

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



SILib-10-072
RICHARD BURNS
STATE LIBRARIAN

STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 16, 2009

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

Dear Jed:

The Hawaii State Public Library System and Read Aloud America share a common vision: families spending quality time together enjoying the pleasure and fulfillment of reading and being read to. As Hawaii's State Librarian, I hope to make that vision a reality, and to help find ways to motivate families to take advantage of their libraries' many resources. Because of our partnership with Read Aloud America's Read Aloud Program (RAP), that reality is becoming more and more common.

Since 2006, RAP has partnered with HSPLS to encourage families to visit their local public library, enjoy its resources and meet its librarians, check out a book, and share the power of story with each other in their homes. By providing simple incentives like the chance to win picture books, novels, or even an encyclopedia set, RAP adds more fun and excitement to the library experience.

Families bring their orange RAP bookmarks to the library, excited to explore the library's wealth of materials and resources, and to receive that coveted stamp on their bookmark when they borrow a book. With your rule that individuals can get one stamp per day, families visit libraries daily, finding new, fun books during each visit! It is a pleasure to see so many people enjoying the library and utilizing it for one of its primary purposes: the joy of reading.

As of April 30, 2009, RAP has brought 6,468 people to libraries across the state 18,224 times! In doing so, RAP has motivated 1,188 people to obtain library cards. More people using library cards and more people having fun in the library indicates a positive change in attitudes and in the home – families are bonding through the sheer joy and pleasure of reading. Read Aloud America's RAP program has helped inspire this change.

Our partnership is a win-win situation: libraries experience increased patronage and families enjoy the world of benefits available inside our walls. Thank you for creating and developing Read Aloud America's RAP Library Project: now more than ever families across the islands are experiencing the joy available at Hawaii's public libraries!

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Burns".

Richard Burns
State Librarian