

CONTACT: Katie Woods 808-960-3885

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Basic Mediation Training Offered**

West Hawaii Mediation Center (WHMC) is pleased to announce that it will be offering a basic mediation training July 10, 11 and 12 at the Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Not only will this training offer instruction to those interested in becoming professional volunteer mediators for WHMC, it will help people learn to manage and resolve conflict in general, communicate more effectively at home and work (thereby increasing their value in the workplace), become better negotiators and problem solvers, and contribute to conflict resolution in the community. Attendees will learn about the process of professional mediation and how to apply advanced communication skills and a variety of approaches to help parties in conflict resolve differences.

The instructors for this training are Diane Petropulos, M.A. and Franco Acquaro, Ph.D. Petropulos has been offering mediation, facilitation and training services throughout Hawai'i since 2000. She has mediated hundreds of Circuit, District and Small Claims Court cases for Maui Mediation Services, and currently serves on their Board of Directors. She is a former lecturer at the master's level in the Human Resource Management Program at UH Manoa. Diane has extensive background in legal education as the former director of the Attorney Assistant Program at Sonoma State University. Acquaro is a former Executive Director of WHMC. A licensed psychologist in the State of Hawai'i and member of the American Psychological Association, he is the Associate Director & Clinical Psychologist at Kipuka o ke Ola (Native Hawaiian Health Clinic). Franco is also an ordained Buddhist Priest (Order of Amida Buddha) and Board President of Amida USA (non-profit church).

WHMC is a non-profit organization which has addressed the mediation needs of the West Hawai'i community for over 25 years. It provides community-based mediation for both self-referred and court/legal system-referred cases. WHMC helps people find peaceful, participatory solutions to the inevitable conflicts that arise in any community and its primary goal is to promote the peaceful resolution of conflict through mediation. WHMC also provides foreclosure mediation services as well as general conflict resolution training and facilitation for groups, businesses, organizations and schools. WHMC's Peer Mediation program provides conflict resolution and communication training to elementary, middle and high school students throughout West Hawai'i.

WHMC is actively looking for new volunteer mediators and the basic training is the first step in becoming one. The cost of the training is \$175. Call 808-885-5525 or email [info@whmediation.org](mailto:info@whmediation.org) to register or for more information or visit [www.whmediation.org](http://www.whmediation.org)