



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

March 6, 2008

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The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, strives to strengthen our diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in Hawaii. The Center features a Community and Historical Gallery, Resource Center, Kenshikan martial arts dōjō, Seikōan Japanese teahouse, Gift Shop and Grand Ballroom.

TO: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Shan S. Tsutsui, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

TO: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Eric Martinson, Chairman of the Board
Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

RE: Grant-In-Aid Informational Briefing
(Saturday, March 8, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Capitol Auditorium)

POSITION: Strong Support

Good morning Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, and Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the House Committee on Finance. My name is Eric Martinson and I am representing the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii as its Chairman of the Board testifying in strong support of our grant-in-aid request for \$513,000 for capital improvements.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's mission is to educate, preserve and promote the Japanese culture and the legacy of Japanese Americans in Hawaii and to help bridge an understanding and respect among cultures. Although the Center was incorporated in 1987, the first building (Phase I) housing the main offices, businesses and teahouse was built in 1992 followed by the second building (Phase II) housing the gallery, gift shop, dojo, meeting and banquet rooms was built in 1994.

The Cultural Center has over 5,000 members statewide, a staff of nine and over 500 volunteers who serve as board members, committee members and facility volunteers. JCCH is now home to Diagnostic Laboratory Services, Pacific Telecommunications Council, Manoa Grand Ballroom (Marians Islandwide Catering), Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, United Japanese Society, Hawaii Karate Association, Hawaii Japanese Language School, Hawaii Multi-Media Company, and Urasenke Foundation. All of the leased office spaces are fully occupied.

You may recall that in 2002, the Center's mortgage and related debts, coupled with ever-increasing building maintenance repairs, threatened to destroy all that the community had built 16 years ago. In late 2003, as the Cultural Center faced foreclosure, members and community leaders came together



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to form an ad hoc committee to "Save the Center" and launched an unprecedented initiative to raise the \$9 million needed to satisfy the accumulated debt. In an astonishing 45 days, more than \$6 million was raised with the community responding resoundingly that the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i serves an important and significant place in Hawai'i. The major financial institutions forgave the remaining amount due and retired the debt in full.

The Cultural Center is now on a stronger financial foundation and ready to take care of equipment maintenance earlier deferred. Armstrong Consulting completed a capital reserve study for the Center in 2005. The findings of the study indicate that the facilities are in dire need of repair and facial uplift with projected expenditures of \$2.3 million (costs have now increased in line with 2008 costs). Armstrong Consulting recommended repairing and replacing the following equipment as high priorities to ensure the health and safety of the Center's staff, its volunteers, members, and thousands of visitors, and to preserve the life of the buildings:

1. Sealcoat onto cracks in parking garage to stop water from seeping through to lower floors;
2. Replace two (2) hot water boilers on ground floor after one of the heaters burst and leaked water due to internal corrosion;
3. Replace two (2) gas heaters on the 5th floor of Phase II building which primarily heats hot water for banquet and catering services; Heaters are reaching end of useful life;
4. Pneumatic compressor needs to be serviced; It works with booster pumps for water pressure to 5th floor of Phase II building;
5. Replace two (2) exhaust roof top fans that are reaching end of useful life;
6. Replace nine (9) rooftop exhaust fans that are reaching end of useful life in Phase II building;
7. Replace and fire proof insulation above the ballroom soffit ceiling because it is falling;
8. Repair main roofs because condition is so poor the fibers are showing from weather, wear and tear;
9. Replace rusted sewer lines;
10. Replace cracked tiles by the 4th floor teahouse;
11. Replace common hallway carpet worn and faded from use and age in Phase I building;

The \$513,000 requested would go towards the improvements of the above equipment and facility.

When the Cultural Center applied for the grant-in-aid last year, the total funding requested was \$838,000. The request consisted of various capital equipment and repair projects that were either at or near the end of the item's useful life cycle. In 2007, the Legislature approved \$325,000 to go towards replacing the air condition system in both buildings, and remains pending release of funds by the Governor.

Due to the pressing need for funding to cover the deferred maintenance costs, the Cultural Center dedicated staff time and resources to the legislative process last year and again this year. It is unlikely that the Cultural Center will seek continued state funding on a yearly basis. We understand that it is not the role of government to fully subsidize organizations and build dependency on funding year after year. However, with the threat of equipment failure and structural instability, the



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

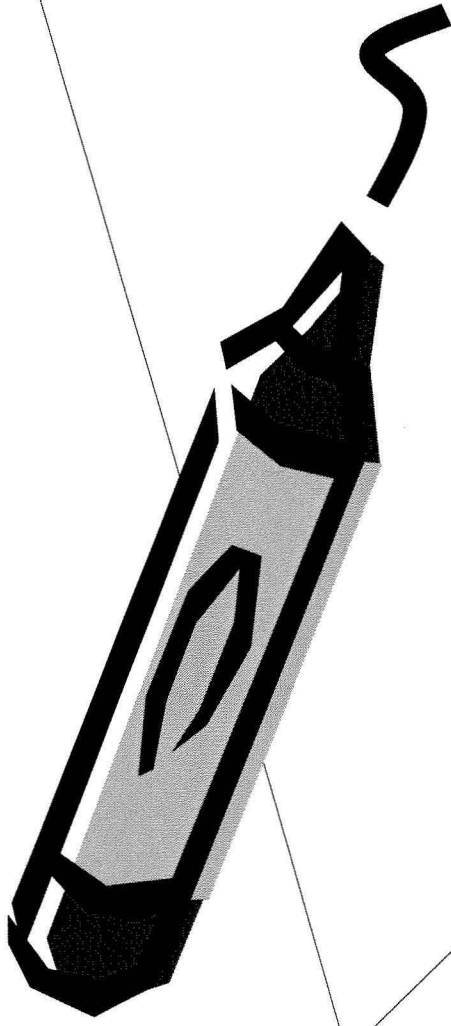
Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

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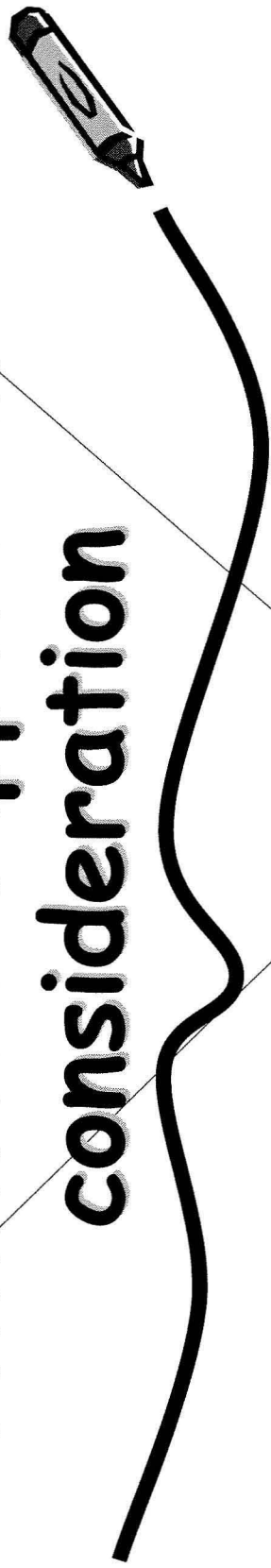
Cultural Center must provide a safe and healthy environment for its occupants and the nearly 50,000 annual visitors, the need is critical enough to warrant seeking assistance from the Legislature again this year.

I hope that you will actively support our request for \$513,000 in appropriations for necessary and overdue capital improvements to the Cultural Center. The repairs and equipment replacements will allow the Cultural Center to preserve and promote the Japanese culture and the legacy of the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i, and to help bridge an understanding and respect among cultures.

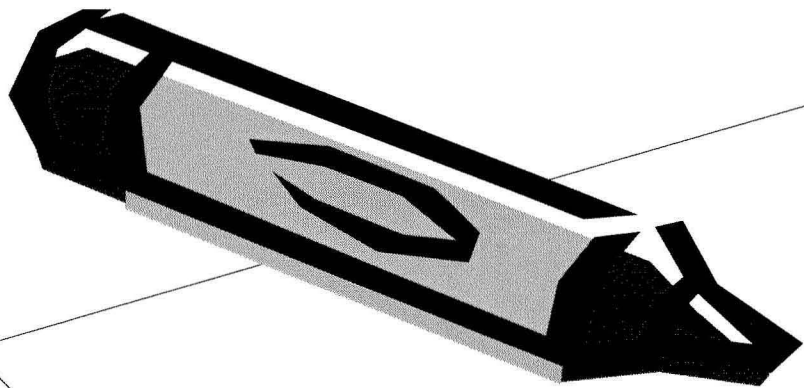
Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of the grant-in-aid request for \$513,000.



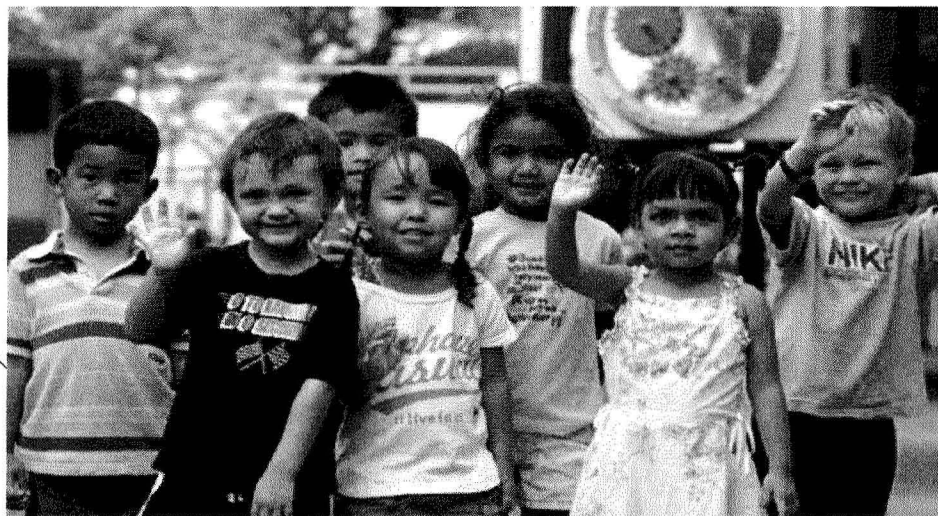
**Mahalo for your
continued support and
consideration**



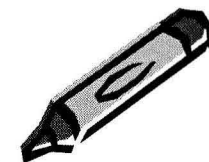
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii



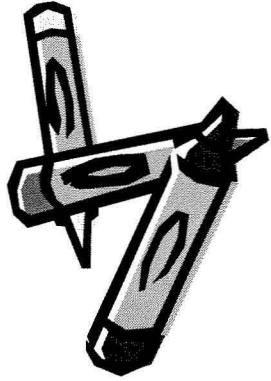
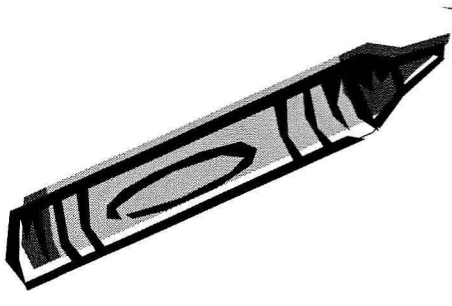
KCAA Preschools of Hawaii



The 24th Hawaii State Legislature
2008 Application for Grants-In-Aid

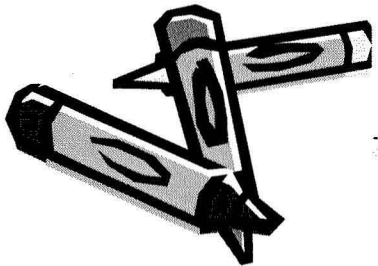
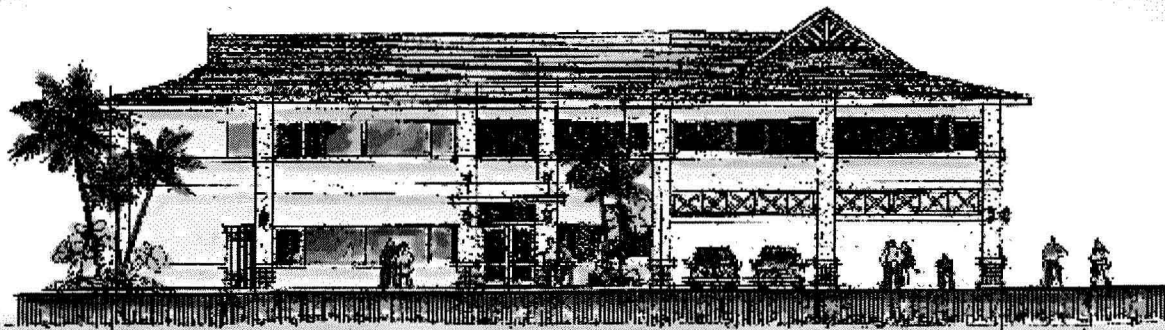


*Research shows that a
high quality early
education yields significant
returns*



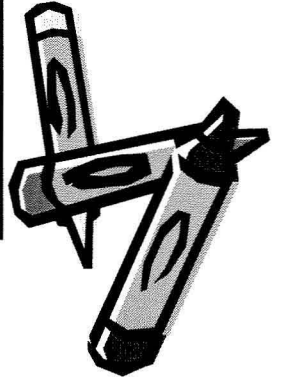
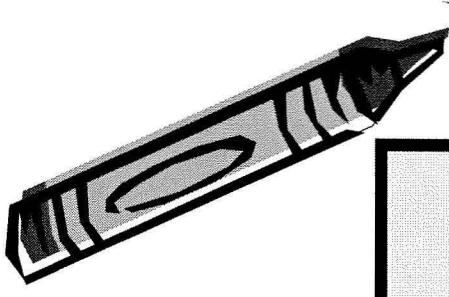
Request

\$1,000,000 Grant-In-Aid for the planning, design and construction of a new 6,000 square foot facility that will house the **Center for Early Education and Development (CEED)** to serve early educators Statewide.



FY 2008-2009 Request

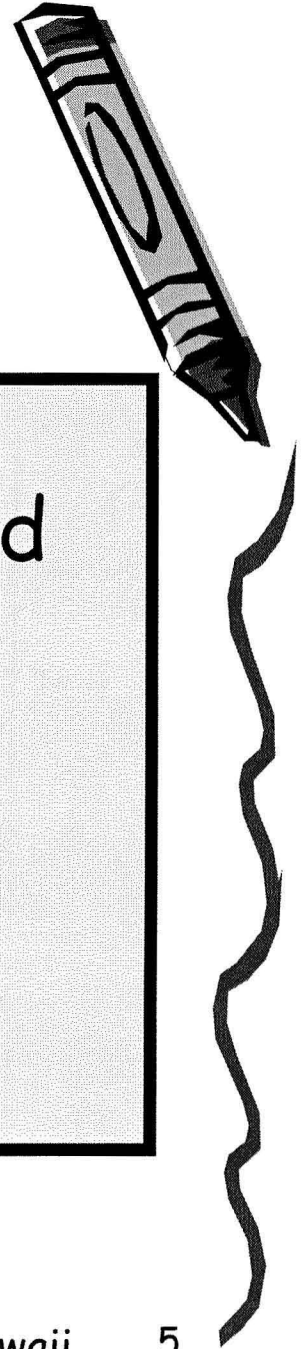
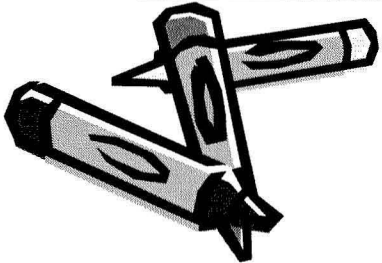
Plans	200,000
Design	150,000
Construction	<u>650,000</u>
Total	\$1,000,000



What is CEED?

An expansion of KCAA's "Virtual Training Institute" program beyond KCAA that will:

- Increase number of qualified teachers in Hawaii
- Improve the quality of early education programs

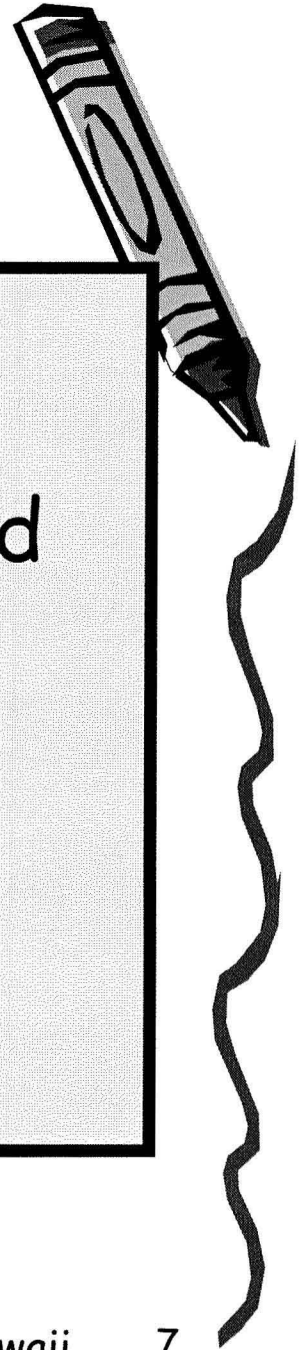
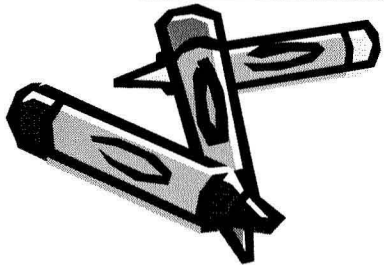


Why the CEED?

- There is an extreme shortage of qualified early childhood educators in Hawaii.
- More than 100 teacher Waivers have been issued by DHS to preschools in past 18 months.
- Will allow employees to retain their jobs while improving their levels of education and overall skills in working with young children.

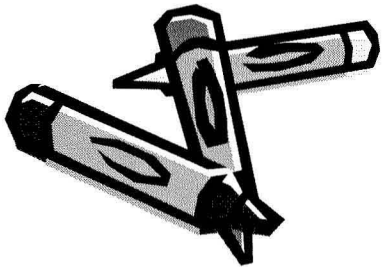
Who will CEED serve?

- High school and college-aged students
- Currently-employed early childhood professionals from all settings
Statewide
- Early childhood employers
- Institutions of Higher Education
- Parents of young children



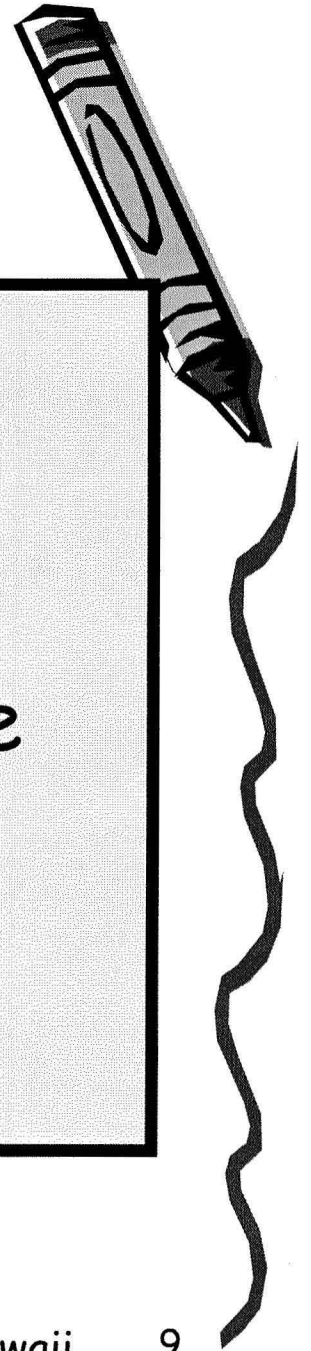
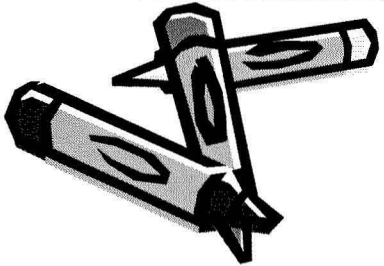
How will CEED operate?

- CEED will be built in Moiliili, on the Mother Rice Preschool property owned by KCAA.
- The Center will call for a two-story ADA compliant 6,000 sq.ft facility with computing technology to house the current "Virtual Training Institute" program.
- The Center will house a Model Demonstration Center, serving 20 Pre-K children offering participants the opportunity to observe best practices as demonstrated by master level teachers utilizing standards-based curriculum.



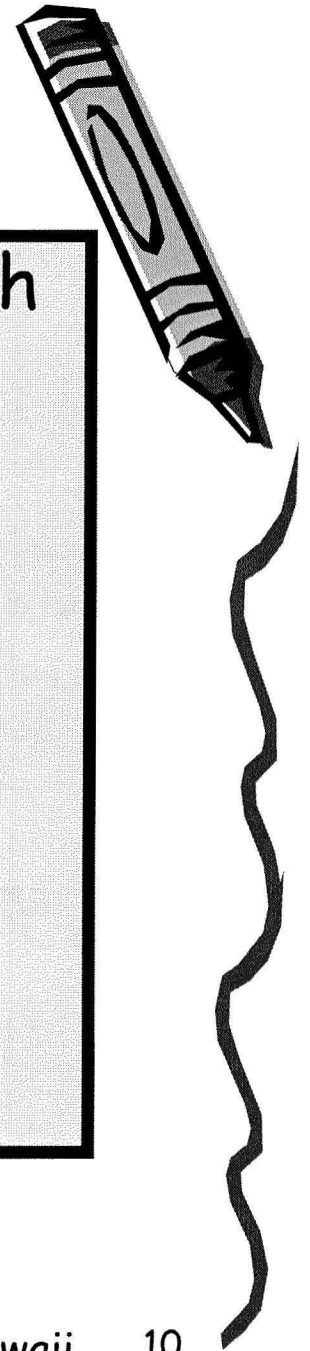
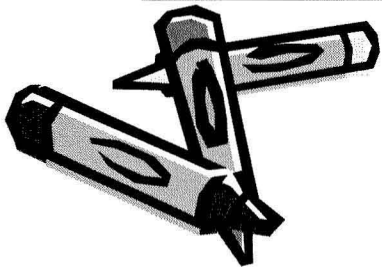
How Will CEED Operate?

- One large meeting room
- Several smaller break out rooms
- Resource Library
- Computing Technology to facilitate online learning
- Demonstration Classroom for 20 Pre-K children

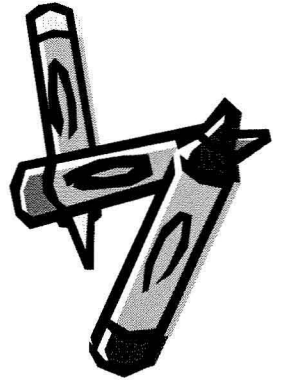
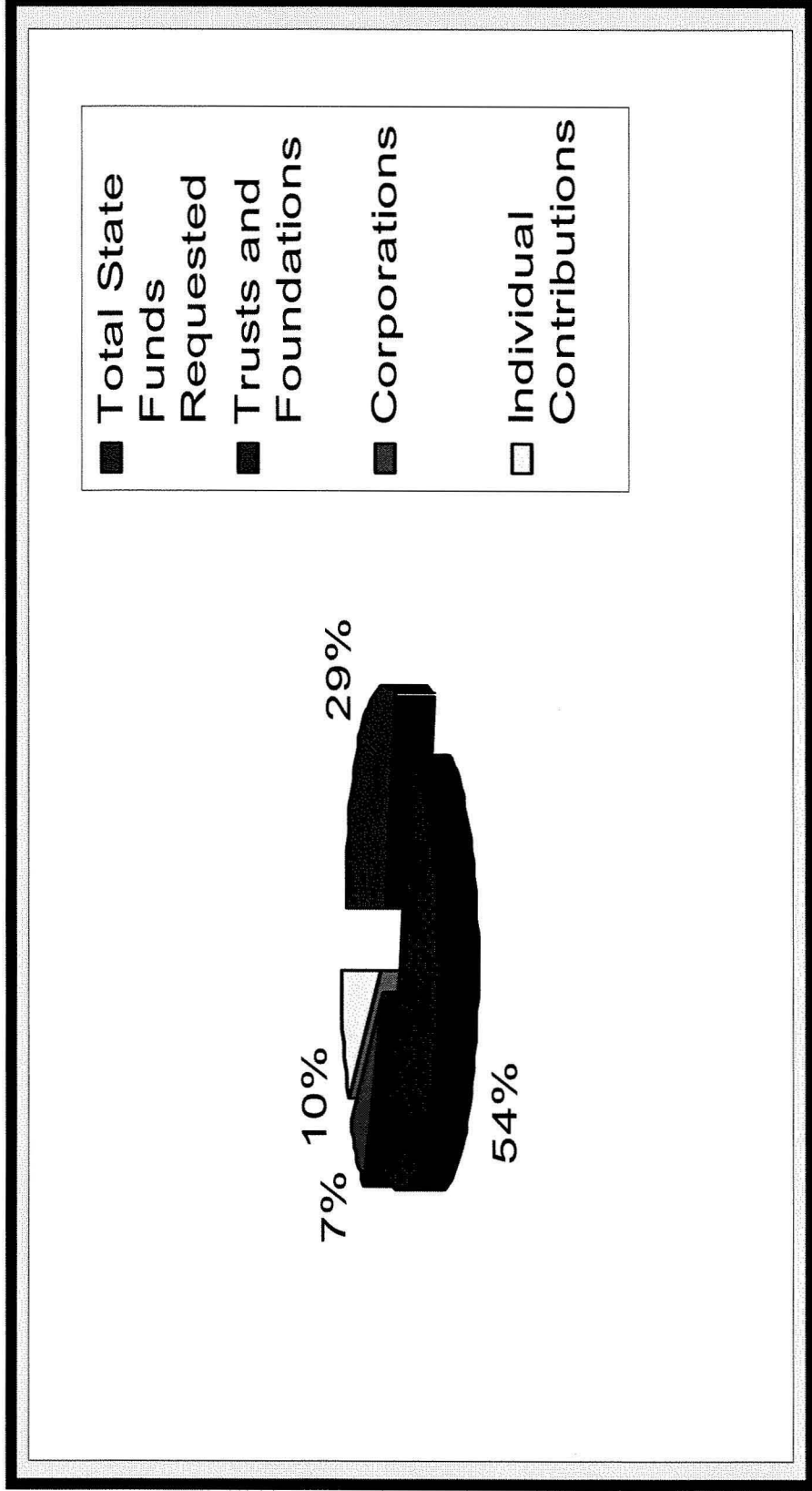
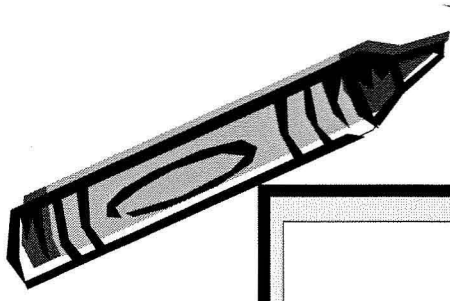


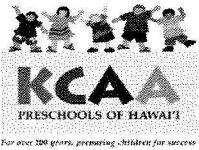
Goals

- Close achievement gap and increase high quality preschool programs for young children through ongoing professional development of early learning professionals.
- Develop a workforce recruitment program to address current staffing shortages
- Enable early childhood providers to expand capacity to deliver high quality early education services.



Fundraising Plan





KCAA Preschools of Hawaii Center for Early Education & Development

Virtual Training Institute – Phase I

KCAA's Rich History

Founded in 1895, KCAA is Hawaii's oldest and largest early education providers. KCAA led the effort to establish kindergartens in the public school system and initiated Hawaii's first teacher training program, which later evolved into the University of Hawaii's first teacher training program. The mission of KCAA is to *build a solid foundation for Hawaii's children through excellent early education programs.*

KCAA At a Glance

- 7 nationally accredited preschools on Oahu.
- Serves nearly 1,000 children ages 18 mos.- 5 yrs. annually.
- 50% below State Median Income (SMI).
- 80% enroll in public school kindergartens.
- Standards-based curriculum.
- 130 employees.

Virtual Training Institute (VTI) Features

- Grew out of need for qualified teachers
- ECE degree courses offered online through:
 - Chaminade University
 - UH West Oahu
 - Northampton Community College
- 3 hours release time provided to employees each week.
- Wireless enabled laptops provided to each student/ employee.
- Student Advisor provides ongoing support regarding course selection and registration, securing texts, and use of technology.



Students in the first VTI class. 2006

Outcomes to Date

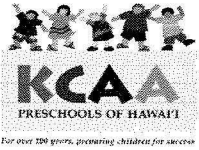
- 39 employees have completed at least 1 online course, including 8 PACT Head Start providers.
- 12 classroom aides have completed 2 of 3 core courses required to complete CDA (minimum teacher requirement in Hawaii).
- 7 teachers with 4-year degrees have completed upper division ECE course: with just 1 more credit, these teachers will have the required 16 ECE credits required to meet Phase II DHS quality incentive requirements.
- 4 employees completed required courses for their CDA and will be teacher qualified by summer 2008.
- 2 employees have become teacher qualified.

Funding

- \$135,000 from local foundations received to date for substitutes, tuition fees, books and laptops
- PATCH Early Childhood Scholarships (DHS funds administered by PATCH)



Graduates of the first teacher training class. 1896



KCAA Preschools of Hawaii Center for Early Education & Development

Testimonials

"I feel that this was the greatest opportunity at this point of my life. At first I was very nervous and overwhelmed, but going through these past two semesters helped me to realize that I can accomplish something with the help and support of the instructor as well as my peers. This virtual training course is great."

*Corie Ann Park, Teacher's Aide
KCAA Wai Kahala Preschool*

"Taking the online class was great for me. It was a lot easier to keep my life at the same pace and not having to slow down to go to classes on campus. Having three hours a week during work made it so much easier for me to complete my homework and study, rather than doing everything on my own time. It's hard enough having to juggle a full-time job, part-time job, soccer, and family! So taking the course online was the greatest choice I could have made 😊!"

*Loren Osaki, Teacher's Aide
KCAA Kuapa Preschool*

Center for Early Education & Development – Phase II

Provide a Permanent Home for the Virtual Training Institute and the Early Childhood Community with a Facility to support:

Goals

- To close the achievement gap and increase high quality preschool programs for young children through ongoing professional development of early learning professionals.
- To develop a work force recruitment program for early childhood providers to address current staffing shortages and enable early childhood providers to continue to deliver high quality early education programs.

Objectives

- To create a facility to house what is currently KCAA's "Virtual Training Institute" (VTI) to enable KCAA to serve the broader early learning community.
- To create a Demonstration Pre-K classroom to model best practices using standards-based curriculum.
- To establish partnerships with public and private institutions of higher education as an integral part of the center.

FINGIA

From: Morfina Olap [kokualegalservices@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2008 12:27 PM
To: FINGIA
Subject: info briefing

This is to inform you that there will be no representative from Kokua Legal Services (KLS) at the info briefing on Saturday. Unfortunately no one from our organization can attend.

KLS is the smallest legal services provider on Oahu, but serves special populations of the poor - primarily Micronesians and Public Housing residents. 50% of our Board members reside in public housing.

On November 12, 2007 the lead headline in the Honolulu Advertiser high-lighted our Operation Prejudice program to deal with housing discrimination against Micronesians. Now that Legal Aid can provide assistance to Micronesians, KLS is teaming up with Legal Aid. A Micronesian member of the KLS Board has been nominated to serve on the Legal Aid Board.

Assistance from the State would be greatly appreciated.

Jory Watland, President

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Kokua Legal Services
2219 N. School Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: 808-847-3371
Email: KokuaLegalServices@gmail.com

Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness Center
P.O. Box 395
56-565 Kamehameha Hwy.
Kahuku, HI 96731

March 6, 2008

To: The House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Grants-In-Aid Informational Briefing
Saturday, March 8, 2008, 9:00 AM
State Capitol Auditorium

Additional Information to the Joint Committee regarding our 2008 Grant-In-Aid Application

Submitted by Charles G. (Chuck) Braden, Jr., Executive Director

Currently, Ko'olauloa Community Health and Wellness Center (KCHWC) serves our community in a small 1,200 sq ft trailer. From this 4 exam room clinic, we saw almost 4,500 patients in over 11,000 office visits in 2007. Our Ko'olauloa community has many health and social service needs and KCHWC has to expand to meet these un-served needs. Growth requires more and larger facilities, new and better equipment, improved health information technology, and other capital outlays. Facilities need to be upgraded for safety and efficiency. We are not able to save a lot of money and cannot take on too much debt to acquire or improve facilities because of our mission to serve those who cannot afford to pay for their care. Lack of adequate facilities limits access to health care and jeopardizes our ability to provide these needed services.

The 2006 Legislature approved a \$600,000 Grant-In-Aid for KCHWC to expand its clinical facilities within Kahuku Hospital. Kahuku Hospital is in bankruptcy and its new management does not want KCHWC to locate its clinic in vacant/undeveloped space in the hospital building. Hospital management is planning other uses for this space. Because of this, KCHWC may not use the Grant-In-Aid it received in 2006.

Our 2008 Grant-In-Aid request again seeks funds to build, renovate, develop, or secure a safe and adequate facility for needed health and social services without specifically naming where this will be in Ko'olauloa.