

"May, more than any month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."
- Fennel Hudson

It's hard to grasp that we are almost half-way through 2023 and quickly closing in on the end of the fiscal year. The winter months following the holidays typically seem to move at a less frantic pace. However, at The Mediation Center of the Pacific (MCP), there has been no slowing down. In fact, the number of new cases opened monthly continues to be nearly double the number opened prior to COVID, with a total of 2,562 new cases opened between July 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023. And despite the ending of the Act 57 Early Eviction Mediation Program last August, MCP continues to open a record number of landlord-tenant cases, including 648 eviction cases opened prior to the filing of an eviction in court. More importantly, over the past ten months, 74% of the eviction cases mediated at MCP before a formal eviction was filed resulted in a final agreement, enabling more tenants to remain in their homes. That is truly an outcome that makes us feel alive.



The positive atmosphere created by the blessing set the stage for productive conversations in the mediations conducted in the building. It was noted by one mediation participant:

"I really enjoyed my experience with our mediators. The overall calmness really made the experience and process painless. I felt amazing walking out of there."

And finally, the month of May has truly made us feel alive because after four years of not holding an annual dinner, MCP held its first, and most successful, Under the Mediation Moon celebration on May 6th at the Hawaii Convention Center. Nearly 300 people were in attendance to honor the amazing Kosasa family whose hard work and generosity has made a huge impact on Hawaii's communities. Congratulations to the Kosasa family and mahalo to all for your continued generous support of MCP! Together we are making a positive impact on thousands of lives.



**Under the Mediation Moon
Shining a Light on the Kosasa Family**

On Saturday May 6th, MCP hosted the first in-person annual dinner in four years at the Hawaii Convention Center. Nearly 300 people were in attendance to honor the amazing Kosasa family. Serenaded by the beautiful music of Noly Pa'a, opening remarks by Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald, and a special song on the piano by world renown pianist and philanthropist Ginny Tiu, the evening was outstanding. A very big mahalo to the sponsors and donors whose generous support enabled MCP to make its financial goal. All proceeds will support domestic, family, and housing mediation.



You can see more pictures on the event webpage!

Mediation Training for All

Conducting trainings and workshops for MCP's dedicated volunteer mediators, as well providing training for individuals, organizations, and workplaces, to promote the use of mediation, are key to MCP's mission and values.

With the relaxation of COVID restrictions, MCP's training calendar has been consistently filled over the past few months. Commencing in January with two half-day trainings on Powerful Listening for employees with the Department of Health, to a three-day Divorce Mediation Training in February, a three-day Basic Mediation Training in March, and a three-day Divorce Mediation Training for Kauai Economic Opportunity Mediation Program in April, requests for training haven't slowed down.

Workshops were also conducted for 70 high school students with the Rotary Youth Leaders Conference, 16 high school students from the Spokane Tribal Group Peer Mediation Program, and 22 Rotarians from various Rotary Clubs. We are grateful to the mediators who generously shared their time and expertise to assist with the trainings. Their involvement made the trainings top notch!



"This really was a great training and opportunity to learn and grow. So grateful I got to attend!"
- Basic Mediation Training participant

"Excellent trainers. Excellent materials. Everything is at the highest level of training."
- Divorce Mediation Training participant

Working Together to Strengthen Hawaii's Communities

MCP enjoys many valuable partnerships that enable it to make an even bigger impact on Oahu's communities. For example, over the past few months, MCP worked with Kooka Kalihi Valley to increase the use of mediation with the Pacific Islander communities; the Family Law Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association to strengthen domestic mediation services; the Special Education Parent Network to improve the Special Education Mediation Program; the Trust, Estate, and Elder law division of the Hawaii State Bar Association and the St. Francis Caregiver group, to strengthen and grow mediation and family conferencing involving families and their kupuna; and more. MCP values these partnerships as they are crucial for growing mediation and ensuring MCP's services are accessible for all.



Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Trainings and Events

Basic Mediation Training
The Clarence T. C. Ching Mediation Training Institute
1301 Young Street
\$650 per person
October 19 - October 21, 2023
Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Register here: <https://mcp808wufoo.com/forms/basic-mediation-training/>
The Basic Mediation Training offers an introduction to mediation basics and the core skills of effective listening, asking powerful questions, maintaining neutrality, interest identification, negotiation, agreement writing, ethical considerations, and managing challenges. The training is interactive and provides individualized coaching during simulated mediation practice. All materials are emailed and mailed to the participants in advance of the training.

Advanced Mediation Training
The Clarence T. C. Ching Mediation Training Institute
1301 Young Street
\$650 per person
November 16 - November 18, 2023
Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. & Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Register here: <https://mcp808wufoo.com/forms/advanced-mediation-training/>
Build on basic mediation skills and learn how to modify the process to work with attorneys, challenging personalities, multiple participants, cultural differences, and more.

Mediation Skills for Managers
A customized one-day training for businesses.
Managers learn an 8-step informal mediation process to empower employees to resolve their own disputes.
Contact katie@mediatehawaii.org to schedule.

Annual Recognition and Holiday Gathering
Save the date: December 14, 2023!
Cafe Julia at YWCA Honolulu

Thank You to MCP's Generous Supporters!

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
You will see by the following quotes that your generous gift to MCP makes a difference in thousands of lives each year:
"The mediators were really helpful with my situation today. I appreciate their time in helping me and my children's dad to solve issues we have. They don't judge or pick sides but help us in the best interests for our children."
"The mediators did an amazing job. Their calm demeanor truly helped us navigate through what has been a drawn out, stressful and emotional custody process."

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