

Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance

Bringing people together to create a better future for Kaua'i

ALLIANCE IN ACTION

Volume 6 December 2003

Drug Action Team Update

Developing the Anti-Drug Action Plan: KPAA is working with Roy Nishida, the County's Drug Coordinator, to facilitate development of an anti-drug plan and launch the implementation of the plan's activities. Four committees, whose initial participants were appointed by Mayor Bryan Baptiste, are meeting to tackle specific areas that will be included in the island-wide drug plan – Prevention, Enforcement, Treatment and Community Integration. Each committee has a liaison to the **Drug Action Team**, which meets to coordinate the work taking place within the committees. Our goal is to complete preparation of a five-year plan and two-year action plan by April 2004, and then to begin implementing the action plan activities.

County and KPAA Hosted November 8 Drug Planning Forum: About 150 people recently spent a Saturday at the Coconut Beach Resort learning about the impacts of illegal drug use on Kaua'i and steps being taken to mitigate the problem. Participants also developed a vision statement of Kaua'i in five years – a vision of what we could achieve by alleviating drugs on our island.

Mayor Bryan Baptiste welcomed forum participants and asked for broad community participation in the war against drugs. Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona discussed the State's efforts to address the drug problem, acknowledged the work of the Baptiste administration, and stressed the need for ongoing county/state coordination. U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo discussed the need for affordable drug treatment, longer medical insurance coverage for treatment, more drug prevention education targeted to at-risk youth, and, for those not at risk, drug education and awareness classes with a message tailored to the age of the child. In the area of enforcement, he stated efforts should focus on stopping the importation of ice, changing the State Constitution to bring back the "walk and talk" program, and changing the State wire tap law to make it consistent with federal law. Sherry Wong, Director of Training, Prevention Science Group, Channing Bete Company, described the Communities That Care (CTC) System. CTC is based on successful public health models that target predictors of problems specific to a community. It is a data-driven, research-based approach to promote positive development of children and youth. Shawn Cremer and Christina Aki described their experiences of drug addiction to recovery, and stressed the need for on-island treatment services. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced that the Omnibus Bill now before Congress includes \$1.2 million to support Kaua'i's anti-drug efforts.

Mahalo for Supporting KPAA

Many thanks to the County of Kaua'i and to Bank of Hawaii for their recent grants to support the development of KPAA and its programs. We appreciate their investment in Kaua'i's future.

Kauainetwork.org to be Updated and Redesigned

If you have visited the kauainetwork.org website recently, you may have noticed that some of the information is out of date. Over the next few months we will be asking our members for their ideas about how we can redesign the website to be more useful and user-friendly for non-profits and the community.

Announcements

KPAA to Hold Special Membership Meeting in February 2004: At its November 12th meeting, the KPAA Advisory Board voted unanimously to begin the process of applying for 501(c)(3) non-profit status. To date, Garden Island RC&D, Inc. has generously served as the non-profit umbrella for KPAA. In February, a Special Membership Meeting will be held to discuss upcoming changes and all members are encouraged to attend. The date and location will be announced next month.

Hawai'i Community Foundation Meeting on Kaua'i January 8: Hawai'i Community Foundation will be holding statewide meetings with grantseekers to share Information on HCF's grantmaking programs and how to access them. It's an opportunity to learn about their current grant opportunities and discuss with their staff the criteria used to select projects that receive support. The meeting on Kaua'i will be Thursday, January 8th from 10 AM to 12 Noon at the Radisson Kaua'i Beach Resort. RSVP online at www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org no later than Monday, January 5th or call 1-888-731-3863 ext. 541 with your name and organization.

Training for Those Who Work with Youth: Ezra Holland, MS, Director of the Pacific Leadership Institute at San Francisco University, will present a workshop on "The Best of Cooperative Play – Adventure, Initiative and Problem Solving Games for All Ages" and "Common Sense Discipline – The Basics and Beyond" from 9 AM to 4 PM on January 16th at All Saints Gym in Kapa'a and January 17th at Island School in Puhi. The workshops are presented by Kaua'i Team Challenge, Inc. Fee is \$40.00 for one person and \$35.00 for two or more. For information or to register, contact Jessica Higa at 651-7619 or contact@kauaiteamchallenge.com.

Is Your Organization a KPAA Member?

If your organization has not become a member of the Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance, just call or email and a membership application will be sent to you. Membership is open to all community-based groups and non-profit organizations and associations that have been in existence for a year. Through your \$20/year membership, your organization will help set KPAA's direction by voting on priorities for action and will receive special rates for KPAA activities. To date KPAA has 68 member organizations and government agencies. We would like to welcome your organization as a member.

Holiday Musings...The Importance of Dialogue

With the holidays near and as the year draws to a close, I have been thinking about the community development work KPAA and so many of our member organizations undertake. It can be challenging work, and also hugely rewarding. A great deal of what we do involves promoting dialogue so we can learn more, improve understanding, come to agreements and generate action. I recently read a quote that eloquently summarizes the importance of dialogue and I wanted to share it with you.

'Dialogue'... is a conversation with a center, not sides. It is a way of taking the energy of our differences and channeling it toward something that has never been created before. It lifts us out of polarization and into a greater common sense, and is thereby a means for accessing the intelligence and coordinated power of groups of people.

Dialogue fulfills deeper, more widespread needs than simply 'getting to yes'. The aim of a negotiation is to reach agreement among parties who differ. The intention of dialogue is to reach new understanding and, in doing so, to form a totally new basis from which to think and act. In dialogue, one not only solves problems, one dissolves them. We do not merely try to reach agreement, we try to create a context from which many new agreements might come. And we seek to uncover a base of shared meaning that can greatly help coordinate and align our actions with our values.

– William Isaacs
Dialogue and the Art of Thinking Together

And so throughout this holiday season and in the New Year take time for dialogue with family, friends, colleagues and clients. Discover together the serendipity that comes from the "aha!" moments of shared understanding and commitment to action. And above all, have a safe and joyful holiday season.

- Diane Zachary
KPAA President/CEO

Questions about KPAA? Comments? Please contact us:

Telephone (808) 823.8833

E-mail kpaa@hawaii.rr.com

Aloha: It's Kaua'i's Spirit

If you prefer not to receive KPAA emails, please email kokua411@aloha.net, and we will promptly remove your email address from our list.