

COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS

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All-girls school prepares for opening

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By **LAUREN CHANG**
Staff Writer

WAIKELE — The founder of a new private all-girls elementary school is aiming to offer what she calls an exceptional education to students in a homeschool-style setting.

ADVERTISEMENT Waikela's Kaori Brown says that Huakailani, which means "a noble journey" in Hawaiian, plans to open its doors in Kailua on Wednesday, Aug. 27, to girls in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The school will run on an 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. schedule.

Brown, a longtime educator and former lower school principal at Le Jardin Academy, says she felt there was a need for another all-girls school that specifically focuses on elementary education.

"I've realized that girls have a different social need, and an all-girls setting can be a very nurturing and caring environment, where you can focus on building their self esteem and confidence," said Brown, who also serves as the school's director. "It can also cultivate leadership skills that are not always attainable, especially in a co-ed situation.

"There are a lot of studies that show that girls and boys learn differently, and elementary is really important because you're building a lot of the basic skills and concepts that will be the foundation for more advanced subject areas in the future," she continued, adding that she created an elementary school program for Seagull Schools in Kapolei back in 2000. "Science, math, reading, writing and spelling may seem very basic, but if they are not built in a solid way, there are going to be little gaps in learning when they're older."

Laying the foundation will be Brown and her mother, Keiko, a retired kindergarten teacher who currently runs a Kumon center in Kailua. In addition, students will have the luxury of a homeschool-style setting, where each child learns individually and receives one-on-one attention.

"It's a very open-ended program that's very similar to a homeschool program, where every student who comes in is given formal and informal assessments in the core academic areas, then we build an educational blueprint plan specifically for each child," Brown explained.

The 800-square-foot classroom will be divided into various instructional areas and accommodate up to 18 students.

Huakailani School is located at 320 Uluniu St. Annual tuition cost is \$7,500.

Call 348-9179 or visit www.huakailani.com.

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Kaori Brown of Huakailani School, an all-girls elementary school in Kailua, is currently accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. The school will open its doors next Wednesday, Aug. 27.

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