



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
MAKAHA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

84-200 ALA NA'AUAO PLACE
WAIANAE, HAWAII 96792

May 19, 2010

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

Dear Jed and Friends at Read Aloud America,

What a wonderful program you have in Read Aloud America! We have always promoted reading and literacy at Makaha Elementary School, and the Read Aloud Program (RAP) has surely supported and enhanced the efforts of our teachers, students, and our families. Judging by the positive comments shared by parents and guardians after every session, it is obvious that they are hearing your message about being good reading role models for their children. In addition to the written feedback, parents have also shared their fondness of RAP at meetings, conferences, and in informal conversations!

It has been delightful to be with parents in such a positive setting – it has provided an additional experience for the entire school ohana – teachers, staff, students, and parents – to be together and enjoy an evening of reading for fun. We know that many of our families continue to limit television and spend more time reading with their children. . . and love it! I've heard wonderful stories about how attendance at RAP sessions has changed the quality of family evenings at home.

We are certain that RAP at Makaha has also increased the opportunity to have more robust conversations about books and literature in school. Both in the classroom and out, I hear discussions about literature, and it is most heartwarming to hear students recommending books to each other. Students have formed their own informal book clubs based on the 39 Clues series and enjoy it so much that the librarian has extended their borrowing privileges beyond the school's guidelines.

Much mahalo for providing another arena for the school and home to come together and share the love of reading! We wish you continued success; please know that Read Aloud America has made a lasting impression at Makaha Elementary School. Thank you again for bringing your mission of "Building Families of Lifetime Readers" to Makaha!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Okamura".

Lynn Okamura
Principal