



HCAP Weekly

For the week of July 13, 2009

Executive Director's Message

Aloha mai kākou -

My name is Robert Piper, and I am honored to be your new Executive Director. To say that I am excited to finally be here is an understatement. I thank the Board of Directors for their support and confidence in me, and I thank the many, many staff members that I have just met who have shared their Aloha and excitement as I embark upon this new chapter in my life.

I have had the opportunity to share some of my thoughts about HCAP and our future with some of you. More importantly, I have heard from many of you with regard to our future as an agency. I am enthusiastic about our prospects! Together we can all achieve the hopes and dreams that the framers of the Anti-Poverty Act dared to bring to life in 1964. This noble legacy deserves nothing short of our full commitment and effort.

I look forward to ushering in a new age at HCAP working alongside all of you where no matter what we do, we will always take time to think of our clients first. As I have said before, I proudly stand here today as your Executive Director with the sincere acknowledgement that all that I hope to achieve will be built upon the shoulders of those who have led the agency before me, and with that thought I am both humbled and grateful.

While past accomplishments by HCAP are longstanding and remarkable in their own right, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. We must continue to strive to ensure that our services remain relevant and appropriate to the communities that we serve. We must build upon the foundations of our past achievements, and soar to new heights as a human service agency. We must strengthen old bonds and nurture new ones with partners throughout Honolulu so that we can better leverage our limited resources to successfully deliver our services those of need.

Many people have asked why I have taken the job as HCAP Executive Director. My simple answer is that I have a fond Aloha for this agency and its mission. I have had the pleasure of serving on HCAP's Board of Directors for many years in different capacities, including Chairman of the Board; and HCAP's mission still rings solemnly for me as it did when I was first served the agency over 21 years ago.

I eagerly look forward to renewing my friendships here that I have grown to know over the years, and I also look forward to meeting those friends that I have yet to meet. Mahalo piha.

Hawaii Youth Services Network held their annual membership meeting at the HCAP main office on July 16, 2009. The Network is made up of organizations working with Hawaii's at-risk youth population. Both Val Tavai and Krystal Ikeda made presentations for HCAP and the Youth Services Program. It was an exciting meeting, which focused on innovative programming taking place in Hawaii for youth and young adults.

Head Start's 2008-2009 school year ended this week, with Full-Day Full-Year (FDFY) program options celebrating last day of school on Friday, July 17th, 2009. For this school year, Head Start program serviced a total of 1,972 children and their families; of which 1,238 children (63%) were Kindergarten bound, 171 (8.7%) were children who were eligible for DOE special needs services, 73 (3.7%) foster children, and 84 (4.3%) homeless children. Children and families received comprehensive services which included education, health and nutrition, mental health, and family support services. A big **MAHALO** to all the staff for making this year another successful year for the children and families!

Kumuhonua had a successful transition of a resident into permanent housing with a family on Maui. Our Beginner Computer class commences this week and will be held for the

next 4 weeks. Our HPU nursing students continue to visit with their assigned residents every week and also made a presentation this week on Smoking Cessation and Safety Kits.

Windward center staff completed the last of the LIHEAP applications this week. Windward staff has started processing WAP applications for solar water heating systems, refrigerators, and CFL kits. Malama Polo staff held a craft night on Wednesday for mentees or mentors.

The Kalihi-Palama (KP) staff completed LIHEAP 2009. KP staff processed 1,355 potentially approved applications. All required data has been submitted. A well deserved "BRAVO ZULU" to the KP staff, particularly to our two temporary hires, Brianna Batts and James Upega; both were outstanding. KP staff will miss both of them. Through the partnership with Head Start, KP staff distributed school supplies to 37 students in grades 6-15 and 104 students grades K-5.

The Central O'ahu District Center was able to help four program participants with various items that will assist them in obtaining and/or retaining employment. Central is preparing for next week's registration for their Competency-Based high School Diploma Program.