



# PRESS RELEASE

To: News Editors & Directors  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# HEALTHY VISION AMONG THE BEST WAYS TO PREPARE CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL

## Vision Screening Encouraged As Students Head Back to School

(Honolulu, Hawaii), July 7, 2006- As Hawaii families prepare to send children back to school, vision screening should be a priority to promote a productive learning experience for students.

“Approximately one-fourth of all school-age children have vision deficiencies and many are misdiagnosed as having learning disabilities,” said Hawaiian Eye Center Medical Director Christopher Tortora, M.D. “Between having to read the blackboard, study from textbooks and work on the computer it can be frustrating and discouraging for a child if there are unresolved vision problems.”

The American Academy of Ophthalmology estimates that 80 percent of learning during a child’s first 12 years is obtained through vision. Tortora said that a child who is squinting a lot or having trouble reading the time on digital clock displays or VCR’s should get their vision assessed. Doing poorly in school should also prompt an eye exam.

In many cases, something as simple as a pair of glasses can make a huge difference in a child’s performance in school. In other cases, serious eye problems requiring medical treatment can be uncovered in an eye exam.

Tortora, a board certified ophthalmologist, is host of The Hawaiian Eye Show, a weekly informational radio program about healthy vision. He and his colleagues at Hawaiian Eye Center are committed to educating the public about the importance of preventive eye care. To learn more about other eye health issues, please call Hawaiian Eye Center at 621-8448 where “*life has never looked better.*”

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