

# Brain research comes to Kohala Elementary

## SPECIAL TO NHN

Hawaii Resources for School Success (HRSS), a program under the umbrella nonprofit North Hawaii Womens and Children's Services in Waimea, officially launched its Schools Attuned model program at Kohala Elementary School last week.

Sharon Vitousek, HRSS Board President; Beth Custer, HRSS Model School Program Coordinator; Eleanor Laszlo, Kohala Elementary Principal; and Ann Tucker, Kohala Elementary Student Services Coordinator, signed an agreement firming HRSS' partnership with Kohala Elementary.

"This partnership with Hawaii Resources for School Success is a wonderful opportunity for our faculty. Parents and teachers all want the same thing — for our children to become responsible and contributing adults. We look to this program to expand our teaching styles and teaching tools so that we are able to work with each student, no matter what his or her learning style," Laszlo said.

HRSS was developed four years ago in response to a growing need in North Hawaii to improve North Hawaii students' success in school and in life. One of HRSS' goals is to create awareness about and implement the Schools Attuned model in North Hawaii Schools.



**Jean DeMercer-Breese, Sharon Vitousek, Eleanor Laszlo and Anne Tucker signing the partnership agreement between Hawaii Resources for School Success and Kohala Elementary School.**

Schools Attuned is a program of All Kinds of Minds (AKOM), founded by renowned pediatrician Mel Levine and financier Charles Schwab. It provides K-12 educators with a framework and tools to understand and manage differences in learning in the regular classroom. The program helps teachers understand how the brain is "wired," various ways that students learn, patterns of students' differences in learning and how students' passions and strengths can be used to overcome weaknesses within the regular classroom.

The Program equips general classroom teachers to make the best instructional decisions to ensure that each student can find academic and social success. When implemented within schools, this program enriches the way all children are educated. The Schools Attuned Program has been featured in Newsweek, USA Today, Teacher Magazine, Scholastic Instructor, and on television's Oprah and Today Show programs.

This partnership will provide training for Kohala Elementary teachers in the Schools Attuned model, support for implementation and sustainability of the program. Resources such as media references, books and assessment tools and technical assistance will also be made available.

"We are very fortunate that this partnership was

made possible through the generous grants from the Helen and Charles Schwab Charitable Foundation and the Atherton Family Foundation," Vitousek said.

The next teacher training will held on the Big Island in early January and will be led by a national trainer from AKOM. The training will be open to teams of teachers from other North Hawaii schools that apply through HRSS.

"As a parent and teacher, I understand the frustrations that children, parents and educators experience in acknowledging and overcoming learning differences. Kohala Elementary School has stepped forward as an educational leader, committing time and resources to learning and implementing the Schools Attuned model," Custer said.

Vitousek said, "I'm excited about this milestone for the students, the teachers and Hawaii Resources for School Success, because this partnership gives us a clear path to better support diverse learners, many of whom could be our future leaders."

For more information please call 885-9318 or visit [www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org](http://www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org) and [www.allkindsofminds.org](http://www.allkindsofminds.org).