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COLLEGE CONNECTIONS HAWAII WILL BE CLOSING EFFECTIVE JULY, 31 2010

College Connections Hawaii, Inc., a local nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is announcing the close of business effective July 31, 2010.

College Connections has offered tutoring, test preparation, and college advising services on all islands for more than ten years.

"This year we have seen a steady decline in revenues from government and private sources," said Board Vice President Amy Hennessey. "It is disappointing that the organization cannot continue, but we know our mission will live on through our partners and a growing group of youth organizations who see college access as part of their mission."

College Connections has dedicated its mission to serving students who are first in their families to attend college, from low income families, or from other underrepresented populations. Hennessey said, "In our short history, College Connection has seen a shift in attitudes about college. Fewer students are dismissing college as impossible, and our field advisors report stronger college-going cultures developing in our public schools and communities."

The Native Hawaiian Scholars Program, College Connections flagship program, the strongest results in its five-year history. Since 2006, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and federal Native Hawaiian Education Act funds have supported hundreds of Native Hawaiian students in their paths to college. This year 81 students from all major islands graduated from high school with committed plans to attend college in the fall.

College Connections has also provided free tutoring and SAT test preparation to thousands of students in the past five years. Most of these beneficiaries come from low income families, live in rural communities, and attend public schools. College Connections has worked with Parents and Children Together, the Searider Productions program at Wai'anae High School, and more than one hundred DOE schools to provide services that help students prepare for and achieve college degrees.

