



# Ku'i Na Lono

Spread the News SPRING 2014

## Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center For Community Action- Leeward District Service Center Opening and Blessing

Getting 2014 off to a great start, HCAP held the opening and blessing of the Leeward District Service Center on January 10, 2014. The Royal Order of Kamehameha I performed the opening oli and Reverend Bob Nakata blessed each room in the building. HCAP Executive Director, Robert N.E. Piper welcomed the community to the building, expressing, "This is the community's house, this house belongs to all of you." Representative Isaac Choy, House District 23, Chair of the HCAP Board of Directors, spoke on the mission of HCAP and helped remind everyone what the promise of community action is all about. Governor Neil Abercrombie then shared his dedication and commitment to community action in a heartfelt speech to attendees, providing some history and recalling his past involvement with community action in Hawaii. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard's representative, Vandeth Sek, presented HCAP with a congratulatory message from the Congresswoman, and HCAP also received a message from Senator Mazie Hirono honoring the opening and blessing. Special recognition and remembrance was given to the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, whose former barracks was the site of the Leeward District Service Center. HCAP also acknowledged former Leeward District Service Center Manager Danette Rayford for her contributions and presented a plaque in her memory to her family. HCAP also recognized and thanked Gailene Wong of the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation for the Foundation's support and funding for the new building. Makaha Elementary School demonstrated what community support is all about by presenting a donation of canned goods collected by the school children. HCAP truly appreciated this wonderful gesture. HCAP is excited about the enormous potential the new Leeward District Service Center holds for providing needed services to the community.

### In this issue:

- HCAP Presented with City Grant-In-Aid (pg. 3)
- Stories from the Field (pg. 5)
- EITC Brings Tax Refunds to our Communities (pg. 6)



## Governor Neil Abercrombie Attends Opening and Blessing

HCAP was delighted to have Governor Neil Abercrombie attend and speak at the opening and blessing of the Leeward District Service Center on January 10, 2014. Following the program, all guests were given the opportunity to tour the facility. Governor Abercrombie led the way through the building, stopping to greet the Leeward District Service Center staff and volunteers. He eventually made his way to the STEM Exploration Center, where HCAP staff showed him the STEM lab and recording studio, and explained more about the Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program. Governor Abercrombie was also able to speak with one of the Hā Initiative and FIRST LEGO League participants about her experiences in the program.



## Senator Mazie Hirono Visits Leeward District Service Center



Having not been able to attend the Leeward District Service Center opening and blessing in person, Senator Mazie Hirono visited shortly thereafter to tour the facility and get to know a little more about HCAP's programs and services. While sitting through HCAP's presentation, Senator Hirono shared her experiences and viewpoints as they related to the issues and challenges that HCAP faces in delivering its programs and services. After the discussion, Senator Hirono played with a LEGO robotics creation made for her by Hā Initiative participants. She also took the time to talk with staff and Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants. In addition, she visited the Head Start classroom to say hello to the children.

## Mayor Kirk Caldwell Presents HCAP with Grants-In-Aid

In January, HCAP was awarded with City and County of Honolulu Grants-In-Aid funding for the Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program and Na Lima Hana (“for the working hand”) Employment Core Services Program. In February 2014, Mayor Kirk Caldwell presented HCAP Executive Director, Robert N.E. Piper with a check representing first payment for each of the grants.

### Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services Grant-In-Aid

With the Grant-In-Aid funding, HCAP was able to introduce the Na Lima Hana-Employment Core Services Program. The program is an Oahu-wide employment preparation, development, and support program for unemployed and underemployed income eligible individuals. The program provides clients with employment preparation training, as well as assists them in securing full or part-time employment. These services are offered at each of HCAP’s five District Service Centers.



James Upega, Program Coordinator, is responsible for oversight of program services and administration. Mr. Upega began with HCAP in 2008 as a volunteer, and was subsequently employed at HCAP as a Program Aide for HCAP’s Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Community Worker at the Kalihi-Palama District Service Center.

### Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program Grant-In-Aid

The Hā Initiative is a Creative STEM After-School Program for kids in Grades 2-8 to explore the worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in a fun and creative environment. The program includes fun after-school activities including a snack, tutoring, and exciting hands-on projects from digital story-telling to robotics.

The Grant-In-Aid allows HCAP to continue providing the program in existing classrooms in Kalihi, Waianae, and Aiea, as well as expand to its fourth exploration center at the Waiahole Elementary School in Windward Oahu.

## Board of Directors

### 2013-2014 BOARD OFFICERS

Representative Isaac W. Choy  
Chair  
Eddie Mersereau  
Vice Chair  
William Shiroma  
Secretary/ Treasurer

### 2013-2014 BOARD MEMBERS

#### *Resident Sector*

Ryan Yamamoto  
Windward District Council  
Debra Jardine  
Leahi District Council  
John Dudoit, Jr.  
Central District Council  
Eddie Mersereau  
Central District Council  
Pauni Nagaseu-Escue  
Kalihi-Palama District Council  
Frederick Saunders, Jr.  
Leeward District Council  
Jeselle Bassingthwaite  
Head Start Policy Council

#### *Public Sector*

Terrence Aratani, Esq.  
Office of Senator Brian Taniguchi  
Rep. Isaac W. Choy  
Mayor's Representative  
Mark L. Forman  
Office of Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Colleen Minami  
Office of Representative Marcus Oshiro  
Frank Lopez  
Governor's Representative  
Karen Iwamoto  
Office of Representative Calvin Say

#### *Private Sector*

Roxanne U. Bolden  
Aloha Independent Living Hawaii  
Michael Broderick  
YMCA of Honolulu  
Garrick L.H. Goo  
Attorney at Law, LLC  
Phyllis Ida  
P-3 Windward Grant  
Alan Shinn  
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii  
William Shiroma  
Bank of Hawaii  
Judge Kevin A. Souza  
Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce

#### *Executive Director*

Robert N.E. Piper, Esq., MBA

## Head Start Parents and Staff Visit Hawaii State Capitol

Head Start parents and staff visited the Hawaii State Capitol for their Legislature Day event on February 7, 2014. Parents and staff were greeted by HCAP Board Chair, Representative Isaac Choy. They were escorted to the Executive Conference Room, where they had the honor and pleasure of meeting and talking story with Governor Neil Abercrombie regarding the importance of advocacy for Early Childhood Education. Parents then made their way around the Capitol to meet legislators and share information about the Head Start program. The day at the Capitol ended with HCAP Board member Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and Representative Choy introducing Head Start parents and staff members in their respective chambers.



## HCAP In The News

- HCAP was listed in the top ten of Nonprofit Service Providers in the 2014 Pacific Business News Book of Lists, as ranked by 2012 revenue. The Book of Lists is a compilation of Lists that appeared in the weekly issues of Pacific Business News during the previous year.
- HCAP's Leeward District Service Center Opening and Blessing was featured in the February issue of Westside Stories "The Pride of the West Side."
- On February 4, 2014, HCAP's Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services program was featured in Pacific Business News' Online Morning Edition. To read the article, visit: [http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/blog/morning\\_call/2014/02/honolulu-community-action-program.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/blog/morning_call/2014/02/honolulu-community-action-program.html)

## Stories From the Field- Leahi District

By Rachel Yeager, Community Worker

As a community worker at the HCAP Leahi District Service Center, my day consists of meeting people from all walks of life who come into the office needing support. My job is to help and assist these individuals and families so that they may become self-sufficient. The job can be a challenge at times- sometimes it is a long, slow, steady process for my clients. Several clients have made an impact on me and deserve recognition. One client that stands out is Hermeleen. Hermeleen is originally from Micronesia and has been part of the Palolo neighborhood since the age of four. She attended Palolo Elementary School, Jarett Middle School, and Kaimuki High School. Hermeleen is a single mother of two. It has been a rough path for her, but with the assistance of HCAP, she has been able to create a better life for herself and her two young daughters. Her daughters attend the Head Start program, and last year they received Christmas gifts provided by programs such as Toys For Tots and Adopt A Family. Hermeleen attends community college as a paralegal student. HCAP has been able to assist and guide her with information regarding jobs and education. She obtained employment at Kapiolani Community College as a student helper, assisting first year college students. Her goal is to provide a better life and more opportunities for her children. She is on the right path towards success.



## Employee Anniversaries

Mahalo to our staff who reached these milestones of service in Spring 2014

### 35 Years

Kuulei Pili- Family Advocate

### 15 Years

Velvet Fujita- Training Coordinator

### 10 Years

Raven Tavares- Assistant Teacher

Jaydene Savella- Assistant Teacher

### 5 Years

Patricia Beatty- Human Resources Assistant

Summer Kaopuiki- Assistant Teacher

Lieu Nguyen- Senior Accountant & Grants  
Manager

Rolanda Marianon- Family Advocate

Stevi Perry- Teacher I

## Earned Income Tax Credit Program Brings Federal Tax Refunds to our Communities

In partnership with the IRS and as a part of the Hawaii Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) & Financial Empowerment Coalition, HCAP's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program is helping working families and individuals get the federal tax credits they have earned. Staff and volunteers are trained and IRS certified to have a basic understanding of tax law and the TaxWise software. The EITC program runs annually from the first weekday in February through the first full week in April.

To qualify to use our services, filers should have an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of about \$52,000 or less and be filing a relatively simple return. Filers make appointments at any of our 6 sites across the island, which include the 5 district service centers and the main business office.

HCAP is in a unique position to help because many of our current clients meet the qualifications of this program or are moving toward qualifying, as a stepping-stone to self-sufficiency. We can measure this success in the percentage of Earned Income Credit (EIC) eligible returns that are filed through our program. In 2014,

47.78% of our returns were EIC eligible. Success can also be measured by the ways in which this service impacts the lives of our clients.



Cenly, her husband, and 2 children have been struggling for the past 2 years because her husband has not had steady work. Cenly's children are both active in wrestling and the costs of equipment and gym time were becoming a barrier to their participation. The family car was also on its last leg. Cenly had her taxes done at one of the HCAP sites and saved the money she would have spent on tax preparation. Cenly's refund allowed her family to buy needed sports equipment and put a down payment on a reliable SUV that gets the entire family to and from school and sports events.

In 2014, HCAP's EITC Program assisted 743 more families like Cenly's. The average adjusted gross income for the program was \$16,248 and the average refund was \$1,829. This program brought \$1,278,354 in federal tax refunds back into our communities.

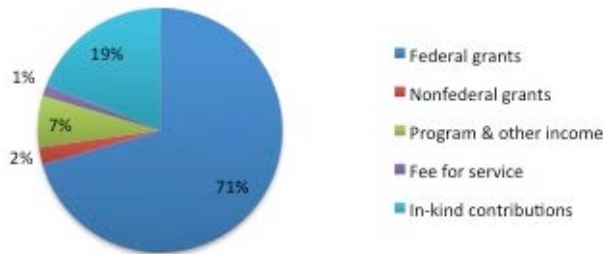
# Interim Financial Update

Fourth Quarter FY 2014

January 1, 2014 - March 31, 2014

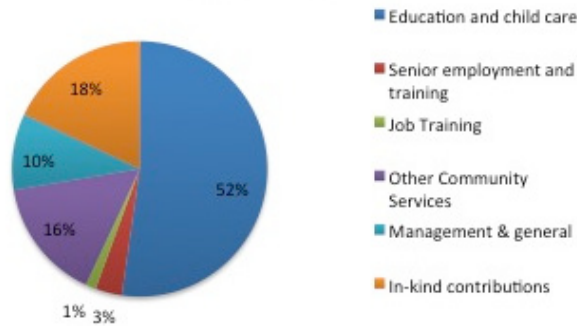
\* Unaudited, Cash Basis

## GRANTS & OTHER SUPPORT



GRANTS & OTHER SUPPORT	YTD
Federal grants	15,311,836
Nonfederal grants	483,654
Program & other income	1,485,610
Fee for service	290,785
In-kind contributions	4,140,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,712,177</b>

## EXPENSES



EXPENSES	YTD
Program services:	
Education & childcare	12,035,532
Senior employment & training	777,224
Job training	299,994
Other community services	3,550,869
Supporting services:	
Management & general	2,224,167
In-kind contributions	4,148,442
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,036,228</b>

CURRENT PROGRAMS BY FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM PERIOD	BUDGET
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	10/01/13 - 09/30/14	1,751,199
Grant-In-Aid Employment Core	01/15/14 - 12/31/14	120,405.50
Grant-In-Aid STEM	01/15/14 - 12/31/14	149,999.94
Head Start	04/01/13 - 03/31/14	11,757,739
Head Start Full-Day Full-Year	04/01/13 - 03/31/14	1,269,000
Ho'o Kahua Project	08/05/13 - 05/23/14	94,779
Youth Services	07/01/13 - 06/30/14	435,559
Youth Services (Creating Employment Opportunities)	03/01/13 - 11/30/14	189,000
Hi'i Ola Program	08/01/13 - 07/30/14	385,000

CURRENT PROGRAMS BY FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM PERIOD	BUDGET
Kupuna Program (Friends of Hawaii Charities)	6/19/13 - 12/31/13	3,000
STEM After-School Program (Friends of Hawaii Robotics)	1/30/13 - 12/31/13	900
STEM After-School Program (Atherton Family Foundation)	11/27/12 - 11/26/13	10,000
Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP)	07/01/13 - 06/30/14	873,077
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	10/01/13 - 09/30/14	44,164
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	05/01/13 - 04/30/14	120,983
Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center (DHS Stipend)	08/01/13 - 07/31/14	360,000
Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center (Program Income)	08/01/13 - 07/31/14	264,280



Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center For Community Action- Leeward District Service Center



## Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.

Main Office

33 South King Street, Suite 300, Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel: (808)521-4531 Fax: (808) 521-4538

E-mail: [hcpap@hcpapweb.org](mailto:hcpap@hcpapweb.org)

### District Service Centers

#### Leeward

Tel: 696-4261 Fax: 696-0169

85-555 Farrington Hwy. Waianae, HI 96792

#### Central

Tel: 488-6834 Fax: 488-7862

99-102 Kalaloa St. Aiea, HI 96701

#### Kalihi-Palama

Tel: 847-0804 Fax: 841-7971

1555 Haka Dr. #2408 Honoulu, HI 96817

#### Leahi

Tel: 732-7755 Fax: 735-6034

1915 Palolo Ave. Honolulu, HI 96816

#### Windward

Tel: 239-5754 Fax: 239-3912

47-232 Waihee Rd. Kaneohe, HI 96744

### Programs

Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services

Tel: 521-4531 Fax: 521-4538

Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program

Tel: 521-4531 Fax: 521-4538

Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center

Tel: 682-5494 Fax: 682-5495

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

Tel: 521-4531 Fax: 521-4538

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

Tel: 521-4531 Fax: 521-4538

Youth Services

Tel: 591-1766 Fax: 591-1768

### HCAP Head Start

Head Start Dillingham

Tel: 847-2400 Fax: 847-2302

Head Start Kunia

Tel: 200-7690 Fax: 200-7690

*Support HCAP by giving a secure donation on-line. Click "donate" below or on our website at*

[www.hcapweb.org](http://www.hcapweb.org)

