

**Kualapu`u School Public Charter School
Request for Proposal
Evaluation Study of Pre-Kindergarten (Expanded Learning) Initiative**

A CONFIDENTIALITY

All information in this Request for Proposal (“RFP”) is confidential and should not be disclosed except to those responding to this RFP. You may designate portions of your response that are proprietary in nature, and we agree not to disclose these portions except for the purposes of evaluating the proposal, or as required by law.

No copies or reproduction of this RFP may be made without approval from the Kualapu`u School (KUU) except those copies which are necessary for internal distribution of the document for purposes of responding to this RFP.

B KUALAPU`U SCHOOL BACKGROUND

KUU is a conversion public charter school that currently serves 400 students in grades PreK-6 and is located at:

260 Farrington Avenue
Kualapu`u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757

Ho`okāko`o Corporation (HC), is the nonprofit local school board for KUU.

HC’s policy states that early education efforts will be initiated where a targeted community is most open to engagement. HC will move to build relationships and develop or connect early educational components into a seamless P-12 continuum. Targeted communities should have the option of selecting from a full range of high impact early education services tailored for their children from birth to age 5.

Early Childhood learning has been a long standing need at Kualapu`u School. It is well-documented that many of our students come to school two years below average expectancy for kindergarten readiness. In addition, Molokai has limited pre-school and no pre-kindergarten programs. Most of the pre-kindergarten programs have a preference and target for low-income families and/or ethnic based preferences.

Based upon our own school survey of our Kualapu`u attendance area families, parents really want a pre-kindergarten program for the area. At Kualapu`u School we are proposing to offer a free pre-kindergarten program for ages 3-4 years, not to exceed 20 students. Students will need to be born in the calendar year 2005 for enrollment in SY2009-2010. Also, as only 18 students will be selected for the pre-kindergarten program, there will be space available for students from the kindergarten program who might need additional support from the new pre-kindergarten program.

This pre-kindergarten program will be available to children of staff and students in the Kualapu`u attendance area and will prepare our children to enter kindergarten with the:

- o social skills that enable them to be successful members of a learning community;
- o basic communication and language arts skills appropriate for their age; and

o support needed to successfully transition to and participate in the formal education process.

The design of the pre-kindergarten program aligns with our school strategic plan under section which guides our decision making as we work to meet a full spectrum of learning needs for our students and our families, regardless of income and ethnicity.

The following data supports this DIP Amendment to add a Pre-K program at Kualapu'u School:

- In 2007, a trend analysis brief used three years of data from the Hawai'i State School Readiness Assessment (HSSRA). The analysis revealed that Hawai'i's children living in poverty are less likely to attend preschool and early learning experiences. In 19% of kindergarten classrooms, more than half of the students entered without an early learning experience." Source: Good Beginnings Alliance 2007 Annual Report <http://www.goodbeginnings.org/pdf/Publications/AnnualReport07.pdf>

- Molokai has the highest percentage of young children living in poverty (48.4%). Source: http://www.uhfamily.hawaii.edu/Cof_Data/profiles/narrative.asp?geo=11500910865

- In the Kindergarten Class Profile from the HSSRA data for Kualapu'u School, students entering kindergarten scored low, a 3 on a range of 5 on the item: "Communicates ideas and describes things using phrases and sentences." Kualapu'u School Status and Improvement Report School Year 2007-08."

- The state IDC (Interdepartmental Council) presented the following *indicators* displaying key characteristics and skills in children enrolled in Kindergarten in 2008:

Physical 51.7%

Socio-Emotional 49.7%

School Behaviors and Skills 41.3%

Approaches to Learning 38.3%

Math 28.7%

Literacy 21.2%

Source: Report to the 2009 Legislature Act 77 by Good Beginnings Alliance

http://www.goodbeginnings.org/images/uploads/09_Legislature_Annual_Report_FY07-08_COLOR.PDF

Kualapu'u School is like many public schools which struggled to meet NCLB requirements in student achievement. The school prioritized the use of time in its current school schedule by devoting most of its instructional time to reading and math instruction. This prioritizing of time, along with other initiatives, resulted in the school moving from a school in "restructuring status" to "in-good standing" status for the school year 2008-2009. However, throughout the years, the academic trade-off to students has been a reduction in subject areas such as science, social studies, and the enrichment activities in art, PE, and cultural activities. More recently, the school has experienced a plateau effect in its student achievement data and the 2010-2011 school year presents increased expectations as the targets for student achievement will increase to 72% from 58% for reading and to 64% from 46% for math. To meet these diverse priorities and the needs of its students, Kualapu'u conducted extensive research for the design and adoption of an innovative expanded learning time model that will promote

the academic and learning success of students and provide teachers with time and support to collaborate and plan for quality teaching and learning.

C RFP OBJECTIVE

Through this RFP, KUU seeks an evaluation study of its Pre-Kindergarten model and practices during the SY2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-2012.

D SCOPE OF SERVICES

This Request for Proposals is for a data-driven case study, including qualitative and quantitative measures and formative and summative data, that:

- Documents evidence of expanded learning time practices;
- Measures the fidelity and impact of program components; and
- Provides materials for on-going program advocacy.
- Ho`okāko`o Corporation has adopted an Evaluation Framework for Pre-Kindergarten, providing potential areas for a Pre-Kindergarten evaluation study. (See attached). Kualapu`u seeks to document and track the impact of its Pre-Kindergarten model as originally designed and implemented in 2009-2010.

For more information regarding KUU's Pre-Kindergarten initiative, please see Kualapu`u School's Amended Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) for its Pre-Kindergarten initiative attached.

E PROPOSAL FORMAT

The following information shall be required in the RFP submittal:

- Transmittal Letter that includes:
 - Company name, address and telephone number of the firm submitting the proposal
 - Name, title, address, e-mail address and telephone number of the person(s) to contact who are authorized to represent the firm and to whom correspondence should be directed.
 - Federal and state taxpayer identification numbers of the firm.
 - A brief statement of the firm's understanding of the services to be performed and a positive commitment to provide the services as specified.
 - A statement that indicates "proposal and cost schedule shall be valid and binding for thirty (30) days following the proposal due date and will become part of the contract that is negotiated".
- General Vendor Information that includes:
 - Length of time in business
 - Length of time in business of providing proposed services
 - Total number of clients
 - Number of full-time personnel
 - Location of headquarters and any field offices
 - Location of office which would service this account
- Proposal Summary that includes:
 - Summary of your firms qualifications
 - Cost of services that includes:

- Fee schedule that includes an annual rate to conduct the services described in Section D.
- Define any additional charges (i.e. for parts, travel expenses, etc.).
- At any stage of an initiative, estimated work and the scope or effort may change. How do you typically handle these situations?

F SELECTION CRITERIA

Listed below are criteria that will be utilized in our selection process. Please note that is not an inclusive list and that other relevant criteria may be used.

- Understanding of services to be provided
- Expertise and qualifications of your firm
- Professionalism
- Compatibility with KUU school community
- Satisfaction of clients/end users
- Proposed Fee

G DEADLINES

Any questions regarding this proposal may be submitted to:
Lydia_Trinidad@notes.k12.hi.us

Proposals must be submitted by January 31, 2012, 3:00pm

Lydia Trinidad
Principal
Kualapu'u School
P.O. Box 260
Kualapu`u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757

Electronic submissions of proposals are permissible.

H OTHER INFORMATION

- 1) **Modifications:** In the event modifications, clarifications or additions to the RFP become necessary as determined by KUU, all Bidders will receive via e-mail the addenda to the RFP.
- 2) **Proposal Preparation Costs:** All costs incurred in the preparation and presentation of the proposal response will be paid entirely by the Bidder.
- 3) **Final Selection & Award:** Proposals received by KUU are subject to the following:
 - a. KUU reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to award the bid to more than one bidder and/or to other than the lowest-priced bidder.
 - b. KUU at its sole discretion may decide to take no procurement action as a result of the RFP and/or may re-bid all or portions of the RFP.
 - c. KUU reserves the right to accept or reject without consideration proposals that do not address the full requirements of the RFP or that do not reach the designated address and contact before the proposal due date and time identified.

- d. Proposal responses and contents provided by the Bidder will be considered contractual obligations. Any existing agreements with the selected Bidder are construed as representative of minimum terms and conditions between KUU and the Bidder. Any new or unique requirements as a result of the RFP response can be added or amended, at KUU's option, to the existing agreements. It should be understood that obligations of confidentiality will be an important condition of any resulting contractual arrangement. The selected bidder and all employees performing duties on this project will be required to keep all aspects of this project in confidence.