



KAUAI PLANNING & ACTION ALLIANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 31, 2008

CONTACT:

Diane Zachary, President & CEO
Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance
Tel: 808.632.2005 Fax: 808.632.2018
Email: dzachary@kauainetwork.org
Website: www.kauainetwork.org

Gannett Foundation Supports Community Indicators Project

A 2006 report issued by Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance (KPAA) showed that on Kaua'i we were getting poorer each year relative to our income and the cost of living. Our unemployment at the time was low, but many people had more than one job. While official numbers showed that about 8% of workers had more than one job, that number did not take into account those working for cash or working multiple part-time jobs. A median-priced home was about \$640,000 and only 40% of families earning the median income had the money to afford a home at that price, compared to 77% in 2000.

This is just a sample of a comprehensive story told through Kaua'i Planning & Action KPAA's community indicators report *Measuring What Matters for Kaua'i*, published in 2007. This first report is available on KPAA's website, www.kauainetwork.org

Gannett Foundation recently awarded \$6,540 to KPAA to update the 2006 report, to be issued in early 2009. "We are pleased our support will assist in identifying trends and opportunities for action by business, nonprofit and government decision-makers," states Mr. Lee Webber, President and Publisher of the Honolulu Advertiser, owned by the Gannett Co., Inc.

The bi-annual community indicators report measures, tracks and reports over time information that helps identify trends that reflect the island's quality of life, sustainability and resiliency. The indicators are helpful in determining if the island is moving in the desired direction. And if not, the indicators will help suggest the need for changes in policies, strategies or programs. Mr. Lee Webber, President and Publisher of

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR KAUAI

2959 Umi Street, Suite 201, Lihu'e, HI 96766 Phone 808.632.2005 Fax 808.632.2018
Email kpaa@kauainetwork.org www.kauainetwork.org

the Honolulu Advertiser, which is owned by Gannett Co., Inc., stated, "We are pleased our support will assist in identifying trends and opportunities for action by business, nonprofit and government decision-makers."

"The indicators report is helpful for all decision-makers," said Diane Zachary, President and CEO of KPAA. "It will be particularly valuable for all the newly elected officials who need to familiarize themselves with the needs on our island. We are grateful to both Gannett Foundation for its support."

Grants from County of Kaua'i and Bank of Hawai'i Charitable Foundation also support the development of the indicators report.

Jay Furfaro, County Council member has stated, "The document plays an important role in the way government, business and residents fashion the future of Kaua'i."

The 2006 report, the first one published, offered a clear picture of how Kaua'i is doing. Presentations of that information have been given to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Kaua'i County Council, County department heads, County Planning Commission, Lihu'e Business Association, West Kaua'i Business & Professional Association and Leadership Kaua'i. A second outcome was that the "opportunities for action" included in the 2006 report encouraged action by government agencies and nonprofits toward new or improved policies and programs.

Representatives from agriculture, business, economic development, planning, transportation, housing, parks, environment, visitor industry, water, public safety, public utilities, health, education, workforce, marine issues, and culture participated on a KPAA Community Indicators Advisory Committee to select indicators for the first report. The advisory committee identified seven areas important to life on Kaua'i:

- economic and business climate
- public education
- neighborhood and community well-being
- civic engagement
- natural environment
- land use and rural character
- cultures and arts.

Many of these areas are inter-related. Changes in one area may have positive or negative impacts on another area. Therefore all areas are considered together to determine overall impacts.

In addition to issuing the bi-annual community indicators report, KPAA is beginning work to reconstruct the first two miles of the Napali Coast Trail and the CCC camp in Kokee State Park; improving the planning process for district development plans; and will soon launch workshops for Kaua`i nonprofits.

To accomplish its goals, KPAA brings together diverse individuals and groups for collaborative planning and action. It is a membership organization of non-profit and community-based groups, government agencies, business associations, businesses and individuals working together to achieve effective, long-lasting solutions to issues confronting our island.

For more information, contact Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance at 632-2005, email kpaas@kauainetwork.org or visit the website at www.kauainetwork.org.

###