills. There is no greater role model for a child than their parent, and RAP has shared a solid framework to help our parents increase their academic interaction with their children at home.

This is the fourth-time Makaha Elementary School has participated in the Read Aloud Program, and we continue to partner with Read Aloud America because it is the most successful school-parent initiative that we know of. There is no other program like it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nelson Shigeta".

Nelson Shigeta
Principal