



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AIEA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
99-370 MOANALUA ROAD
AIEA, HAWAII 96701

May 25, 2009

Jed Gaines, Founder/President
Read Aloud America
1314 S. King Street #G4
Honolulu, HI 96814

Dear Mr. Jed Gaines:

My name is Ed Oshiro, principal at Aiea Elementary School. Aiea services a population that has the highest percentage (83%) of Free and Reduced Population and the highest percentage (33%) of ELL in the Central District! This means that our children are very poor and needy. Ninety percent of our population lives in Public Housing (mostly from Halawa Housing). With these populations, we are always looking at ways to motivate our children to read and give a message of HOPE and DREAMS to our children.

We just finished **six fantastic sessions** with the Read Aloud Program (RAP)! All six sessions were built around the importance and enjoyment of **READING!** Did RAP deliver this message of reading? **ABSOLUTELY!** Our kids and parents came out in droves! Our attendance ranged from a high of 235 to a low of 166. I told Jed Gaines, the founder of Read Aloud America, that I would be ecstatic if we had 200 people in attendance. This number was surpassed for most of the RAP sessions. The comments made by parents and kids ranged from "excellent" to "the best thing that has happened at Aiea". I saw families enjoying reading **TOGETHER!** **WOW!** The entire program is very well organized and very well thought out. The volunteer readers were very good also. The overwhelming majority of people expressed their desires to have RAP back at Aiea next year. At Aiea, we believe that this is a **PLACE WHERE DREAMS BEGIN.** Well, RAP is definitely a great way to encourage reading and thus fosters **HOPE** and **DREAMS** of success. We need to give our children every opportunity to succeed in life.

I emphatically endorse RAP for all schools! If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 483-7200, extension 223.

Sincerely yours,

Ed Oshiro

Principal
Aiea Elementary School