



Proclamation

Presented to

Reading Is Fundamental Day

WHEREAS, Reading is Fundamental (RIF) is the nation's largest non-profit children's literacy organization, providing access to high-quality books and literacy resources for children in need so that they may discover the joy and value of reading; and

WHEREAS, RIF was founded in 1966 in Washington, D.C. and since then has distributed more than 412 million new, free books to 40 million children in low-income communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of children living in poverty do not own any books, 65 percent of fourth graders read at or below the basic level, and 80 percent of low-income children are at risk of falling behind in school; and

WHEREAS, RIF aims to positively change the future of our children and our society by transforming lives through the power of book and by breaking the endless cycle of low achievement due to lack of access to books; and

WHEREAS, Reading is Fundamental, Honolulu, Inc. was founded in 1978 and has since distributed over 555,000 books locally, and currently serves 4,700 kindergarten through third grade students in sixteen public elementary schools on O'ahu; and

WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of children serviced by RIF, Honolulu, Inc. qualify for free or reduced price lunch under federal guidelines; and in 2015 alone, twelve RIF programs in the State of Hawai'i distributed over 20,000 books to these children in need; and

WHEREAS, RIF, Honolulu, Inc. is staffed entirely by volunteers who visit classrooms three times a year, conducting activities to encourage reading, allowing each child to choose a brand new book to keep and complementing our school instructional programs; and

WHEREAS, RIF celebrates its 50th anniversary in recognition of the organization's contribution to the families of our State and partnership with our local communities;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim the September 14, 2016 as

"READING IS FUNDAMENTAL DAY"

in Hawai'i and encourage the citizens of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the value of reading programs for children, emphasizing a family focus on daily reading and lifelong learning, and empowering children to read, learn and grow.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, on this fourteenth day of September 2016.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i