



Major Accomplishments in 2007

The HRSS Model School Program

- ✓ Provided financial assistance for six teachers to attend **Schools Attuned** (SA) teacher training on Maui in July 2007
- ✓ Mentored same six teachers to help complete their follow-up training including how to use online SA tools
- ✓ Launched the Model School by signing partnership agreement with Kohala Elementary School (KES) August, 2007
- ✓ Financially supported 18 KES teachers who will attend the SA training at KES January 3-8, 2008

- ✓ Growing administrators' & teachers' awareness of benefits of the AKOM model through meetings with six other North Hawaii schools
- ✓ Growing community awareness of effective strategies to help diverse learners through community meetings



SA Facilitator Tim Cox
training local teachers October 2007

16 Students Receive Financial Assistance in 2007

The HRSS Assessment Program

- ✓ Provided 16 students with in-depth multi disciplinary assessments
- ✓ Provided 50% financial assistance for all students totaling \$18,800
- ✓ Provided an additional \$12,320 in financial assistance for families with additional need
- ✓ Provided six-week and three-month post-assessment parent/student/teacher follow up meetings for 12 students

- ✓ Broadened scope of services: HRSS now offers "attuning" and "mini" assessments, thus maximizing resources and reaching more students
- ✓ Began mentoring relationship with the Yellin Center (see www.yellincenter.com)



Learning Specialist Judy Stevenson with student Sofia on assessment day.

Educators and Parents

Do you want to learn strategies to help struggling students?

Learn how Schools Attuned provides specific strategies for:

- ◆ Weak attention controls
- ◆ Reduced remembering
- ◆ Chronic misunderstanding
- ◆ Deficient output
- ◆ Delayed skill acquisition
- ◆ Poor adaptation

HRSS is sponsoring *Helping Struggling Students*

with Gair McCullough,
National Facilitator for
All Kinds of Minds, Schools Attuned

Who: Educators, Parents, and Public welcome
Date: Thursday, January 10, 2008,
Time: 5:30–7:00 p.m.
Place: W.M. Keck Headquarters, in the Hualalai Conference Room

Please Join Us!



The HRSS Model School Program will be sponsoring a Schools Attuned teacher training with National Schools Attuned Facilitator, Gair McCullough, **January 3-8, 2008.**

Student Point of View

The following is an interview with assessment student Henry Hamilton. Henry came to HRSS while in 3rd grade and is now a 6th grader.

What brought you to first seek HRSS services?

Well my Mom and Dad signed me up because I needed to work on my math foundations. My focus and my attention were short too. I had trouble staying on task and would just start thinking about other things.

What do you remember about the assessment day?

I don't remember much except what my Mom told me. I was tested in the third grade. I remember being nervous and excited and hoping I would get close to 100%. Even though it wasn't a grade thing I wanted to get every thing done 100%. I was nervous at first but I got comfortable with the people. I remember so little of the day it must have been fine.



Henry scores his first touchdown!

How did your learning profile and management plan help you in the classroom?

It helped me know what I needed to work on and what I needed to do next. Like my reading was pretty much perfect and my math needed some work. I stopped focusing on reading so much and really worked on my math. Some of the ideas they gave me really helped me develop a better way of seeing schoolwork.

In what other areas of your life has what you learned from HRSS helped you?

Now the things I learned at HRSS have helped me build a strong foundation and I can do my math a lot easier, multiplication is easy - addition and subtraction a snap. I have a B- as an overall grade and I feel very grateful that HRSS taught me all this so that I could have a great future and now things just come to me a lot easier. It is amazing how patient Judy was to teach me.

How do you feel about your school experience now and what are your goals for the future?

I feel very confident about my school. I enjoy going to school. I really like art, I love science and I love doing shop. I want to go to college. I'm thinking about going to Yale, Harvard or Oregon State. I want my degree to be in mechanics and making video games and new computers for the future of video gaming. I like video games.

HRSS Seeking Donations and Grants in 2008 For:

Students

- Financial assistance for 10 in-depth student assessments (\$36,000)

Parents

- Parent community outreach (\$5,000)

Professional Development

- Financial assistance for 14 teachers to attend the summer 2008 Schools Attuned (SA) training (\$25,000)
- Financial assistance for training & mentoring a second Learning Specialist (\$5,000)
- Teacher Professional Development in Reading Remediation (\$20,000)

Mentoring & Learning

- Mentoring support for teachers who receive SA training (\$10,000)
- Site visits to learn from exemplar schools (\$5,000)

Evaluation

- Independent program impact evaluation with comparison school (\$35,000)

Sustainability

- Endowment fund for ongoing financial assistance for student assessments (\$25,000)
- Capacity building and sustainability business planning (\$15,000)



Teacher Point of View

by *Elizabeth Bauer,*
Kohala Elementary School, 4th grade teacher

Kohala Elementary School first heard about **Schools Attuned** in January last year. Representatives met with Mrs. Lazslo, our school principal, and discussed an opportunity for funding to participate in the Schools Attuned program as a model school.

A small group of teachers was sent over to the Maui Schools Attuned training in early June. This group reported to the faculty and gave their opinion of the program's merits. Then, the school decided to participate in training as a whole faculty and later, to begin implementing the program at the school.



*Elizabeth Bauer and her
4th graders*

The Maui training was intense and required all of my neurodevelopmental constructs to be operating. However, the trainer graciously accommodated learning differences. Already, I have worked with two students (and families) in the attuning process. Now, we are ready to go through the "demystification" step and hopefully put in place several strategies and accommodations that will help those students learn.

Basically, it guides them to use their strengths to battle their weaknesses. Students become knowledgeable of their own learning and are their own learning advocates. Some strategies can be shared with whole groups of students having attention problems or memory difficulties. It is easy to see that teaching "learning strategies" will help all the students.

But, it is for those students who have lost hope in themselves that Schools Attuned gives promise: students who have struggled to write because of graphomotor difficulties or have been called "dumb" or "stupid" because they can't remember things.

These students are relieved to know that they aren't lazy or stupid, but really have a learning problem that they can learn to learn with.



*Kohala Elementary
School student*

My student with attention processing controls problems needs to paraphrase key concepts (attend to the key concept and paraphrase for depth of processing). My student with formal receptive language and long term memory difficulties may need to personalize the language and relate it to his/her personal experience.

I see no end to the benefits the program will provide to both teachers and students.

HIDA Fall Symposium

Model School Program Coordinator Beth Custer and NHWCS board member Esther Hughes were among 100 educators who attended the **Hawaii International Dyslexia Association's** (HIDA) Fall Symposium on Saturday, October 20, 2007 in Honolulu.

Dr. Joseph K. Torgesen from Florida State University and the Florida Center for Reading Research, spoke on the topic, **"Teaching All Students to Read: Is it Really Possible?"** He discussed reading disabilities, reading assessments, and according to HIDA, "presented fascinating cutting edge research on Response To Intervention (RTI) and provided practical strategies for implementing RTI in the classroom. His handouts can be downloaded at the HIDA website (www.dyslexia-hawaii.org)."

New Faces

Haunani Kalama, has been hired by HRSS as an independent contractor to help with grant funding opportunities. She brings 30 years of experience nationally and abroad in the health and education field. She is presently pursuing dual master degrees in business administration and health education. Raising her six children (now adults) and home-schooling the last two, has given her real appreciation of the diversity in learners and the challenges not often addressed in mainstream education.

"I hope that our work with HRSS will contribute towards diffusing the AKOM model in the region and aiding as many children as possible in finding success."

Haunani Kalama



Toni Petrides joined the HRSS staff in October as Student Assessment and Office Coordinator. Originally from Northern California, Toni moved to Oahu where she resided for 20 years before relocating to the Big Island. She is a graduate

of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and has dedicated herself to helping others by working in Hawaii's non-profit sector for the last ten years, most recently as Director of Operations at Charitable Ventures Incorporated. Previously, she worked for over twelve years at Gregory House Programs, which provides direct services through rental assistance to persons with HIV/AIDS throughout the state of Hawaii. An avid nature lover, Toni enjoys hiking, sailing and whale watching.

"I feel really privileged to be working here with such an amazing group dedicated to helping North Hawaii students."

Toni Petrides

Volunteers

HRSS is thankful to its new volunteers who are giving the gift of their time, talent and energy to help HRSS reach its goal of helping North Hawaii students find success in school and life.



Mary Fry recently joined HRSS as a volunteer, helping with graphic design and public relations projects. She has quickly become "Director of Volunteers." She learned about HRSS through her friend, Learning Specialist, Judy Stevenson. Mary studied fine art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to work

in the commercial arts industry as an artists' representative. Throughout her 30-year career, her stable of talent included internationally recognized photographers, illustrators, animators, and filmmakers. Now retired with her husband, George, Mary enjoys working in graphic design and paper art. HRSS is grateful to Mary for her time and invaluable talent!

- **Stephen Green** of de Reus Architects and his wife **Traci Green** recently joined HRSS as volunteers to help with public relations and events.
- **James Massey**, Web Designer, has begun work on redesigning the HRSS website.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



Volunteers are always welcome.
Please call (808) 885-9318 for more information.

How Can You Help?

Donations to HRSS program support need-based financial assistance for student assessments. A donation of \$3,600 will sponsor one student for a comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment from intake through classroom implementation and follow-up. All donations of any amount are deeply appreciated.

Volunteers are always welcome to help in the office, at events and on committees. Call 808-885-9318 to learn more!

HRSS Office Wish List

- ◆ Small round conference table and 4 chairs.
- ◆ Television with built in DVD player.

Financial Assistance

Learning assessments are costly due to the comprehensive process, professional expertise and time involved. Need-based financial assistance is available for the **student assessments** to help families defray all or some of the costs of their child's assessment.

Funding is also available for **professional training** for teachers, principals and clinicians. Please visit our website at www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org or call us at 808-885-9318 for more information.

Who We Are

HRSS is a project of the non-profit organization, North Hawaii Women and Children's Services. It was developed four years ago in response to a growing need to improve North Hawaii students' success in school and life. A key goal of the program is the early identification and effective support for diverse learners. There is clear evidence that early and effective intervention can help turn struggling students into successful learners.

"The mission of HRSS is to increase success in school and life for North Hawaii students, especially diverse learners."

Helpful Resources



All Kinds of Minds—www.allkindsofminds.org

International Dyslexia Association (IDA) - www.interdys.org

Hawaii Branch of the IDA—www.dyslexia-hawaii.org

Schwab Learning* www.schwablearning.org

*see new info on conference & IEP prep

Charles Schwab's interactive website for LD kids—www.sparktop.org

Life Success for Children with Learning Disabilities—www.lidsuccess.org

HRSS is based on the "**All Kinds of Minds**" (**AKOM**), model founded by renowned pediatrician, Mel Levine. AKOM is an organization which translates the latest educational research into programs, products and services that help struggling students. The AKOM and the HRSS philosophy is based on the premise that all students can learn. The model trains teachers and clinicians in strategies to more effectively support all learners.

HRSS Team Visits Honolulu SA Schools

Beth Custer and Esther Hughes met with Wanette Tanaka of **Kamehameha Schools**, who is a Schools Attuned facilitator. HRSS learned more about Kamehameha's adoption and implementation of SA and got Wanette's input and advice on how HRSS can support SA teachers at Kohala Elementary.

In addition, a visit was paid to Louise Wong, Associate Superintendent of **Hawaii Catholic Schools** and Bev Sandobal, principal of **St. Joseph's School**, which is Louise's "model school" in implementing SA. Bev shared that her school is moving towards requiring all teachers to attend

Schools Attuned training. Currently all teachers must attend the Cooperative Teaching Model and Directed Instruction training. All Language arts teachers must attend the Orton Gillingham class. She also shared how they are using these trainings to target individual students' needs in the classroom.

Beth and Esther returned from Honolulu inspired and full of encouragement and



Ester Hughes, Bev Sandobal, and Beth Custer at recent HIDA event.

new ideas for the HRSS Model School Program.

For more information contact Beth Custer at 885-9318.

"HRSS is interested in learning more about effective teacher training in reading remediation and wants to partner with DOE and others to bring reading remediation training to North Hawaii teachers in the next year."

Beth Custer

Hawaii Resources for School Success
(a program of North Hawaii Women and Children's Services)
65-1229A Opelo Road, #6
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743
Website: www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org
Email: info@hawaiischoolsuccess.org

Yes, I am interested in more information.

Yes, I would like to make a tax deductible donation.

Yes, I would like to volunteer.

Please make check payable to:

North Hawaii Women and Children's Services
65-1229A Opelo Road, #6
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

May we publicly recognize you? Yes
 No, I prefer to be anonymous.

Hawaii Resources for School Success (HRSS) is a project of North Hawaii Women and Children's Services (NHWCS) a 501(c)(3) organization,
EIN #94-3275827

North Hawaii Women and Children's Services Board Members

- Sharon Vitousek, M.D., President
- Shay Bintliff, M.D., Vice President
- Susan Hunt, MHA, Treasurer
- Rebecca Keliioomalua, Secretary
- Esther Hughes
- Carol Momsen
- Sherron Rosenberger
- Lynn White

NHWCS vision is:
North Hawaii families and children have the life and learning skills which empower them to make positive decisions.