



## KAUAI PLANNING & ACTION ALLIANCE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### A FORUM FOR ARTS & CULTURE GROUPS

*Lihu`e, Kaua`i, HI – 6/5/2013.* An invitation is extended to all culture and arts groups and businesses to attend a Kaua`i Culture and Arts Forum on Wednesday, June 26 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The forum will be held at Kaua`i Community College in Room 106 of the OCET Building. Representatives from both non-profit and for-profit groups engaged in artistic and cultural activities are encouraged to attend.

The gathering will provide the opportunity to share information about what each group is doing, discuss how groups can support each other, and what may be needed to strengthen the culture and arts sector.

The arts and culture sector was identified as a possible area of economic growth for the island in the 2010 report *Kaua`i Economic Development Plan Update* prepared by the Kaua`i Economic Development Board for the County Office of Economic Development.

The culture and arts “cluster” includes a variety of industries: music, film, writing, publishing, graphic design, hula, crafts, photography and performing arts as well as educational and cultural attractions like museums, historical sites, botanical gardens, theaters, and cultural education programs. The cluster is comprised of both for-profit and non-profit entities engaged in these activities.

According to the report, groups are unified by their reliance on a mix of cultural, natural and historic assets unique to Kaua`i including a similar workforce of creative individuals. Industries in the cluster also draw upon a common customer base – residents and visitors with an interest in arts and culture – and all play an important role in defining the cultural character of Kaua`i.

**BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR KAUAI**

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Three priority projects were recommended: to develop culture and arts calendar; to offer skill-building and technical assistance workshops; and to develop a multi-use center.

In 2012, a survey was sent to over 80 cultural and groups to assess performance, workshop, exhibition, classroom, office and facility needs and to determine interest in participating in the development of an arts and cultural center or multi-use venue. This led to a series of discussions and the planning of the June 26 forum.

Sarah Tochiki and Peggy Lake are the co-chairs for this forum and Kauai Planning & Action Alliance (KPAA) will assist with facilitation.

Attendees are encouraged to bring materials, flyers or brochures to share information about their organization with others.

The gathering will explore areas for collaboration such as sharing promotion and resources and will discuss some of the biggest challenges that groups face to stay sustainable.

RSVPs by Monday, June 24 are requested by emailing [kpaa@kauainetwork.org](mailto:kpaa@kauainetwork.org) or calling 632-2005.

KPAA is creating an inventory of culture and arts groups and businesses on the island. Even if you are not able to attend this session but wish to be included in the inventory and future gatherings of culture and arts groups and businesses, email your name, organization and contact information to [kpaa@kauainetwork.org](mailto:kpaa@kauainetwork.org).

KPAA is a nonprofit membership organization that serves as a neutral convener bringing residents, community groups and government agencies together to find solutions and ensure action on difficult issues facing the island. To learn more about KPAA, visit [www.kauainetwork.org](http://www.kauainetwork.org).

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