

Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance

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

ALLIANCE IN ACTION

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KPAA Advisory Board Announces Selection of New President

The Kaua`i Planning and Action Alliance Advisory Board of Directors has approved its Selection Committee's recommendation to hire Diane Zachary as the new President and CEO of KPAA. Board Chair Peter Kea says "Diane brings extensive, specifically-related expertise and experience, as well as numerous highly enthusiastic references from leaders and community members she has worked with during her 18-year career and community service in Hawaii. We are very enthusiastic about having her lead KPAA."

From 1985 to 1994, Zachary served Maui Community College in a variety of capacities. She assessed business training needs and developed customized programs on Maui and Lana`i. As Economic Development Coordinator, she worked with the Chamber of Commerce and professional associations.

She was instrumental in establishing the Maui Small Business Development Center. She also coordinated a federally-funded telecommunications project and established Hawai`i's first distance learning program

From 1994 to 2002, Zachary was Project Director and then President of the Maui Pacific Center, which was established by the Maui Economic Development Board. She administered all aspects of this non-profit focused on community and economic development throughout Hawai`i and the Pacific Islands. In 2002, when MPC goals were achieved, its functions were re-housed under MEDB and Zachary went on to form Pacific Alliances, a small business offering program development, grant writing, board development and project management.

In 2000, Zachary co-founded the nonprofit Maui Coastal Land Trust, which has gained widespread support from the community, landowners, developers, and environmentalists. It boasts 350 members in only three years. As President, Zachary was able to facilitate communication, participation and collaboration which has resulted in the protection of over 300 acres of coastal lands and a county charter amendment establishing an Open Space Acquisition Fund.

Zachary has extensive community experience. She has designed and facilitated over a dozen major conferences and group events on key community planning topics, bringing together diverse groups whose input and support is necessary for shared success on common goals. She has been key to both the start-up and sustaining of organizations and projects that have made a difference.

She has served on the Maui Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, recently held the position as Chair of the Maui Workforce Investment Board and was for 2 years the coordinator of Maui's Project Impact, funded by FEMA. She was director of the Maui Economic Development Board, a member of the Mayor's Smart Growth Committee, and a member of the Hawai`i Department of Transportation Long-range Planning Council.

Zachary notes "I will be spending considerable time doing my homework on Kaua`i, contacting leaders and community members, getting to know KPAA organizations, and generally learning about my new home. I feel there are issues similar to Maui, such as maintaining traditions and values in the face of growth, bringing people together to achieve a common vision, maintaining rural character and agriculture, providing affordable housing, preparing students for viable

careers, dealing with drug abuse, and maintaining a quality visitor industry while diversifying the economy for greater job market stability.

I also recognize that Kaua`i is unique and that some lessons from Maui may apply and some may not. My intention is to draw from the wisdom and experience here on Kaua`i and provide the right environment for people to work together to create positive results. I was not looking for a career change, but this KPAA opportunity attracted my attention because it is very exciting and perfectly matched to my background, skills and values. I am very enthusiastic and fully committed to Kaua`i's future. I have already sold my house on Maui and look forward to settling into my beautiful new home on the Garden Island."

Zachary will assume her duties as KPAA President on August 7, 2003. KPAA is currently housed under Garden Island Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., which was instrumental in its formation. KPAA may be contacted via RC&D at 246-0091.

Aloha: It's Kaua`i's Spirit

Questions about KPAA? Contact:

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