

KAAU'I PLANNING & ACTION ALLIANCE, INC.

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

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(photo attached)

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KPAA RECEIVES GRANTS TO BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

(Lihu'e, Hawaii, July 22, 2005) – Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance (KPAA) has been awarded grants from three Hawai'i foundations. A large portion of that funding will support KPAA's goal to build community support for public education.

The project vision is that Kauaians value and support public education at all levels, recognizing that it builds productive citizens and enriches the lives of all. Understanding that Kauai public schools face many challenges, KPAA has established a Public Education Action Team that brings business, government and community together to identify and organize specific activities to improve our schools and involve families and community members.

Currently, KPAA's Education Action Team has three goals for the next two years: 1) Promote lifelong learning that uses innovative approaches that develop personal, academic and work-related skills, 2) Support Act 51 and the role of principals and School Community Councils in improving and transforming schools, and 3) Encourage, recognize and celebrate community involvement in our public schools.

Hawai'i Community Foundation, a statewide, charitable services and grant-making institution is providing nearly \$40,000 in funding from the Mo' Bettah Together Program to identify and address the public education needs on Kaua'i. "We are excited to have HCF's support for these important efforts as our Action Team begins to implement multiple strategies to support education," says Diane Zachary, President & CEO of the Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance.

Bank of Hawaii Charitable Foundation is generously providing \$2,000 of funding toward the education project. "Bank of Hawaii has been very supportive of public education reforms

throughout the state. With their help, we will have a much greater impact and success in meeting the three goals," says Zachary.

The Education Action Team believe that promoting increased involvement of parents and the public in our schools will enable schools to better meet the needs of students and improve student learning, which will have a long lasting, positive impact in the community.

Funding has also been secured from Hawai'i Community Foundation for over two years to support organizational capacity building to strengthen Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance's ability to serve its members and the community.

And the Atherton Family Foundation has awarded KPAA an automation grant to purchase a new computer to provide a central place for members to conduct internet research and gain access to online nonprofit tools such as grant search software, sample grant proposals and other development assistance, free of charge.

Created in 2003, KPAA brings together diverse organizations for collaborative planning and action to achieve targeted community goals. KPAA is a membership organization composed of 70 non-profit and community-based groups, government agencies, and business associations that work together on issues confronting our island to achieve effective, long-lasting solutions. For more information call KPAA at 632-2005 or visit their website at www.kauainetwork.org.

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Photo Caption: Danny Hamada, DOE Kauai Complex Superintendent (left), Peggy Cha, KCC Chancellor (right), and other Action Team members strategize priority goals.