

# SCHOOLS

## Kohala Elementary, HRSS renew partnership

SPECIAL TO WEST HAWAII TODAY

Hawaii Resources for School Success, or HRSS, and Kohala Elementary School renewed their contract of partnership Oct. 22.

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 access to research-based education practices."

HRSS' mission is to "help

and empower diverse learners in school and life" and HRSS first partnered with Kohala Elementary in August 2007, to train the school's teachers in the national, evidence-based Schools Attuned Teacher Professional Development model. This model, from the All Kinds of Minds Institute, focuses on increasing student success via early identification of and effective intervention for capable students who struggle in school.

The overarching goal of the partnership is to assure all Kohala

Elementary teachers are trained and provided with ongoing support through 2009. The partnership is made possible by support from the Atherton Family Foundation, the Helen and Charles Schwab Foundation and the G.N. Wilcox Trust.

"It is exciting to be part of formalizing this partnership between HRSS and Kohala Elementary with support from the DOE and Art Souza, complex area superintendent. Today we can share in the pride of our accomplishments of the past year with our pur-

poseful teaching using the Schools Attuned model," said Esther Hughes, Department of Education Kohala-Honokaa Comprehensive Student Support System resource teacher.

"HRSS brings us a comprehensive professional development program through Schools Attuned. Helping teachers to address our students' challenges through a focus on their strengths should result in a positive outcome for teacher and student," said Kohala Elementary Principal Eleanor Laszlo. "Our teachers and

staff are using the same vocabulary and strategies, which means consistency for our students. Schools Attuned brings a researched-based guide to help our teachers help our students."

There are some new highlights of the continuing partnership. Now posters of the Schools Attuned constructs and of Bloom's Taxonomy will be hung in every classroom. The constructs are the eight major ways in which brains learn such as "attention,"

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"temporal-sequential ordering" and "memory." Bloom's Taxonomy is the classic educational objectives map of the "affective," "psychomotor" and "cognitive" learning domains. The purpose of these posters is to remind educators and students of the many viable ways students learn.

As there is no state fund-

ing for physical education, music and art in Hawaii public schools, with the renewed agreement, HRSS will continue to provide the school with resource teachers in those subjects. Research has shown that students who participate in physical education, music and art show improvement in academic performance. The time allotted for those special subjects also affords grade level teachers time

to meet and collaborate once a week and the entire staff to collaborate once a month.

Another aspect of the new agreement will be the incorporation of the Schools Attuned framework and language into the school community. This will include protocol for students requesting assistance and parent-teacher communications.

In addition to the above

provisions, HRSS will be hiring WestEd as an independent evaluator to initiate a formal assessment of the impact of Schools Attuned on Kohala Elementary students, teachers and families in January. This has been made possible by a \$25,000 grant recently awarded to HRSS by the Cooke Foundation.

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