

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 23, 2008

Contact: Beth Custer, Program Director
Hawaii Resources for School Success, *a program of North Hawaii Women and Children's Services*
Phone: 885-9318

HAWAII RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS RECEIVES GRANTS FOR STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS

Hawaii Resources for School Success announced today that it has received a \$43,000 grant from the G.N. Wilcox Trust, a \$42,000 grant from the McInerny Foundation and a \$5,000 grant from the Kuki'o Community Fund to support its programs.

Beth Custer, HRSS Program Director, said the funds will be used to continue to support children, parents and educators by focusing on increasing student success via early identification of and effective intervention for capable students who struggle in school. These grants will allow us to continue Schools Attuned teacher training and teacher mentoring as well as to provide a developing array of support services, including in-depth strength based assessments.

HRSS focuses on increasing student success through 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 research based educational practices.*" The mission of HRSS is to "*To help diverse learners in school and life.*"

Funds from the G.N. Wilcox Trust will be used to provide teacher training and mentoring support to North Hawaii teachers and administrators and specifically to Kohala Elementary School teachers. HRSS and Kohala Elementary School entered into an agreement in August 2007, to train all of the KES teachers by 2009.

The teacher training is provided by the *All Kinds of Minds Institute* and is supported in part by grants from the Cooke Foundation, 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. Since June 2007, HRSS has trained and provided critical follow-up mentoring to 49 educators, assisting them in translating the knowledge and strategies gained from this model into daily practice to better support all students' learning.

Funds from the McInerny Foundation and Kuki'o Community Fund will be used to provide appropriate neurodevelopmental student assessments to students and families in North Hawaii public and private schools. The HRSS assessment team, a Learning Specialist, Pediatrician and Psychologist, are all trained through the national *All Kinds of Minds Institute*. The assessment is aimed at developing a comprehensive Learning Profile to guide adjustments to classroom teaching and provides specific strategies to help students be more successful in school.

According to Sharon Vitousek MD Board president, “These grants will help us give significantly more help to capable kids who struggle in school, many of whom are actually gifted. Our aim is to help as many diverse learners and struggling students as possible so that those kids get the right help, in the right way, at the right time. For more information, please visit our website at www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org or call 885-9318.