

THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 13, Issue 2

June 2019



THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC

Congratulations Dee Dee!



On May 8th, Dee Dee Letts was honored by the Honolulu City Council for being recognized as a Mediation Center of the Pacific Champion at MCP's April *Under the Mediation Moon* celebration. The ceremony was held in the City Council chambers with City Council members, Judiciary staff and members of the public. In addition, Tracey Wiltgen and Ariel Hylton were in attendance for this honor. Council Member, Heidi Tsuneyoshi, presented Dee Dee with the award. Dee Dee currently acts as First Circuit Court Operations Specialist and head of the Judiciary's Office of Project Management. MCP would like to again thank Dee Dee for all of the work and support she has provided for MCP over the past forty years. Congratulations Dee Dee!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! - SERVCO GRANT OPPORTUNITY

An opportunity has emerged to recognize MCP's role as a vital resource for Oahu's communities, and we need your help! The Servco Foundation is inviting members of the public to nominate their favorite nonprofit for its Centennial Service Campaign. They will be awarding 19 nonprofits who have made an impact in Hawaii with \$20,000 each. We hope you will nominate the Mediation Center of the Pacific!

Any Hawaii resident 18 years or older who is not employed by or on the board of MCP can submit a nomination. Nominations require a 150-word narrative explaining why MCP deserves the grant and how MCP has impacted you and your community.

Please visit <https://www.servco.com/giving-back/community-grant-program/> to tell them what MCP means to you. **The deadline is July 14.** Mahalo for helping MCP!

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*Bringing people together to talk,
negotiate and
resolve conflict creatively.*

MCP EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

May 4 - IHS Faith Summit



Mediator Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel and Special Programs Coordinator Katie Ranney attended the IHS-sponsored Faith Summit in May to educate the participants about MCP and its Early Access Landlord-Tenant Mediation (EAM) program. Multiple faith communities came together to discuss how to best help economically disadvantaged Hawaii residents to get into and stay in housing. Discussions covered everything from on-the-street charity work to addressing systemic challenges to housing. MCP's EAM program helps landlords and tenants talk through their differences to avoid unnecessary evictions.

May 15 - Justice For All Community Navigator Project

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii partnered with MCP and other non-profits to create an interactive program for community leaders to recognize legal issues and the appropriate resources to refer people to for help. Participants at the May 15th event represented organizations such as EAH Housing, Ka Paalana Partners in Development, and Lanakila Pacific. A representative from MCP spoke about mediation and how it can address some of the community challenges the participants explored.



Picture courtesy of Legal Aid Society of Hawaii

May 29 - YMCA's Senior Health and Fitness Fair



YMCA's annual Senior Health & Fitness Day attracts more than 500 attendees to learn about community and private resources for elders and caregivers. Mediators Sam Kasnetz, Erika Ireland, and Poranee Sponsel spoke about MCP's Kupuna Pono program, a family conferencing and mediation service to help families with an elder, talk about long-term healthcare and end-of-life decisions. The event provided an excellent opportunity to promote the work of MCP.

June 14 - HUAO Senior Wellness Fair

Located centrally in Waipio, the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUAO) held its annual Senior Health and Wellness Fair at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on June 14. Alongside other health, safety, and cultural informational booths, MCP showed seniors and caregivers the importance of mediation and family conferences to reduce conflict around long-term healthcare and end-of-life discussions. This lively and well-attended event also brought greater awareness of the MCP name to communities in Northern Oahu.



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May 8 - Mediator Workshop: Child Welfare / Child Abuse Reporting



MCP provides several opportunities throughout the year for the mediators to learn about different resources and tools to use in mediations. In the beginning of May, MCP hosted a mediator workshop and invited Laurie Jicha (pictured left), the lead Child Welfare Services (CWS) Staff Development Specialist, as the guest speaker.

Ms. Jicha reviewed the signs of child abuse and what CWS does to ensure child safety and welfare. She also covered Hawaii Revised Statute 350 on reporting abuse. The knowledge gained from this workshop will help the mediators with divorce and custody cases that they mediate for MCP.

May 16-18 - Basic Mediation Training

MCP holds two Basic Mediation Trainings a year, and this last session was again a great success! Sixteen trainees (pictured below), from University of Hawaii, the military, the City, technical corporations, as well as other industries, learned the fundamentals of mediation skills and the co-mediation process used at MCP. Two of the attendees have already signed up to be volunteer mediators and have begun their apprenticeship.

On the final day, a luncheon panel included Honorable Riki Amano, Kale Feldman, Esq. and Susan Ichinose, Esq. (pictured below), who shared their real life experiences with the trainees as they discussed their perspectives on mediation and tools they use in different arenas. Trainees learned how to apply their newfound skills in their professional as well as personal lives.



May 29 - Mediator Brown Bag: Adult Protective Services / Adult Abuse

Through the Kupuna Pono program, MCP conducts mediations and family conferences when the long-term healthcare for kupuna is a main source of conflict. The elders involved in these mediations can be vulnerable, and mediators must be alert to signs of abuse.

In an effort to educate and prepare the mediators to be aware of the signs of elder abuse, MCP hosted a quarterly Brown Bag with guest speaker Kristine Shimogawa (supervisor in the Statewide Adult Protective Services (APS) Intake Unit). Mediators learned the definition of a "vulnerable adult", indications of the most common type of adult abuse and the process to report abuse if it is suspected in a mediation session.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mediation Skills for Managers Training *

Friday, October 4, 2019 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Community Room

[Click here to register](#)

Basic Mediation Training *

Fridays, October 18 & 25, 2019 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays, October 19 & 26, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Kukui Center Room 103

[Click here to register](#)

Advanced Mediation Training *

Thursday, November 7 and Friday, November 8, 2019 9:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 9, 2018 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Kukui Center Room 103

[Click here to register](#)

Annual Volunteer Recognition and Holiday Gathering **A Special Celebration of MCP Volunteers & Supporters Over 40 Years!**

Friday, December 13, 2019 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Café Julia at YWCA - 1040 Richards Street

Go to www.mediatehawaii.org to register for trainings or contact
mcpadmin@mediatehawaii.org for additional information

* Seating in trainings is limited. Early registration is encouraged.