



July 1, 2009

Aloha and mahalo to all of Malama Pono's supporters,

Fiscal year July, 2008 to end of June, 2009 has been a good year for Malama Pono Kauai AIDS Project. In spite of a very difficult economy Malama Pono is solvent, stable and growing.

Our STD/AIDS Prevention contract from the CDC via the STATE of Hawaii Department of Health has been extended through the end of 2010. Our HIV prevention efforts have been markedly effective and our Kauai Community is much safer from HIV as a result of diligent effort and work on the part of our prevention staff. Kauai is now a low prevalence area for HIV. After intensive training and preparation our prevention staff has been able to expand their efforts into the fight to eliminate Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C; the main cause of liver cancer and liver failure on Kauai.

Our case management contract with the State of Hawaii Department of Health has been extended through 2011. Our client base has increased to nearly 50 families. The poor economy has significantly impacted our clients with more than 25% of them either laid off from employment or with work hours reduced. Federal Ryan White Care Act funds to Malama Pono have been reduced by 5%. Those funds are the absolute bottom social safety net for our clients. As a result our food pantry has seen unprecedented need and use. Fund raising efforts to keep the pantry stocked have been successful. We are committed to insuring that our clients never have to worry about feeding their families.

In the early part of this coming fiscal year Malama Pono, under a grant from the Life Foundation, will begin offering HIV "Rapid Testing." Results will be available in twenty minutes rather than the present two weeks. This will eliminate the situation of people not returning for results. By early fall Malama Pono will also be able to offer rapid testing for Hepatitis C. We will be the first in Hawaii and likely first in the nation to offer this service. Via our very productive partnership with the Department of Health we expect to be able to offer STD testing at Malama Pono at the same time as we institute HIV rapid testing.

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A Kauai United Way Agency

Under the auspices of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center (NNAAPC) Malama Pono formed a partnership with YWCA of Kauai to address mutual HIV and STD missions. The boards of directors for both organizations met together to craft a working arrangement for sharing resources and direction in this partnership. Officials from NNAAPC traveled to Kauai from Denver to assess this first of a kind partnership. Prevention teams from both organizations have already begun training together. Common training will insure that our community receives consistent HIV and STD prevention messages and actions. It is the decision of the mutual boards that Malama Pono and YWCA will facilitate the development of an STD prevention and treatment clinic for Kauai.

A partnership of Malama Pono, Kauai Hospice and YWCA of Kauai received a grant from the Annie Sinclair Knudsen Trust via the Hawaii Community Foundation to reduce the barriers of stigma and fear associated with death and life-limiting illness; racism; domestic violence and sexual assault under which our organizations labor. This collaborative effort has opened opportunities for interaction, creativity and outreach to our community far beyond our expectations. We have already produced over 2,000 broadcasts of compelling, highly unusual and very attention grabbing public service announcements for the three organizations. Public notice and feedback has been very positive. Partnerships are proving to be very effective in moving Malama Pono's mission forward.

In the early months of the coming fiscal year Malama Pono Kauai AIDS Project will change its by-laws to move from a membership organization to a board directed organization and will change its name to Malama Pono. Reflecting its enhanced mission, the purpose of the organization will be to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, infectious hepatitis and STDs on Kauai through education and to assist those persons infected with or affected by these diseases. Malama Pono will enlarge its office space and offer increased services to our community.

Mahalo for your continued support as Malama Pono seeks to meet the infectious disease prevention needs of our multi-ethnic and diverse island community.

Dr. Kathleen Scarbo
President, Malama Pono—Kauai AIDS Project Board of Directors