

## KAUA'I PLANNING & ACTION ALLIANCE

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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Case Foundation and HCF Support Kaua'i's Anti-Drug Program**

The Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance announced the receipt of two grants to support planning to reduce drug use on Kaua'i.

Hawai'i Community Foundation's Mo' Bettah Together Program and The Case Foundation have each provided \$18,000 to support creation of an island-wide 5-year plan and action steps to combat drug use on Kaua'i.

"We are deeply appreciative of this support. These grants provide us with half of the funding needed to support planning to reduce the impact of drugs in our community," stated Diane Zachary, President and CEO of the Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance (KPAA). "In providing their funding, these foundations have issued a challenge to the local community to match their investment to deal with this urgent island-wide problem."

The Mo' Bettah Together Grantmaking Program of the Hawai'i Community Foundation supports projects that build and strengthen community networks by increasing interaction and exchange; creating opportunities for consensus building; promoting a sense of pride/place; developing grassroots leaders; and strengthening the linkages between groups. In awarding the grant, HCF President and CEO Kelvin Taketa said, "The issues facing communities today often require the collaboration of many people. Hawaii Community Foundation supports the efforts of KPAA as it brings together different groups on the island to develop and implement solutions to the drug problem."

The Case Foundation has been exploring ways to effectively invest in the work of Kaua'i's community-based non-profits. In providing funding for the program, Case Foundation Chairman Steve Case said, "We are proud to support Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance's broad-based community effort to address critical challenges on the

island. KPAA has identified four priority areas to work on over the next two years. We hope our support for this anti-drug initiative will spur additional contributions by other foundations and businesses for Garden Island community planning."

Most people on Kaua'i have been touched by the drug problem in some way. And drug abusers are found at all ages and in all socioeconomic levels.

Latest statistics show that drug use (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) among youth has increased over the past two years. Among 10<sup>th</sup> graders on Kaua'i in 2002, 40% consumed alcohol, 26% smoked marijuana, 3.5% took Ecstasy/MDMA, and 3.3% smoked methamphetamine within 30 days of taking a statewide survey. Increases ranged from 1.5% (ecstasy) to 7% (marijuana). (Source: Hawai'i Department of Health, 2002 ATOD Study.)

Between 2000 and 2002, 871 Kaua'i adults and 247 Kaua'i youth (12-17 years of age) required substance abuse treatment in the form of residential treatment, supportive living facility, day treatment, outpatient treatment, or intensive outpatient treatment. Presently there are no adult or youth treatment facilities on Kaua'i, so individuals are sent to O'ahu or other neighbor islands to receive treatment. (Source: Hawai'i Department of Health.)

The number of drug-related arrests and convictions continues to increase. Between 2000 and 2002, the number of adults arrested for possession of methamphetamine increased by 42%. (Source: County of Kaua'i Police Department.)

Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance is partnering with the County of Kaua'i to create the County's drug plan. Committees are working on four areas: prevention, with an emphasis on youth; enforcement of drug laws; treatment to break the cycle of drug use; and re-integration of recovering drug users back into the community. More than 80 service providers, business leaders and citizens are serving on these committees. By April 2004 they will develop a 5-year plan for the County and begin work on implementing a 2-year action plan.

KPAA operates under the non-profit umbrella of the Garden Island RC&D, Inc. It is a membership organization composed of non-profit and community-based groups that recognize the need for consensus-based planning and focused, measurable action on problems facing Kaua'i. KPAA's members selected four areas for action over the next two years: drugs, public education, solid waste, and parks. KPAA is guided by a 13-member advisory board. For more information on KPAA or to provide support for its drug program, call Diane Zachary at 808.823.8833.

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