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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

PATCH is awarded a statewide Department of Human Services contract for Preschool Open Doors for fiscal year 2010.

Statewide: PATCH is pleased to announce that it was awarded a \$239,750 per fiscal year statewide contract with the State Department of Human Services for the Preschool Open Doors program. Effective July 1, 2009, PATCH is working with the community to operate this three-year contract. Preschool Open Doors offers low-income families the opportunity to send their children to preschool for up to one full school year through State supported subsidies. Priority is given to 4 year old children and 3 or 4 year olds identified as being in a "special population," such as those living in an at-risk home environment or struggling with homelessness or English-as-a-Second-Language. The contract was previously operated by another company. PATCH is ensuring existing eligible families enrolled in the Preschool Open Doors program that the transition to PATCH does not impact their cases, and their monthly subsidies will continue to be processed until the next eligibility review period.

"The goal of Preschool Open Doors is to help as many children in Hawaii be ready to succeed in Kindergarten. Studies show time and time again that a good preschool experience helps a young child do just that," said Katy Chen, Executive Director of PATCH. "We're so pleased to be able to offer this statewide program to the community and we want as many eligible families as possible to know about it." PATCH will be working on each island to increase awareness of this program, especially with preschools and other nonprofits. Interested families and agencies can contact their local PATCH office or go online at www.patchhawaii.org for more information.

As Hawaii's only child care resource and referral agency, PATCH has been helping Hawaii's families balance work and family responsibilities since 1976. The mission of PATCH is to support and improve the quality and availability of child care and education for the young people of Hawaii.