

THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 6, Issue 1

June 2012

THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC, INC.

Aloha to Friend of the Mediation Center, Nicholas DeWitt

It is with great sadness that we write of the unexpected passing of another great mediator and friend of the Mediation Center of the Pacific, Nicholas "Nick" DeWitt. Nick joined the Mediation Center's Board of Directors in 2010 and promptly devoted himself to becoming an integral supporter of the organization in a broad variety of ways. Despite his own busy Dispute Resolution practice which required regular trips to California, Nick always took the time to be a presenter in the Advanced Mediation Trainings, assist with fundraising, and brainstorm new approaches to strengthening the impact of community mediation and the Mediation Center's role in Hawaii's communities.



The Mediation Center's Board of Directors and staff are grateful for the opportunity to get to know and work with Nick over the past few years. The time, energy, passion and ideas he shared, made a difference in the work of the Mediation Center. He will be remembered for his contribution, his great attitude and the big vision that he had to make the world a better place. Aloha Nick and Mahalo...



The Michael Nauyokas Innovation and Excellence in Mediation Fund

The Board of Directors is pleased to report that thanks to many generous contributors, plans are currently underway for the creation of an innovative mediation room that will be named in Michael Nauyokas's memory. The room will include a wide screen TV for the participation via Skype, of off island mediation parties, as well as videoconferencing equipment to enhance communication with neighbor island mediation centers and more. The technology will make a significant difference to the Mediation Center's ability to provide more accessible services, particularly in the areas of divorce and family matters involving elder issues.

Mahalo to everyone who supported the Michael Nauyokas Innovation and Excellence in Mediation Fund and for helping the Board of Directors to move forward with this important project. Upon completion of the new room later this year, a special reception will be held, commemorating the room in Mike's memory.

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THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC, INC.
HELPING PEOPLE TALK, REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS
AND RESOLVE CONFLICT CREATIVELY



The Comprehensive Divorce Mediation Program



Accelerated Divorce Mediation Training 2012



Expert mediators, Judge Vickie Marks (Ret.), Dr. Craig Robinson, Barbara Bishop and Dr. David Chandler shared their insights and tips for a successful divorce mediation.

Thanks to the generosity of the Pettus Foundation, the Mediation Center continued to implement steps to strengthen the divorce mediation program including: updating training curriculums and materials; recruiting family law attorneys as volunteers for divorce mediations; and creating a new Comprehensive Divorce Mediation Program to help couples work through all of the issues in the divorce decree.

In January, six family law attorneys and six experienced mediators participated in a new three day "Accelerated" Divorce Mediation Training. The training incorporated basic mediation skills into the divorce mediation process.

Throughout the training, the experienced mediators modeled their excellent mediator skills, and the divorce attorneys, using their subject matter expertise, asked the perfect questions. All participants agreed it was an excellent learning experience and the pairing of family law attorneys with skilled mediators made for great mediation teams. The teams have subsequently been assigned to mediations with positive results.

To further sharpen the skills of the Mediation Center's long-time divorce mediators, a one day Advanced Divorce Mediation Training was conducted on June 2nd. Thanks to the generosity of the HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union who generously allowed the Mediation

Center to use its community training room, thirty-two experienced mediators participated. The highlights of the training included a panel of top Family Law attorneys, Mei Nakamoto, Tom Farrell and Steve Hartley, who shared their perspectives of what makes mediation work; and a presentation by Lead Family Court Judge, Mark Browning, who shared the court's perspective of effective mediation. The training also focused on the importance of incorporating the key divorce forms, Asset & Debt Statement, Income & Expense Statement, the Divorce Decree and the Child Support Guidelines, into the mediation process.

The Mediators left the training enthusiastic and better prepared for their next divorce mediation!

Family Conferencing Now Available Through Kupuna Pono

The Kupuna Pono Program provides elders and their families with options to help them: decide who will manage the finances of the elder family member; agree on where an elder member will live; and how responsibilities to support the elder person will be shared.

To better assist elders and their families in supporting elder family members as they age, the Mediation Center has added family conferencing to the menu of options offered through the Mediation Center's new Kupuna Pono Program.

Family Conferencing is a culturally sensitive process, designed to help families engage in challenging conversations with the assistance of an impartial facilitator. The process helps families focus on the strength of the family unit and the elder member; address concerns of the respective family members; and create custom plans to meet those concerns and support the elder family member.

To offer the new process, a Family Conferencing for Elder Issues training was conducted on March 31st, for 30 mediators. The Mediation Center was extremely fortunate to receive the support, insight and knowledge of an outstanding faculty for the training and development of the Program, including: Arlynnna Howell Livingston, Dr. Barbara Cook, and Dr. Patricia Lanoie Blanchette.

Arlynnna Howell-Livingston, the Founder and CEO of EPIC O'hana, shared her insights on the family conferencing process, including the importance of pre-meeting work to lay the foundation for a successful meeting. Dr. Barbara Cook offered excellent tips on family dynamics and provided an

overview of valuable community resources to support elders and their families. Dr. Patricia Blanchette presented the geriatric physician's perspective and role in family meetings.

Together, the presenters provided an outstanding program. Mediators and faculty alike were enthusiastic about offering the new process to the community and assisting more families in supporting their Kupuna. Next steps will include community outreach and education to help families and professionals become aware of the family conferencing opportunity.

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UNDER THE MEDIATION MOON— A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

The largest full moon in more than 26 years shone brightly over the guests of the Mediation Center's 5th Annual Under the Mediation Moon on Saturday May 5th. More than 240 friends and supporters of the Mediation Center gathered to Celebrate 25 Years of Peer Mediation and Collaborative Leadership in the Schools and to honor Ellen Godbey Carson, Sue Chang and the late Sascha Julia Franzel. Governor Neil Abercrombie made a guest appearance, acknowledging the honorees and reinforcing the value of peaceful problem solving for all ages. The camaraderie, delicious food and wine and the brilliant moon shining over Washington Place made for a perfect evening...



THE CENTER LETTER

2012 TRAININGS & EVENTS

Accelerated Divorce Mediation

Monday July 16; Tuesday July 17; Friday July 20, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A three-day training for family law attorneys and other individuals with expertise in divorce law and process. The training introduces the participants to core mediation skills applied within a modified process for divorce mediations.

Cost: \$550

Basic Mediation Training

Thursday Oct. 25; Friday Oct. 26; Saturday Oct. 27, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

Cost: \$550

Advanced Mediation Training

Thursday Nov. 15; Friday Nov. 16; Saturday Nov. 17, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 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: \$550

Recognition and Holiday Gathering

Wednesday December 12, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Note: Mediation Center mediators are required to complete 20 hours of continuing education per year. **Workshops are free for active Mediation Center mediators (defined in the Mediation Center's Policies & Protocol's Manual as someone who mediates at least 5 cases per year at the Mediation Center).** The cost for all other participants is \$20.

Every time someone in Hawai'i settles a dispute peacefully, everyone in Hawai'i benefits...