



# Ku'i Na Lono

*Spread the News*    SPRING 2015

## HCAP Staff Attend Conferences in Washington, D.C.

In March 2015, HCAP Executive Director Robert N.E. Piper, Board Members Terrance Aratani and Blake Oshiro, and Planning & Development Specialist Tehani Diaz attended the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) 2015 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. With the theme being "Poverty & Opportunity in America," U.S. Senators and Representatives spoke about the importance of supporting Community Action and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). On Thursday, March 26th, the HCAP team visited Capitol Hill to gain support of the CSBG Reauthorization Bill- HR1655. They met with U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, the Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono, and the Policy Director for Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. At those meetings, they had the opportunity to talk about the importance of HCAP's programs and the impact they have on the community.



Left to Right: Robert N.E. Piper, HCAP Executive Director;  
U.S. Senator Brian Schatz; Blake Oshiro, HCAP Board Member;  
Terrance Aratani, HCAP Board Member.

The following week, HCAP staff, Head Start teachers, family advocates, and program managers joined 5,000 Head Start staff, parents, and supporters from around the country to celebrate 50 Years of Opportunity at the National Head Start Association (NHSA) Conference in Washington, D.C. In the past 50 years, Head Start has had an impact on more than 32 million children. Staff attended workshops throughout the week to develop

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new skills, network, and learn about new resources to better serve Head Start children and their families. In addition, they toured the U.S. Capitol and U.S. Senator Brian Schatz's office. HCAP Head Start parent and Policy Council Chair, J-Nel Cullen shared, "Through this experience I've become a stronger leader and advocate for my family, as well as for my role in the HCAP Head Start Policy Council."

## Income Tax Assistance Program a Huge Success

As HCAP staff and volunteers completed another successful year supporting the Income Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit program (EITC), the impact of the program continued to grow. As of April 15, 2015, 768 tax payers electronically filed their federal returns at one of the Honolulu Community Action Program's sites, with returns totaling \$1,405,362. Of these filers, 377 received the Earned Income Credit (EIC) in the amount of \$718,151. HCAP's EITC program continues to excel at serving our working, low-income families as evidenced by the 48% of filers receiving the Earned Income Credit.

HCAP's EITC program started in 2010 as a partnership with Hawaii Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED) as part of the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. A goal was set to do 100 returns but staff and volunteers assisted an astounding 276 taxpayers file their returns. At that time, 45% of those returns were EIC eligible, well above the national average of about one out of three. HCAP staff have steadily built this program each year up to the 768 federal returns e-filed in the 2014 tax season.

According to Susan Tamanaha, HACBED Program Director, the VITA program in Hawaii has assisted taxpayers in getting back more than \$40.3 million in federal tax refunds with \$14.8 million in Earned Income Credit. In six seasons of participation, HCAP staff has assisted 3,207 taxpayers with filing their federal tax returns. More than \$5,816,082 has been brought back to our local communities in federal refunds with federal credits accounting for \$2,862,052.

The EITC program also benefits our community members by saving the taxpayer the expense of tax preparation, usually in excess of \$200 per return, according to Ms. Tamanaha. Hawaii's VITA Program has served more than 27,000 filers over the ten years it has been assisting taxpayers with free tax return preparation services. By these estimations, HCAP's EITC Program has saved taxpayers more than \$641,400 in preparation fees.

HCAP's EITC program volunteers are a talented, dedicated group of people that enable the program to continue growing, year after year. All volunteers that prepare returns must pass a written certification test that shows comprehension of the current basic income tax laws and then learn the specialized software used by preparers to complete the returns. It is a huge commitment on the part of each volunteer. In 2015, HCAP had 9 volunteers that assisted throughout the season. There is no way HCAP could help the number of people we do without the numerous volunteers that have assisted at our sites over the years.



2014 Tax Season Volunteers

## Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services Celebrates First Anniversary

Since 1965, HCAP has assisted low-income individuals and families on Oahu to become more self-sufficient through a myriad of programs and services that focus heavily on employment and employment support. HCAP's District Service Centers have also historically provided employment assistance to low-income clients as part of overall case management.

HCAP recognized the potential to enhance its employment services by hiring a dedicated Program Coordinator and increasing program offerings. As such, the Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services Program (ECS) began as a stand-alone program in January 2014, with the assistance of a City and County of Honolulu Grant-In-Aid. James Upega is the Program Coordinator who tracks participant progress, develops partner-

ships with employers, seeks funding opportunities, and works with program and district staff to implement the program. Through HCAP's core programming at its five district service centers, the ECS program offers intensive case management, job readiness training, and job placement assistance. From January 2014 to January 2015, the ECS program enrolled 620 participants; 252 participants attended employment preparation training; 222 participants obtained employment; 125 participants maintained employment for 60 days; and 98 participants maintained employment for 90 days. HCAP exceeded all contract goals for the City and County of Honolulu Grant-In-Aid. Currently, HCAP staff continues to track program participation as they achieve new milestones.

The ECS program has built strong relationships with employers throughout the island, which has allowed staff to refer participants to specific employers. The program continues to network and



partner with local companies to further grow the database of employer referrals. To date, ECS participants have gained employment with partner companies such as The Home Depot, Walmart, Roberts Hawaii, Bath and Body Works, Kualoa Ranch, 7-Eleven, ABC Stores, Aloha Stadium, Big City Diner, Bubba Gumps, Cheeseburger Beach Walk/Waikiki, City Mill, E Noa Tours, Elite Parking, Enterprise Rent A Car, Pro Park, Popeye's Kitchen, Unitek Contracting Group, and VIP Trans. The positive impact the program had on participants' lives is presented in HCAP's Weekly E-Newsletters. HCAP also highlights the successes of ECS participants on our social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

HCAP continues to offer the Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services Program, and we look forward to building upon our achievements thus far.



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## Head Start Parents Visit State Capitol



HCAP Head Start parents Sonia, Darcel, and Joann

On March 13th, HCAP Head Start parents and staff visited the Hawaii State Capitol to advocate for Early Childhood Education. Organized groups travelled to the offices of State Senators and Representatives with 2015 Head Start Calendars, program information

and testimonies. Bryan Jaco Gallarde, Office Manager for State Representative Matthew LoPresti, expressed his and Representative LoPresti's interest in education. He shared that, as a team, they are facing the same question: How is it that we can get more state funding for education? He agreed on the importance of educational programs like Head Start to broaden education across the island. HCAP Head Start Policy Council Member and parent, Sonia, joined the initiative to promote and share her own story. "My kids are too smart to be sitting at home. HCAP took the time and worked with me, and now my kids are learning a lot. They speak to me differently, use bigger words and pronounce them better than before." Sonia hoped to share her observations on how educational field trips are important and how an increase in funding would allow more children to join the program.

## HCAP In The News

- On January 2, 2015, HCAP was featured in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser announcing to the public that HCAP Head Start had begun accepting applications. Read more by visiting <http://www.staradvertiser.com/s?action=login&f=y&id=287318281>
- On February 25, 2015, HCAP was featured in MidWeek's Proof Positive section of the paper, sharing information about the organization and the impact HCAP makes in the community. The full article is available for viewing here: <http://www.midweek.com/providing-inspiration-opportunities/>

## HCAP Staff Celebrate 50 Years of Community Action



On Friday, March 20, 2015, HCAP's staff of over 300 passionate and talented individuals gathered at the McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Beach Park to celebrate and showcase 50 years of Community Action. The morning began with HCAP Board Chair, Representative Isaac Choy, thanking HCAP's staff for all the work they do in the community. Special Guest Kaala Souza gave an engaging speech on Nui Thinking- or thinking big, and thinking of the future- in order to better contribute to the island and the individuals and families HCAP serves. Program staff then presented 50 Greatest Hits from their programs throughout the years. Following their presentations, staff were celebrated and presented awards for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of dedicated service. Toward the end of the day, Rich Miano, a former NFL football player, spoke to the staff on the importance of teamwork.

HCAP staff members each received a t-shirt celebrating the 50th Anniversary of HCAP. They also engaged on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, sharing "selfies" and stories of the positive impact HCAP has made in their lives and the lives of the individuals and families they help each day. HCAP's Training Day was a great time for staff to gather and celebrate the organization's accomplishments over the past 50 years.

### Employee Anniversaries

Mahalo to our staff who reached these milestones of service this Spring

#### 25 Years

Betty Akau - Head Start Teacher II

#### 10 Years

Gina Labra - Head Start Assistant Teacher

#### 20 Years

Sammi Rafael - Head Start Teacher II

#### 5 Years

Tayshea Kaleimamahu - Community Worker

James Upega - Program Coordinator

Michael Hane - Director of Planning,

Program Development & Communications

#### 15 Years

Carmen Fola - Head Start Assistant Teacher

Beverly Gendrano - Head Start Teacher II

## Stories From the Field: HCAP Head Start Home Base

By Mary Oyama, Home Base Teacher

Enriching the Lives of Children; Engaging Families; and Strengthening Communities - The mission statement of HCAP Head Start is truly captured in all aspects of the programs offered to preschool families throughout Oahu. HCAP Head Start's Home Base program focuses on parents as the primary teachers in the comfort of their own homes. Children receive home base services for a variety of reasons to meet the family's needs. The home becomes the classroom and the parent becomes the educator, with the teacher as a facilitator.

With Teaching Strategies Gold objectives and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework as a guide, families develop a partnership with Home Base teachers to utilize the home environment as a learning center. Through a collaborative effort, parents and teachers plan and implement activities that promote school readiness skills. Visits to the home are once a week for 1 1/2 hours with lessons developed for each child. This is a great opportunity to focus on individualization and each child's skills, abilities, and challenges. Looking around the home is one of the key elements to home base visits. This gives both the parents and the teacher use of materials and objects that are readily available. Spoons, plates, bowls, shoes, toys, newspaper, magazines, etc. provide for a plethora of learning activities that promote physical, cognitive, and language development. Math, science, literacy, art, and social studies are embedded in lessons to fully promote school readiness skills in an atmosphere familiar to each child.

Forming partnerships with families and working one-on-one with children has become an invaluable experience for the HCAP Head Start Home Base teachers. The opportunity to see families learn and grow in their own homes is eye-opening. Respecting and acknowledging parents as the most important teachers builds a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning and present and future academic success.



## Mahalo to our Donors and Funders

HCAP would like to thank the following donors and funders. In the Spring Quarter, January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015 HCAP received donations or funding from the following:

[Atherton Family Foundation](#)- \$10,000 grant award to the Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program

[Roxanne Bolden](#)- \$100 donation to HCAP

[Starbucks Foundation](#)- \$3,000 donation to the Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center

[State of Hawaii, Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division](#) - \$100,000 grant award to the Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program

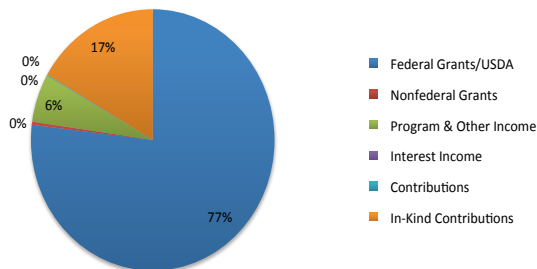
## Interim Financial Update

### First through Fourth Quarter FY 2015

April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

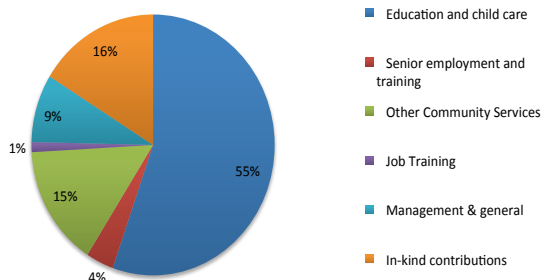
\*Unaudited, Cash Basis

#### GRANTS & OTHER SUPPORT



GRANTS & OTHER SUPPORT	YTD
Federal grants	17,150,242
Nonfederal grants	84,659
Program & other income	1,336,632
Interest Income	328
Contributions	22,159
In-kind contributions	3,721,670
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,315,690</b>

#### EXPENSES



EXPENSES	YTD
Program services:	
Education & childcare	12,726,488
Senior employment & training	849,248
Job training	284,540
Other community services	3,453,338
Supporting services:	
Management & general	1,941,904
In-kind contributions	3,721,670
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,977,188</b>

CURRENT PROGRAMS BY FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM PERIOD	BUDGET
Central Pacific Bank- STEM	08/01/14 - 07/31/15	5,000
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	10/01/14 - 09/30/15	1,857,685
Grant-In-Aid Employment Core Services	01/15/14 - 01/31/15	120,406
Grant-In-Aid STEM	01/15/14 - 01/31/15	150,000
Hawaiian Electric - WAP	N/A	25,000
Head Start	04/01/14 - 03/31/15	12,515,192
Head Start Full-Day Full-Year	04/01/14 - 03/31/15	1,080,000
Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center - DHS Stipend	08/01/14 - 07/31/15	360,000
Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center- Program Income	08/01/14 - 07/31/15	283,400

CURRENT PROGRAMS BY FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAM PERIOD	BUDGET
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)	05/01/14 - 04/30/15	122,683
Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)	07/01/14 - 06/30/15	853,410
Department of Human Services-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)- STEM	01/01/15 - 12/31/15	100,000
Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)	10/01/14 - 09/30/15	87,061
Youth Services	07/01/14 - 06/30/15	372,500
Youth Services (Creating Employment Opportunities)	03/01/13 - 11/30/15	189,000





**Every keiki deserves a HEAD START**

HCAP Head Start offers FREE & affordable preschool options for children ages 3-5

To apply for the 2015-2016 school year, call (808) 847-2400 or apply online at <http://www.hcapweb.org/headstart/head-start-application>



## Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.

Main Office

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

Tel: (808)521-4531 E-mail: [hcap@hcapweb.org](mailto:hcap@hcapweb.org)

### District Service Centers

#### 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

#### Leeward

Tel: 696-4261 Fax: 696-0169  
85-555 Farrington Hwy. Waianae, HI 96792

#### Windward

Tel: 239-5754 Fax: 239-3912  
47-232 Waihee Rd. Kaneohe, HI 96744

### Programs

Hā Initiative: Creative STEM After-School Program

Tel: 521-4531 Fax: 521-4538

Kumuhonua Transitional Living Center

Tel: 682-5494 Fax: 682-5495

Na Lima Hana- Employment Core Services

Tel: 521-4531 Fax: 521-4538

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 (HARC)

Tel: 200-7690 Fax: 200-4780

Head Start Kunia

Tel: 621-5099 Fax: 621-3843

Head Start Leeward

Tel: 696-0175 Fax: 696-0176

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