

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Share the Love  
and Joy of  
**Reading  
Aloud**



  
**Read To Me**<sup>®</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL



“With Hawai’i’s early childhood education still in limbo, it is so important that we support organizations like Read To Me International. They have the programs to educate, support and inspire the importance of reading aloud to our Keiki from the earliest age. I have been a long time supporter of this organization because of the critical role they play in developing our children for a better community.”

Sharon Shiroma Brown, Trustee, Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation



# Connecting in New Ways

The 2021-2022 year brought new hope to our State as the wearing of masks because of COVID-19 and social distancing were finally lifted. Although some in-person meetings began taking place, including the opening of schools, there was still a hybrid of in-person and Zoom meetings occurring.

Highlights of the year included the following:

- Maintaining our RTM10 (Read-To-Me 10 Minutes/Day) parent-coaching program both virtually and in-person thanks to RTMI Program and Outreach Director Nicki Brown and her assistants Lauren Remular and Karla Tactay Teixeira.
- Providing “professional development” opportunities for RTM10 alumni
- Engaging families in drive-by activities.
- A successful virtual RTMI Conference featuring illustrator Minh Lê and author Kate DiCamillo, offered two plenary sessions and two concurrent sessions, providing attendants with ten selections of workshops at no cost to them.

The year ended on a bittersweet note. Our Executive Director Kara Kusunoki, who left us in a good financial situation after serving Read To Me International for over four years, accepted a position at another organization. We wish her well in her new endeavors!

This year, RTMI held a virtual annual fundraiser where donors received a hot meal delivered to them and could view a pre-recorded program moderated by RTMI Program & Outreach Director Nicki Brown. Also, an “unconference” virtual meeting in April 2022 featured a one-hour workshop featuring the NEA’s “Big Read” campaign, which allowed participants from the neighbor islands to join in at no cost to them.

With careful spending and intentional planning, the year concluded favorably. Investments were left intact because of wise decisions made early on by the Board. Kudos to Kara Kusunoki and her team—Nicki Brown and assistants Karla Tactay Texeira and Lauren Remular—for seeing us successfully through this past pandemic year, and for providing a seamless system of delivery. A special mahalo also goes to the RTMI Board and to Chairperson Jo Anne Vieira for their unwavering commitment when we most needed it!

Warmest aloha,

Lynne Waihee  
Founder

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Member

## STAFF MEMBERS

**Kara Kusunoki**  
Executive Director

**Nicki Brown**  
Program & Community Outreach Director

**Lauren Remular**  
Program & Site Assistant

**Karla Teixeira**  
Program & Site Assistant



# Programs and Events

July 2021 – June 2022

## Readers Rallies

Readers Rallies provide families the opportunity to engage in a read aloud and activities like games, crafts, and musical entertainment.

**78** families attended Readers Rallies.

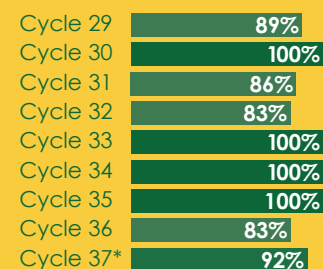
**“I will definitely be engaging them more using PEER/CROWD.”**

**Maelyssa Paakaula, Readers Rally Parent Attendee**

## RTM10 (Read To Me 10 Minutes A Day)

A weekly comprehensive parent-coaching program offered to families across the state of Hawai'i. Coaches provide parents with reading strategies and resources to practice in class, then apply them with their children at home and school. RTM10 delivered \*8.5 cycles of RTM10 across the State of Hawai'i. \*RTM10 delivered a summer cycle that began in June 2022 and completed in July 2022 (two separate fiscal years).

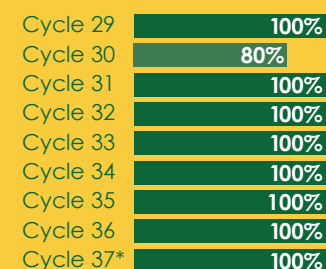
Participants report having more confidence when reading aloud to their children.



**“I’ve felt more confident in helping my children love reading and I hope that we will continue to have conversations about what we read. I’m also getting a better idea about what books they will enjoy as they get older.”**

**Laura Wadahara, RTM10 Graduate**

Participants read to their children at least three times a week and incorporated new read aloud tips learned in class.



## LENA Start Program

LENA Start is an evidence-based community program designed to engage families and help them learn how to increase conversation with their children during the first few years of life.

**“Definitely working on creating safe spaces for our children to be themselves and encourage their reading and love of reading through reading aloud and engagement of storytelling and stories in general!”**

**Jerrica Kila, INPEACE Keiki Steps Parent Participant (Parent attendee)**

Participants report having more confidence when reading aloud to their children.



Participants incorporated Dialogic Reading strategies during their read aloud.



## Kūpuna and Keiki Pen Pals Program

A letter exchange program connecting Kūpuna and Keiki through the written word.

**15** Kūpuna and 15 Keiki participated in the program. Kūpuna were 65+ years old and Keiki were in the 2nd Grade Inclusion Class.

Keiki participants showed increases in the following areas:

**100%** of Keiki enjoy independent reading.

**100%** of Keiki enjoy reading aloud.

**99%** of Keiki enjoy creative writing and now know how to address an envelope.

**“Keiki know how to structure a letter. I’ve been seeing that the keiki have been catching on to things (in class) and it’s been improving learning in the classroom.”**

**Ms. Bonnie, Educational Assistant**

**100%** of Kūpuna expressed their enjoyment of the program and willingness to participate again.

**“I loved learning about dialogic reading. Now I will be able to teach the parents that I am working with about it and hopefully get more parents on board with reading at home with their children.”**

**Lori Marinescu, Lead Family Development Specialist at South Hills Interface Movement (Program Partner attendee)**

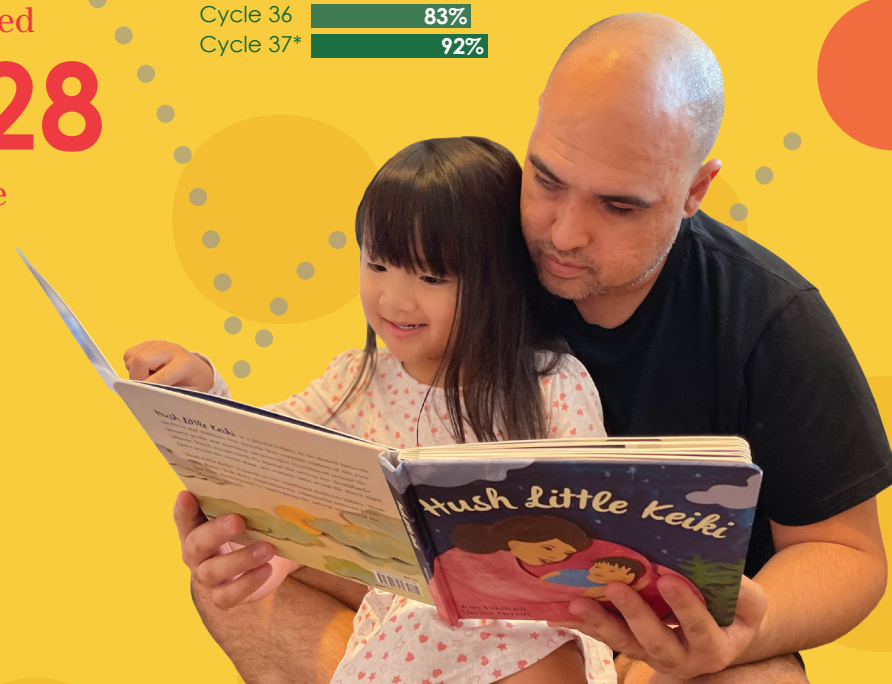
## Literacy Conference

An annual, national-quality conference providing educators, parents, and caregivers with read-aloud strategies and resources to nurture and grow children's love of reading.

**100%** of conferee survey respondents identified a strategy, technique, tool, or resource they will use with children related to an area of reading instruction or guided oral reading.

**95%** of participants reported that the conference met their professional development needs.

We served  
**3,628**  
people



# Funders (\$300+)

“Read to Me provides an important bridge that helps inmates remain engaged with their children in a meaningful way. Through Read Revive Restore and Haku Mo‘olelo, hundreds of children in Hawai‘i have been able to reconnect with moms and dads while serving their sentences. Moreover, the positive relationship with their children motivates the inmates to focus on their rehabilitation programs, thereby reducing crime.”

Ted I. Sakai, Read To Me International Foundation Board Member

Adventist Health Castle Medical Center  
Aileen Kusunoki  
Alan and JoAnn Oshima  
Alexander & Baldwin, LLC  
Alexander Korovessis  
Atherton Family Foundation  
Bank of Hawai‘i  
Capitol Consultants of Hawai‘i LLP  
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City and County Grant in Aid  
DataHouse Consulting, Inc.  
David Lee  
Dean and Jodi Yamamoto  
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Denis Mee-Lee  
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Dorien McClellan  
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Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Susan Kam Yokoyama  
The Queen’s Health Systems  
Wenona Harris  
Wilman Matsumoto  
WKF, Inc.  
Women’s Fund of Hawai‘i

Thank you also to the many other caring individuals and organizations that provided in-kind items and services to Read To Me International. We appreciate your support to share the love and joy of reading aloud. Please see our website [www.readtomeintl.org/ways-to-give](http://www.readtomeintl.org/ways-to-give) for a full listing of donors.

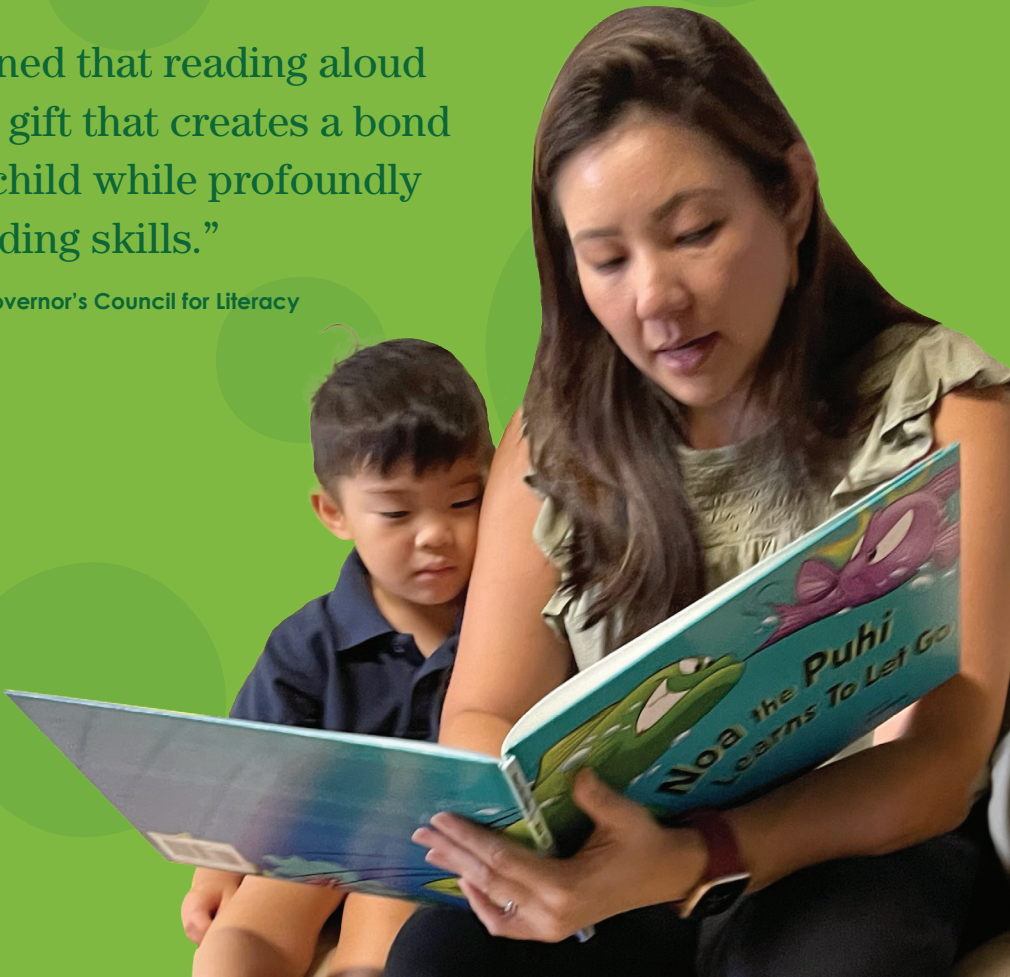
# Financials

For Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)  
\*Unaudited

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Grants and Contracts	\$ 322,000
Fundraising Campaigns	43,000
Contributions	30,000
Other Income	3,000
Total Revenue and Support	\$ 398,000
EXPENSES	
Staffing (Program & Administrative)	\$ 183,000
Programs and Events	22,000
General Operating	67,500
Fundraising	500
Total Expenses	\$ 273,000
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 731,000
Net assets, end of year	\$ 856,000

“Over time I have learned that reading aloud to children is a gift, a gift that creates a bond between reader and child while profoundly enhancing keiki’s reading skills.”

Sue Berg, Former Program Director, Governor’s Council for Literacy and Lifelong Learning







# Read To Me<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL



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@readtomeintl #readtomeintl

Read To Me International (RTMI) is an IRS Section 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity incorporated in 1996. RTMI provides free programs and presentations to promote the love and joy of reading aloud so that Hawai'i's families can benefit from reading aloud together. Our core values which guide our work are service, caring and love, and belief in the human potential.

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*In the preparation of this report, we try to avoid errors and omissions. Please accept our apologies in advance if any are found and contact us for corrections.*