

SCHOOLS

Grants fund student assessment, teacher training

SPECIAL TO WEST HAWAII TODAY

Hawaii Resources for School Success, or HRSS, has received a \$43,000 grant from the G.N. Wilcox Trust, a \$42,000 grant from the McInerney Foundation and a \$5,000 grant from the Kukio 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 interven-

tion for capable students who struggle in school. These grants will allow it 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, 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 specifi-

cally to Kohala Elementary School teachers. HRSS and Kohala Elementary School entered into an agreement in August 2007 to train all of the school's 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

all Kinds of Minds 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 McInerney Foundation and Kukio 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.

For more information, visit www.hawaiischoolsuccess.org or call 865-9318.