

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release:**

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**MOMS Club of Honolulu -East Purchases Suitcases for DHS Foster Children & the Kamehameha School's Kapalama Campus' Junior Class of 2009's project of collecting "Slippers & T-shirts" for children in foster care.**

The MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club of East Honolulu, will present 41 travel-size suitcases, and the Kamehameha School's Class of 2009 will present items from their Slipper & T-Shirt drive to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Lillian Koller at 9:30 a.m. Monday, November 19, 2007, at the State Capitol Rotunda, to help meet the needs of foster children living on O`ahu.

Members of the MOMS Club and the Kamehameha School's c/o 2009, partnered with Kōkua `Ohana, an organization that aims to recruit and support foster families from Native Hawaiian communities. More than half the State's foster children are of Native Hawaiian ancestry.

"On behalf of our foster children, I want to thank the MOMS Club and the Kamehameha School's c/o 2009 for its kindness and generosity," Director Koller said. "Foster children face many challenges, and a gift such as this lets them know they are loved and appreciated and that we, as a community, want these young people to lead happy and fulfilling lives."

MOMS Club members paid for the suitcases by selling more than 300 cookbooks as one of their many community service projects this year. Entitled "Buns in the Oven and Other Favorite Recipes," the cookbook – containing submissions from club members, friends and relatives – raised more than \$1,300. Inside each suitcase is a note from the club reminding foster children that they are not alone and that people care for them.

Kamehameha School's Kapalama Campus Junior Class of 2009 elected to support children in Hawaii's foster care system and came up with the idea of a Slipper & T-shirt drive that resulted in addition, a collection of other items such as backpacks and hair accessories.

It was suggested that a "suitcase drive" and "basic necessity drive" would benefit children in foster care, who often don't have anything to put their belongings in when they are placed with a foster family. Many times, their clothing and basic possessions are carried in trash bags. These projects will positively affect the lives of children in foster care and will hopefully be seen as models of future community projects for organizations statewide.