

Quality Partnering

*Hawaii State Department of Education
Honolulu, Hawaii*

For years, the Hawaii Parental Information and Resource Center (HPIRC) has strongly supported the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE). This past school year, DOE extended this relationship by inviting the Resource Center's staff to join its week-long NNPS training. Center staff and education department personnel eagerly attended the training and committed to implementing the NNPS model in Hawaii's schools.

Collaboration between the two organizations aimed at:

- Aligning the goals of the HPIRC with the goals of the DOE Family Support Office;
- Encouraging and implementing the training of Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) and various other school teams for partnerships statewide; and
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the training and program implementation.

HPIRC and the Family Support Office at the education department share similar goals, target the same audience and collect data on parent involvement. By combining efforts and sharing resources and expertise, the two groups have learned to work smarter and more efficiently than if they worked alone.

Resource Center employees have a wealth of experience and expertise in education and evaluation that they can share with the family support office staff. In turn, DOE offered free training in the NNPS model, which the HPIRC staff can use to help familiarize school districts about partnership programs.

The two groups have set an ambitious goal of training all of districts in the state to facilitate their schools in development more effective partnership programs. The two agencies are working to get on the agenda of each district's leadership team meetings, principal meetings and Complex Area Superintendent meetings, to describe how they can assist the

schools with their work on partnerships. Once the initial agenda at district-level meetings is met, HPIRC and DOE will continue to collaborate in supporting and maintaining school teams.

An added benefit of the partnership of HPIRC and DOE is that both groups can help districts and schools meet requirements of No Child Left Behind by strengthening their family involvement programs. The new agenda consolidates the programs that the Hawaii DOE has implemented for the last 20 years with its parent Community Networking Centers.

In addition to state colleagues, more than 50 teachers, administrators and staff, 50 parents, 30 community members and 25 district leaders were directly involved in developing the new partnership and in working together as if they were from one organization.

Hawaii's leaders encourage other states in NNPS to partner with their PIRCs and with other educational departments that share the same vision and agenda for improving programs of family and community involvement in every school. Offices that have a common goal and vision can build on each other's strengths and resources, as did HPIRC and the DOE's Family Support Office.

*Leila Hayashida
Educational Specialist
(808) 733-4476
leila_hayashida@notes.k12.hi.us*