

## ***Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance, Inc.***

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

### **ALLIANCE IN ACTION**

Volume 9 January 2005

#### ***Looking Back at Last Year...***

**KPAA, Inc.** In the past year, Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance continued to grow and develop from an idea nurtured by Garden Island RC&D and supported by many of you in the community. As of December, we are now an independent 501(c)(3) organization. With our new status, our Advisory Board becomes our Board of Directors, the by-laws passed by our membership this past June will take effect, and we will change to a January to December fiscal year. As we “spin off” from GIRC&D, we continue to appreciate the vision, guidance and cooperation that board and staff offered to KPAA.

**Drug Use Mitigation.** Community input and 90 volunteers working on five committees contributed to the May completion of the “Kaua`i Community Drug Response Plan”. KPAA continues to facilitate the work of the five committees, in cooperation with the County’s anti-drug initiative. New treatment programs are in development, services to those leaving treatment and prison have increased, new prevention programs for youth are being created, and law enforcement is more focused than ever on arresting drug dealers. We have found that successfully reducing drug use requires a multi-faceted effort, including parents, neighbors, friends, schools, churches, businesses, nonprofits and government. Focusing only on the drug problem is not the answer. We recognize that strengthening families, success in school, making a living wage, and having affordable housing are all important elements needed to keep our youth and adults off drugs.

**Improve County and State Parks.** About 20 volunteers have been meeting to develop strategies to improve Kaua`i’s parks. While our small island is fortunate to have about 50% of the park and conservation land in the state, funding to maintain and improve our parks has been lagging, especially in our State parks. KPAA’s Parks Action Team is investigating options for securing sustainable funding for our parks. The group also is seeking funds for the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to create a Master Plan for Ha`ena State Park – the first step in making some long-needed improvements. Funds are already approved to reconstruct the restroom at Ke`e Beach, but work probably won’t begin until 2006. Repaving the road to Ke`e is scheduled. State funding has been allocated for other much-needed restroom improvements and results should be apparent over the next one to three years. The Action Team will be working to secure funding for three State park positions cut by the Legislature last year. The group is also encouraging the County to update its Parks Master Plan, last updated in 1978. The island has seen many changes since then and park planning needs to be based on current information.

**A Website for Nonprofits.** You are invited to visit KPAA’s new website at [www.kauainetwork.org](http://www.kauainetwork.org). The site provides information on our organization and its activities and includes extensive funding and organizational development information for nonprofits. The site soon will include a Directory of Community Organizations. Over the next two months, island nonprofit and community groups will be asked to provide up-to-date information for the directory. The directory will be a great place for the public to locate needed services and for agencies to find appropriate referrals for their clients. Our thanks to Roger Jacobs and Emily Miller of DataSpace Industries for their help and patience in creating this site. Your comments on the website are most welcome.

**Member Services.** At our annual meeting in June, three nonprofits – Kaua`i Food Bank and AYSO Regions 940 and 941 were honored as “Kaua`i Community Champions” for their leadership, excellence and contributions to the community. In November, Ian Costa and Keith Nitta of the County Planning Department provided an update on the implementation of the General Plan. Participants had a chance to

ask questions and provide ideas about the island's development. Members suggested several other topics for future workshops and plans are underway for these workshops.

### ***...and Ahead to a New Year***

**Solid Waste Reduction.** One of KPAA's goals approved by members is to work together to reduce solid waste on the island. With our landfill nearing capacity and siting of a new landfill a few years away, this becomes more important than ever. To augment current County recycling efforts, KPAA has applied for funds to assist businesses, schools, and nonprofits to reduce their waste stream through recycling and reuse. A group of interested citizens has been meeting to discuss the island's solid waste problem, and soon a Solid Waste Diversion Action Team will be created.

**Support for Public Education.** Later this year, work on the fourth goal selected by members will begin. To determine the best approach – one that will support current efforts and meet specific needs – focus groups with school faculty and staff will be held.

**Community Indicators.** How do we know if Kaua'i is growing and developing as envisioned in the 2000 General Plan? One way is to develop a set of community indicators – specific statistics identified to track trends that individually and together provide a snapshot of where Kaua'i is headed. Over the next six months, KPAA will work with a number of organizations and agencies to identify what information should be tracked to help policymakers and the public determine if we are achieving the vision and maintaining the values captured in the General Plan. A system of tracking and reporting this information subsequently will be developed.

### ***Mahalo to the ABC Fund***

In 2000, Garden Island RC&D was one of seven organizations in the state that received a five-year grant from the Agenda for Building Community Fund to undertake new initiatives to bring our community together to work on priority issues. Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance was the result of that grant. This multi-year funding was unique and visionary. KPAA thanks all the organizations that contributed to the ABC Fund (Aloha United Way, American Savings Bank, Atherton Family Foundation, Bank of Hawaii, Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Hawai'i Community Foundation, HMSA Foundation, and Pacific Century Trust) for their vision and willingness to take a risk with this innovative type of support. And we thank them for the sixth year of funding recently received.

### ***Announcements***

**Affordable Housing.** The Hawai'i Senate's Affordable Housing Task Force (co-chaired by Senator Ron Menor and Senator Gary Hooser) will hold an informational briefing on Kaua'i on issues related to affordable housing around the state. This is one in a series of briefings held around the state. The task force encourages members of the public interested in sharing their concerns and suggestions about affordable housing to participate and provide input at the briefing. Government departments and agencies will make presentations first, followed by private sector experts, then members of the public. A Question-&-Answer session with participants will follow. The briefing will be Monday, January 10 at 6:00 PM on Kaua'i at County Council Chambers at 4396 Rice Street in Lihue.

**Koke'e Master Plan.** The Board of Natural Resources will meet on Kaua'i January 13 and 14. On Thursday beginning at 5:00 PM, the Board will receive a briefing from DLNR staff on the Koke'e Master Plan, followed by an opportunity for public testimony. The Board will make decisions on the plan on Friday, with the meeting beginning at 9:00 AM; testimony will also be taken that day. Both sessions will be held at War Memorial Convention Hall.

**Peter Apo to Speak During Kaua'ian Days.** Peter Apo, Director of the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association, will present "The Hawai'i Experience – Beyond the Aloha" on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from

5-7 PM at KCC's Performing Arts Center. Admission is free. The event is sponsored by Kaua'i Visitors Bureau, Kaua'i Vacation Rentals, and Kaua'i Community College.

**Redeem Those Cans and Bottles!** This is a great time for all of us to get into the habit of separating our aluminum cans and plastic and glass beverage containers for redemption. And don't forget about all the other things you can recycle – newspaper, magazines, white and mixed paper, cardboard, computers, and more. For information on the County's recycling programs, visit [www.kauai.hawaii.gov/default.aspx?tabid=68](http://www.kauai.hawaii.gov/default.aspx?tabid=68).

### ***Upcoming Event***

**KPAA Membership Meeting and Workshop on Affordable Housing** will be held Tuesday, March 1 from 1:30-4:00 PM at the Radisson Kauai Beach Resort. Save the date – details will be provided soon.

### ***Questions about KPAA? Comments? Please contact:***

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***Aloha: It's Kaua'i's Spirit***