

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nareit Hawaii Donates \$20,000 to Support Maui Food Bank's Aloha Backpack Buddies Program

HONOLULU – Jan. 13, 2022 – In tribute to Maui Food Bank and its ongoing efforts to keep children from going hungry in Maui County, Nareit Hawaii has donated \$20,000 to support its Aloha Backpack Buddies program.

Focused on students in need of hunger relief, the Aloha Backpack Buddies program serves 21 schools on Maui and Molokai and is scheduled to provide more than 90,000 meals in 2022. Fifteen thousand backpacks containing six healthy meals will be distributed to students needing assistance.

"Thank you so much to Nareit Hawaii for helping to feed the hungry in Maui County. We sincerely appreciate this gift of \$20,000 and how it will help feed the children who benefit from the Aloha Backpack Buddies program," said Marlene Rice, development director for Maui Food Bank.

Nareit Hawaii Executive Director Gladys Quinto Marrone said, "Aloha Backpack Buddies is a wonderful initiative to keep Maui County schoolchildren healthy and happy during these trying times. We are honored to support this keiki-focused program and grateful for how the Maui Food Bank is fulfilling its mission for the children and families of Maui County. We made this donation on behalf of REITs in Hawaii during the celebration of the holidays to help provide meals for keiki this coming year."

The Maui Food Bank is Maui County's primary safety net for providing safe and nutritious food to those struggling with food scarcity. Currently, the Food Bank serves 12,700 people a month who may not know where their next meal is coming from, including those living in the county's most remote areas, like Hana, Molokai, and Lanai.

Nareit Hawaii represents the interests of REITs in Hawaii and their participation in civic, community, and policy initiatives to benefit residents statewide, while also supporting community and charitable organizations that address social issues of importance. REITs are long-term property holders that own, renovate and manage affordable housing projects, commercial buildings, medical facilities, shopping centers, cell phone towers, public storage facilities, and hotels in Hawaii.

In October 2021, the Nareit Foundation and Nareit Hawaii presented a \$75,000 grant to Molokai Baptist Church that is being utilized to dramatically improve the living conditions for three Molokai families. In 2019, the Nareit Foundation and Nareit Hawaii presented a \$100,000 grant to Na Hale O Maui to support the building of 12 affordable homes in Lahaina for residents providing essential public services to the community, such as teachers, first responders, health care workers and county workers.

Media Contact:

Patrick Dugan: (808) 741-2712
Patrick.Dugan@AnthologyGroup.com