

Press Release

September 3, 2010

Na Hoaloha Program Provides Volunteer Senior Services Valued at Half-Million Dollars



L-R, front row: Na Hoaloha Board members and friends Gerri Shapiro (exec. director), Sarah Shim (board president) and Heather Greenwood (board member). L-R, back row: Maui County Office on Aging Program Specialist James Mariano, Mapu Quitazol (friend of the board) and Nancy Meyer (board member).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Na Hoaloha” Program Provides Volunteer Senior Services Valued at Half-Million Dollars

WAILUKU, Maui, Hawaii-The County of Maui Department of Housing and Human Concerns (DHHC) announced today that in Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Na Hoaloha senior services volunteer program - “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” - provided the County of Maui with direct services valued at over \$500,000, calculated at the nationally estimated rate of \$20.85 per volunteer hour.

With funding and in-kind support from the department’s Maui County Office on Aging, as well as help from Kaunoa Assisted Transportation, Kaunoa Retired Senior

Volunteer Program and the Maui County Volunteer Center, more than 125 Na Hoaloha volunteers provided the following services to 250 of Maui's older residents:

23,300 miles of assisted transportation for seniors
794 days of adult day care scholarships (@ \$36,600)
21,400 hours of friendly visits to seniors (chores; shopping, etc)
950 hours of in-home respite for family caregivers
850 hours of telephone reassurance for seniors

"These caring volunteers are at the heart of this valuable program," Mayor Tavares said. "We're grateful for their dedication to helping others and for creating a successful and productive program with the funds the County provides."

Lori Tshako, Housing and Human Concerns Director, noted that Na Hoaloha volunteers "form supportive relationships while providing quality services in an extremely cost-effective way. The end result is a priceless partnership that maximizes limited County resources to meet the needs of our older citizens."

In 2006, Na Hoaloha was a struggling non-profit organization. With the support of the DHHC and in particular Maui County Office on Aging Program Specialist Jo Reyes, the agency re-organized under a newly formed board.

The board took it upon themselves to run the organization with no paid staff; each board member took on a needed role such as staffing the office, keeping the books, recruiting volunteers, writing reports and grants, and cleaning and painting the office. In early 2007, County funding enabled them to pay off their bills and fill two part-time positions (a part-time Operations Manager and a part time Office Assistant); since its resurrection, Na Hoaloha has grown to three part-time positions. The County of Maui currently provides approximately \$100,000 for the staff positions, stipends for respite caregivers and mileage reimbursements for volunteers.

For more information about opportunities to volunteer or to request assistance, call Na Hoaloha at 249-2545.

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