



Hawaii Resources *for* School Success

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

Mission

To help and empower diverse learners in school and in life.

Vision

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

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HRSS DONATES GIFT OF AUDIO BOOKS TO KOHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hawaii Resources for School Success recently donated over 100 audio books to Kohala Elementary School teachers for use in their classrooms. The audio books were purchased with funds raised at last year's HRSS event.

"In the classroom, these audio books will help meet the needs of all learners," said Edeille Thomas, Kohala Elementary School second grade teacher.



KES 2nd Grade Students Daejha Rivera, Kayleen Cordeiro and Gabby Yamura

Noreen Hagio, Kohala Elementary School second grade teacher was also grateful, "These sets will serve many purposes. First, it's an excellent way to have students enjoy a chapter book. Too often, students see them as "too long" but this way the story flows as they just turn the pages. We hope it will help students view chapter books in a more friendly light. We also hope it will increase their enjoyment of reading and appreciating longer stories."

Audio books benefit struggling

beginning readers by allowing students to listen to a story with appropriate pauses and intonation, and at the same time follow along in the physical book, and thereby make connections between what they are hearing and the words on the page. They also provide students with access to more advanced literature, helping them develop vocabulary as well as making them feel confident in approaching new content. Teacher input from each grade was sought to determine which books would help most.

The audio book sets follow a gift of Franklin Spellers that Hawaii Resources for School Success gave to the school last year also from funds raised at the HRSS event. Franklin Spellers are small electronic dictionaries which help students pronounce and spell new words.

Beth Custer, HRSS Program Director, said, "We are so grateful to the generous donors who made this gift possible to support all kinds of learners."



KES 3rd Grade Teacher Jean DeMercer Breese and KES 3rd grade students Dayton Torres-Salvador and Tupu Toafili

KOHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS A SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

Kohala Elementary School was recently recognized as an *All Kinds of Minds School of Distinction*. According to *All Kinds of Minds*, "Such schools demonstrate a desire to implement the principles, content, and processes of *All Kinds of Minds* programs. These organizations have embraced the philosophies of *All Kinds of Minds* and have made significant progress toward their goal of integrating our programs. Schools of Distinction have earned this recognition by:

- successfully integrating *All Kinds of Minds*' programs into their respective missions,
- implementing the programs for at least one year, and having 50% of their educators complete 35 hours of programs

HRSS partnered with Kohala Elementary School in August 2007 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the school to become the "Model School" for the *Schools Attuned* professional development training. HRSS is committed to training all Kohala Elementary School teachers and support personnel and providing ongoing teacher mentoring through a Memorandum of Understanding for three years with the school. The goal is to assure that this program is self-sustaining at Kohala Elementary School beginning in 2010. An Independent Evaluation of the *Schools Attuned* program at Kohala Elementary School began in April 2009 with a preliminary report expected in June 2009 and a final report in January 2010.

HRSS/NHWCS

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HRSS OFFERING TEACHER TRAINING AT WAIKOLOA SCHOOL

Hawaii Resources for School Success will sponsor a *Teaching All Kinds of Minds* training at Waikoloa Elementary School on July 8, 9, and 10, 2009. The program will include follow-up mentoring by HRSS. Educators will learn how to help gifted students who are underachieving as well as struggling learners by gaining knowledge of the neurodevelopmental constructs to help them understand learning and its variations. Scholarships are still available. For more information, please contact Beth Custer, HRSS Program Director at (808) 885-9318.

READING SCORES IMPROVE AT KOHALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Following teacher training and mentoring at Kohala Elementary School by Hawaii Resources for School



Success, student reading proficiency scores have increased by about twenty percent (20%) for students of *Schools Attuned* trained teachers.

Please visit us at www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org

Hawaii Resources for School Success is the flagship program of North Hawaii Women and Children's Services 501(c)(3)