

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MAUI YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES RECEIVES \$30,000 GRANT FROM THE HMSA FOUNDATION**

MAKAWAO, MAUI, HAWAII – (July 21, 2010) --The HMSA Foundation recently awarded a grant of \$30,000 to Maui Youth and Family Services (MYFS), for the Outpatient and Intensive Outpatient Services Program. The program is the only one of its kind on Maui, and it serves middle-school and high-school adolescents who meet criteria for a substance abuse intervention.

“We at Maui Youth and Family Services are thrilled to be chosen to receive a grant of \$30,000 in support of our Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment program,” said Jud Cunningham, MYFS Chief Executive Officer. “This is such an important service for the Maui community and HMSA Foundation’s support will be crucial to its continued success during this transition year and beyond.”

Substance abuse in youth is often a symptom of other deep-rooted issues, and is frequently accompanied by behavioral problems that impact success in school and in the community. It can harm a teenager’s social and physical well-being and can lead to abusive situations for the teenager (particularly for girls), and can be a source of legal difficulties, and often leads to continued substance abuse, mental health, and physical health issues as an adult.

“When we are able to intervene at a pivotal moment in a young person’s life, it often makes all the difference in the world in shaping their entire life,” says Christina Andersson, Clinical Director of Youth Services at MYFS and Aloha House “With our program we can directly impact and often change the course of direction for a youth, creating opportunity for a successful and balanced life. In the end, this benefits our entire community and has a very strong ripple-effect.”

MYFS’ treatment philosophy is based on the belief that addiction is the result of a combination of genetic predisposition and environmental factoring, and that it is possible for all individuals to remain drug-free.

### **ABOUT MAUI YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES**

Maui Youth & Family Services is a comprehensive social services agency whose mission is to “Build better lives with Hawaii’s families.” MYFS has been accomplishing this mission for 32 years, by offering a continuum of services for adolescents and their families, including foster care, prevention, outreach, outpatient treatment for substance abuse and behavioral health treatment programs. Visit [www.myfs.org](http://www.myfs.org) for more information.

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(PHOTO CAPTION) – Shown here discussing the curriculum for the outpatient program are (left) Amandine Muary, CSAC counselor and Christina Andersson, Clinical Director of Youth Services.