

PROOF POSITIVE

Assets School Transforms Lives

By Ryan Masa, head of school at Assets School



For 66 years, Assets School has specialized in educating children who are gifted, dyslexic or learn differently. One in 5 children has a learning difference and it unfortunately often goes undiagnosed.

Assets has always been committed to the community. We offer free diagnostic reading screenings for children in grades K-3 who are having trouble reading. Darlene Robertson, Assets' director of outreach and professional development, also goes into the community to educate teachers and parents on how to support students with language-based learning differences.

We have touched the lives of thousands of families over the years and will do our best to continue to do so. We are grateful to Gov. David Ige and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund Advisory Board for awarding Assets \$378,000 to create the Transforming Lives Center. This facility will offer speech and language assessments, early reading assessments, and ADHD and psycho-educational screenings, plus assistive technology services.

Upon learning of the award, families and educators expressed their gratitude.

"When a child is struggling, the whole family

struggles," says Alison Bhat-tacharyya, a mother of two students attending Assets. "Gov. Ige's commitment to early intervention and the Transforming Lives Center will be life-changing. Assets provided my children a reading test years ago and that's how I learned my children have dyslexia. My children were taught strategies to read and are thriving. I am grateful to Gov. Ige for supporting Assets and embracing the need for early intervention of learning differences."

"Assets has always been the authority in our state for educating K-12 students who are gifted, dyslexic or have

other learning differences," says Dr. Philip Bossert, executive director of the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools. "The Transforming Lives Center will build upon Assets' past and present success of helping students in a profound way."

Early intervention will help with the statewide effort to reduce high school dropout rates, as well as help all students who may have a gap in their learning as a result of the pandemic. Assets offers year-round admissions. The Transforming Lives Center will open in the spring or summer of 2022. Learn more at assets-school.org.