

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **HAWAII RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS RECEIVES COOKE FOUNDATION GRANT TO EVALUATE NEW TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM AT KOHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Hawaii Resources for School Success (HRSS) announced today that it has received a \$25,000 grant from the Cooke Foundation to support evaluation of its Schools Attuned Plus Mentoring Program at Kohala Elementary School.

Beth Custer, HRSS Program Director, said the funds will be used to initiate an independent, three year evaluation of the program, which will help the organization understand how the program impacts students, teachers, parents, and the school culture. The evaluation will assess how the Schools Attuned teacher training and teacher mentoring program has contributed to academic improvement at Kohala Elementary, and it will help decision makers determine whether the Program should be expanded to other Hawaii public elementary schools in the future.

HRSS focuses on increasing student success via early identification of and effective intervention for capable students who struggle in school. HRSS is the flagship program of North Hawaii Women and Children's Services (NHWCS), a Waimea-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1997 whose vision is to ensure that "*Hawaii students and families have hopeful futures through state-of-the-art education.*" The mission of HRSS is to "*Help diverse learners succeed in school and life.*"

HRSS and Kohala Elementary School entered into an agreement in August 2007, to train all of the KES teachers by 2009. To date, 23 teachers have been trained in this model and one more will be attending the teacher training sponsored by HRSS July 9 – 12, 2008, held in Honoka'a.

The teacher training is provided by the *All Kinds of Minds Institute* and is supported in part by grants from the Atherton Family Foundation and from the Charles and Helen Schwab Charitable Trust. Schwab has been a large contributor to HRSS, supporting "diffusion of the AKOM model" on the Big Island with a \$100,000 grant in 2007.

The Cooke Foundation, founded in 1920 by Anna C. Cooke, "*supports wealthy endeavors in the community that the (Cooke) family feels will make a significant difference in the betterment and welfare of the people of Hawai'i.*"

For more information about HRSS or Schools Attuned teacher professional training, please visit [www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org](http://www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org) or call 885-9318.