



The Center Letter

*Bringing People Together to Talk, Rebuild Relationships,
and Resolve Problems Creatively*

The Mediation Center
of the Pacific, Inc.

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We Moved!

I am excited to announce that the Mediation Center of the Pacific started the year off on a positive note. We moved to a convenient new location; welcomed three excellent new Directors to our Board including: Nicholas DeWitt, Peter Knapman and Peter Robb; added a new part-time receptionist, Chambree Eyestone, and part-time Client Service Coordinator, Kahala Dotson, to our staffing Team; and initiated a Foreclosure Mediation Program.

Over the holidays, we moved to the beautiful Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center located at 245 N. Kukui Street. The new location is not only more accessible to our clients and mediators, it provides a warm, friendly atmosphere to set the stage for successful mediations. Equally important, our new neighbors in the building are 7 other not-for-profits (Consuelo Foundation, Family Promise of Hawai'i, Foster Youth Coalition, Hale Kipa, Kids Hurt Too, Leaning Disabilities Association of Hawai'i and Legal Aid Immigrant Justice Center), with whom we share a common focus of helping Hawaii's children and vulnerable populations. We have worked with most of these fine organizations in the past and look forward to future collaborations to strengthen our impact in Hawaii's communities.

We are grateful to the Kukui Children's Foundation Board of Directors and Executive Director Judy Lind, for their generosity and support of our move into the Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Kukui Center. A special mahalo to Earl Chapman of The Earl & Margery Chapman Foundation, whose financial support through the Building Fund, enabled us to move the Mediation Center to it's new home.



I would also like to commend and give my personal thanks to the Mediation Center Team, Rannette Oga, Nathan Nikaido, Kanoe Pauhau and Val Vegas who worked tirelessly over the holidays ... packing, cleaning, moving and reconfiguring the Mediation Center's new office to create just the right ambiance for clients and mediators. We couldn't have done it without all of their hard work!

To properly introduce and celebrate the Mediation Center's new home, we will be hosting an Open House on **Tuesday, March 30th, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.** We look forward to seeing you then.

Aloha,

**Every time someone in Hawai'i resolves a problem peacefully,
everyone in Hawaii benefits...**

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In calendar year 2009, the Mediation Center managed 1,344 mediations

- 54% of the cases mediated resulted in written agreements
- 33% of the clients were in the low-income population
- 4,916 people were assisted through the mediation & training programs

23rd Annual Statewide Peer Mediation Conference



On February 26th, the 23rd Annual Statewide Peer Mediation Conference was hosted at the Ala Wai Golf Course Club House. More than 90 students from 6 middle, intermediate and high schools from across the State attended. The students participated in facilitated sessions to address a broad variety of topics including the challenges of mediating, best practices, and the impact of technology on school mediation.



Foreclosure Mediation: A New Option for Residential Homeowners

Attorney/Mediator **Alan Ma** and Legal Aid Attorney **Ryker Wada** presented the perspectives of lenders and borrowers during the recent Foreclosure Mediation Training. They also shared practical tips for mediating foreclosure matters, including potential workout options.



On February 19th, the Mediation Center of the Pacific, in collaboration with the ADR Section of the Hawai'i State Bar Association, co-sponsored a Foreclosure Mediation Training. Sixteen experienced mediators with background in Foreclosure, Real Estate and/or Finance, participated in the training.

The Mediation Center is grateful to presenters, **Cyntha Alm, Elizabeth Kent, Derek Kobayashi, Alan Ma** and **Ryker Wada** for assisting with the training and development of this important program.



Congratulations to Judge Victoria Marks!

On Sunday, March 7th, more than 400 people paid their tribute to Judge Victoria Marks who retired after 25 years on the bench. Thanks to attorney David Simons who spearheaded the event with the support of a planning committee comprised of Riki May Amano, Donna Fouts, Bill Harrison, Chuck Kleintop, Ian Mattoch, Terry O'Toole, Arthur Roeca and Tracey Wiltgen, Judge Marks was honored by her many, friends, family and supporters in a fitting farewell dinner party at the Koolau Golf Course Club House.

The Mediation Center of the Pacific's Board of Directors and staff are grateful to Judge Marks for naming the Mediation Center and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation as the beneficiaries of her retirement dinner party.

To David Simons and his committee we say "mahalo" for creating a first class event! We wish Judge Marks the best of luck in her new mediation career!



Under the Mediation Moon Celebrating 30 Years of Mediation in Hawai'i

Mark your calendars now!

On **Saturday, May 15th**, the Mediation Center of the Pacific will celebrate its **30 year anniversary** and the growth of mediation in Hawai'i with the 3rd Annual "**Under the Mediation Moon**" fundraiser. We hope everyone will join us on the Great Lawn of La Pietra, located on the slopes of Diamond

Head, to celebrate this monumental occasion and recognize key individuals who helped the Mediation Center and mediation in general, come so far.

From a modest shack in Makiki to the beautiful Kukui Center in Downtown Honolulu, over the past 30 years, the Mediation Center has grown with the growth of mediation. Thanks to every generous supporter, mediator and staff member, the Mediation Center has flourished, assisting thousands of individuals along the way in preventing and



resolving conflicts. In particular, we want to recognize the Mediation Center's first Executive Director, Dr. Peter Adler, as well as others such as John Barkai, Bruce Barnes, David Chandler, Dee Dee Letts and Arlynn Howell-Livingston, who have taken the skills and concepts from those early mediation days and applied them locally, nationally and internationally. Peter has graciously agreed to take time from his travels and work with the Keystone Center in Colorado, to be recognized and share in the celebration of this Hawai'i mediation milestone. We are excited that he will be able to join us.



In keeping with the theme of the prior "Under the Mediation Moon" events, the evening will feature a delicious collection of Eurasian foods, paired with a wine tasting presented by local vendors. The variety of wines selected for the evening will be based on the idea of enjoying "fine wines in challenging times."

It's the perfect recipe for a wonderful evening... Please join us to celebrate 30 years of mediation in Hawai'i.

The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.

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The Mediation Center of the Pacific is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, Aloha United Way agency. Each year, the Mediation Center assists thousands of people to prevent and resolve conflicts among families, friends, neighbors and business associates.

Every time someone in Hawai'i resolves a problem peacefully, everyone in Hawai'i benefits.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITES

New Practice Trends: Elder Mediation **Thursday May 6, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

A symposium presented by the Association for Conflict Resolution Hawai'i, will focus on the Growth of Elder Mediation in Hawai'i including: What it is & What it Takes; Mediator Aptitude & Special Skills; Cultural Issues and Implications; and Next Steps.

Advanced Mediation **May 20, 21 & 22, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

October 15 & 22, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
October 16 & 23, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Advanced Mediation builds on core skills to provide additional tools of evaluation, negotiation, cultural diversity, multiple parties and managing challenges.

Divorce Mediation Training **June 17, 18 & 19, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

A custom model to assist divorcing couples in negotiating agreements on property division and custody and visitation issues, while focusing on the "best interests" of the children.

Basic Mediation Training **Friday September 17 & 24, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. &** **Saturday September 18 & 25, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

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.

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