



Kristi Yamaguchi's
ALWAYS DREAM



2023 - 24 | Hawai'i

Impact Report

Inspiring Families, One Book at a Time

Aloha kākou,

As we look back on the 2023-24 school year, we are filled with gratitude. The strides we've made are a testament to the dedication of our team, the unwavering support of our donors, and the hard work of every 'ohana in our Always Reading program.

This year, we proudly partnered with 13 schools across O'ahu, Moloka'i, and Hawai'i Island, reaching 1,235 keiki and their family members through our program. Guided by our local Book Coaches and utilizing our Always Reading tablets and digital libraries, families immersed themselves in a world of books, fostering strong at-home reading habits and giving their child the boost they need to prepare for kindergarten, first grade, and beyond.

In 2023-24, our Dream Team welcomed the addition of several new part-time positions - two Book Coaches and an Operations Manager. We were also thrilled that two of our colleagues moved from part-time roles to full-time positions in the organization. Increasing our team capacity doesn't end there. Looking ahead to the 2024-25 year, we anticipate adding three more positions to ensure we can meet our goals of serving more individuals each year.

We're also thrilled to share our ambitious plans for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. We are partnering with 19 schools and serving over 2,400 individuals, getting us closer to our Impact 2027 goal of impacting 4,000 individuals in Hawai'i annually by the end of 2027. Notably, this will be the first year that we'll partner with schools on Maui, bringing our Always Reading program to two elementary schools in Lāhainā. It is a true honor to be invited into this community.

In the following pages, you will find detailed program data, survey results, and testimonials from our Always Reading families and teachers. Their experiences are invaluable as we continue to refine and expand our efforts.

We are deeply grateful for your continued kōkua and partnership. The work we do would not be possible without your generosity and belief in our mission. Together, we are making a lasting impact on the lives of many, one book at a time.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Mahalo nui loa,



Kristi Yamaguchi
FOUNDER & CHAIR



Aarika Riddle
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Always Reading

What a year it was for our Always Dream keiki and families! Our impact stretched across three islands, 13 schools, and over 1,200 individuals.



13
Schools



41
Classrooms



494
Students



486,801
Minutes Reading



5,262
Hard-copy books gifted
to students



70,434
Books Read



80%
of students qualify for the free or
reduced-price lunch program



1,235
Total Individuals Served



“ My favorite part of the program was ending the day with a few books with my son. He found new interests while reading all of these different books. ”

- Always Reading Parent

Reading Routines Start with the 'Ohana

Families are often a child's first - and best - teacher. Helping children build a love of reading is a proven strategy for student success, which is why we make it our goal to increase family knowledge around the importance of reading with their child.

93%



of parents/caregivers report that Always Reading helped them understand that family reading helps their child's brain grow

96%



of parents/caregivers report that they play an important role in creating reading routines for their child

83%



of parents/caregivers report they learned something new from the text messages sent by their Book Coach

93%



of parents/caregivers report they are better able to help their child develop a love of reading



“ The Always Reading program has let me enjoy more quality family time with my daughter through the power of reading and books. ”

- Always Reading Parent

Increasing Engagement with Books

Strong involvement from caregivers and a diverse selection of books on their tablets helps children develop an early love of reading. Students who enjoy reading are more likely to be motivated to engage in their classroom and homework, leading to more academic success.

78%



of parents/caregivers report their child looks at books with them more times per week since participating in Always Reading

93%



of parents/caregivers report that participating in Always Reading has made it easier to find books their child enjoys

95%

of parents/caregivers report that participating in Always Reading has made it easier to make read aloud time interesting for their child

“ Dorothy lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies, with Uncle Henry... ”

94%



of families report their child shows a greater interest in reading

86%



of parents/caregivers report that participating in Always Reading has made it easier to find time to read with their child



“ The Always Reading program pushed me to carve out 30 minutes a day to read to not just my 6 year old but also my 3 year old and our newborn. It's a whole family event that they love!! ”

– Always Reading Parent

Providing Family Support That Makes a Difference

By providing educational tools, resources, and personalized support from our Book Coaches, we help family members understand how to help their young child develop strong foundational literacy skills. Empowered and supported family members provide a solid base for a child's academic success and healthy development and growth.

85%



of parents/caregivers report that they found their Book Coach to be a valuable part of the program

50,376

total curriculum text messages sent to Always Reading family members from our Book Coaches



“ Our favorite part of the program was the messages they sent to encourage parents to read with their child. ”

–Always Reading Parent

83%

of parents/caregivers report that they found it useful when their Book Coach sent a message checking on their family's reading activity



“ I love the story time sessions! I also appreciate the book collections. It helps encourage more reading at home and is helpful to our curriculum. ”

– Always Reading Teacher

Looking Ahead

The 2024-25 school year will be our 10-year anniversary of serving keiki in Hawai'i and will also bring us halfway to our Impact 2027 goal as we introduce our program to over 2,400 individuals! We look forward to implementing our new Kaiāulu Model at Nā'ālehu Elementary School in Ka'ū to support families in that community who may have geographical barriers that limit internet and mobile connectivity or impact school attendance. We'll also introduce our Always Reading program to new areas of the state including Lāhainā and Wai'ānae.

Reading is Better with Friends

In January 2024, Kristi teamed up with 49ers legend, 4-time Super Bowl Champion, and Farrington High School graduate Jesse Sapolu for a special read-aloud to students at our partner school Linapuni Elementary on O'ahu.



“ Kristi Yamaguchi’s Always Dream has been integral in increasing our early literacy efforts through family engagement. Thanks to the work of Always Dream, our students have greater access to high-quality books, and our families have the tools needed to build strong reading foundations at home so that students can thrive in the classroom. ”

– Keith Hayashi, Superintendent, Hawai'i State Department of Education





Waimānalo Loves Literacy Week

Our team was honored to take part in the Waimānalo Loves Literacy Week by handing out summer reading tips, free books, and leading a special guest reading for keiki and their families!





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