# THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 7, Issue 2 June 2014

#### THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC

#### ADOPT-A-COURT PROGRAM: LEADING BUSINESSES SUPPORTING MEDIATION

In late January, the Mediation Center launched the new Adopt-A-Court Program. Thanks to Board Director Steve Holmberg's leadership, two outstanding companies, The Islander Group and Hawaiian Cement, agreed to participate in the Program by adopting the District Court located in their area and committing three to four members of their management team to serve as mediators for that court. The Islander Group adopted the Wahiawa Court and Hawaiian Cement adopted the Ewa Court.

Following two days of intensive mediation training supported by the active involvement of the current court mediators, the seven newly trained mediators, including Hawaiian Cement CEO John DeLong, were mentored by mediators Steve Holmberg, Adrienne Valdez and Doug Kaya. Thanks to Adrienne, Doug, Steve and Mediator Development Manager Nathan Nikaido, the mediator teams from both companies are now successfully mediating at the two Courts.

We are grateful to the Islander Group and Hawaiian Cement for their generosity and willingness to help more people talk it out at court.





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Bringing people together to talk, rebuild relationships and resolve conflict creatively.

#### **UNDER THE MEDIATION MOON**



On Saturday May 3rd supporters and friends of the Mediation Center celebrated the 7th Annual Under the Mediation Moon. Bishop Museum provided the perfect setting to celebrate the work of the Mediation Center and to honor two outstanding mediators and a company that has adopted a culture of mediation into its workplace. Honorees Linda Colburn, James Hoenig and the Honolulu Board of Realtors received standing ovations for their outstanding work and commitment to using mediation. Ken Aronowitz's clever lyrics to carefully selected songs, captured the good work and unique character of each honoree, inspiring every guest to sing out their heartfelt tribute to Linda, Jim and HBR. It was an evening of good food, good wine, great friendships and a wonderful time under a clear, starlit sky and a brightly shining, mediation moon.



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# KUPUNA PONO: HELPING FAMILIES CREATE PLANS TO SUPPORT THEIR KUPUNA



At the end of March, the Mediation Center was fortunate to receive a very generous three-year grant award from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation to support the growth of the Kupuna Pono Program. The Program was initiated in 2011 in response to Hawaii's growing elder population and the multitude of issues leading to family conflicts around the care of an elderly family member. Thanks to two consecutive grant awards from the Friends of Hawaii Charities to help lay the foundation for the Kupuna Pono Program in 2012 and 2013, the



Mediation Center is now able to build on that foundation and take the Program to the next phase with the support from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

In this third phase, the Mediation Center will be working with Kaiser Permanente under a Memorandum of Understanding to support families and their Kupuna at Kaiser's Nanakuli Clinic. Partnerships with EPIC Ohana Conferencing (EPIC) and Alu Like have also been forged to support the growth of the Program. The Mediation Center also initiated a pilot Guardianship Mediation Program with the Family Court to assist families who have already resorted to legal action. With the assistance of the Family Court Judges and the staff of EPIC, two workshops in Guardianship Mediation and Family Conferencing, were recently conducted for the neutrals who will be providing the direct services for the Kupuna Pono Program. Additional workshops and trainings will be coordinated over the next year to further sharpen skills and grow the number of neutrals available to provide these valuable services for Oahu's communities.





## **SHARPENING MEDIATOR SKILLS: TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS**

To maintain quality services and support the volunteers who donate hundreds of hours of their time valued at over \$400,000 annually, the Mediation Center coordinates trainings and workshops throughout the year. This past March, a twenty-four hour Advanced Mediation Training was conducted for 16 participants. Topics included Culture in Mediation, Advanced Negotiation, Accommodating Persons with Disabilities and more. On May 23rd, Public Speaking Coach Pam Chambers provided a workshop on Nonverbal Communication for 25 people. Mediators learned tips for developing rapport and the important role that body language plays in our every day lives.







## THE CENTER LETTER

#### **2014 TRAININGS & EVENTS**

#### **Condominium Mediation**

Friday June 20, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m. & Saturday June 21, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A thirteen hour training for individuals with background in condominium law provides a variety of mediator tools and strategies for helping owners and Boards negotiate solutions to conflicts that arise within condominium associations.

Cost: \$250

### The Uniform Mediation Act & Confidentiality in Mediation

Friday August 1, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20

#### **Basic Mediation**

Thursday Sept. 25, Friday Sept. 26 & Saturday Sept. 27, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

A three-day training that provides an introduction to a facilitative model of mediation including the core skills of effective listening, remaining impartial, interest identification, negotiation, agreement writing, ethical considerations and overcoming impasse. This training is a prerequisite for most other mediation trainings.

Cost: \$575

#### **Advanced Mediation**

Thursday Nov. 6, Friday Nov. 7 & Saturday Nov. 8, 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

A three-day training that builds on core skills to provide additional tools of evaluation, negotiation, cultural diversity multiple parties and managing challenges.

Cost: \$575

#### **Volunteer Appreciation & Recognition Luncheon:**

Thursday December 11, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Contact nathan@mediatehawaii.org to register or for more information