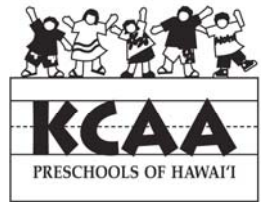


## For Immediate Release

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### **KCAA PRESCHOOLS RECEIVES \$100,000 GRANT FROM MCINERNY FOUNDATION (Bank of Hawaii, Trustee) TO HELP LOW INCOME FAMILIES**

KCAA Preschools of Hawaii has been awarded a grant for \$100,000, according to an announcement by Christina Cox, KCAA's President and CEO. The funds will be used to assist those low-income families whose State tuition subsidies have been reduced as of February 1, 2010.

The 125 impacted families are now being asked to pay as much as \$200-\$600 more per month to keep their child enrolled in preschool. "This wonderful grant will enable these children to complete the school year with their friends and will give the parents time to make adjustments without quitting their jobs to care for their children," said Cox.

On behalf of the McInerny Foundation Distribution Committee, Paula Boyce, AVP & Grants Administrator for Bank of Hawaii noted, "In this time of economic hardship, it is unfortunate that hard-working and financially challenged families are impacted by sudden funding restrictions. The funding from McInerny Foundation will allow these children to finish the school year while their parents have a little more time to assess their situations."

Cox added, "Research has repeatedly shown that low-income children enrolled in high quality early education programs benefit the most from a quality preschool experience, providing society with the greatest return on investment."

The state Department of Human Services provides tuition subsidies to qualifying low-income parents, many whom are single parents or English Language Learners, to enable them to send their child to a quality preschool. Only a limited number of licensed preschools in Hawaii accept subsidized children, KCAA among them.

Established in 1895 as Free Kindergarten and Children's Aid Association, today KCAA Preschools of Hawai'i serves almost 1,000 children annually at its seven nationally accredited schools on Oahu.

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McInerny Foundation presents to KCAA Preschools of Hawai'i a check for \$100,000 to assist those families whose State tuition subsidies have been reduced as of February 1, 2010. Left to Right: Christina Cox, KCAA President; Susan Yamada, KCAA Trustee; Jeff Dinsmore, KCAA Trustee; Paula Boyce, McInerny Foundation Grants Administrator.



Children at KCAA Mother Rice Preschool and their teachers, Lori Zunigar (left) and Brandy Kahananui, thank Paula Boyce with cards and songs.