

# THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 11, Issue 3 November 2017



THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC

## Welcome to the Mediation Center's New Board of Advisors!

A key initiative of the Mediation Center's (MCP) 2016-2019 Strategic Plan was to create a Board of Advisors comprised of leaders from various industries and communities to assist with identifying: potential opportunities for MCP; community needs that should be addressed by MCP; and new policies and procedures MCP should consider adopting.

In July, MCP's Board of Directors was pleased to identify and welcome the following members of the newly created Board of Advisors.



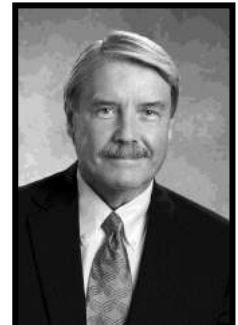
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**Lawrence (Larry) Dennis Rodriguez**  
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*Bringing people together to talk,  
negotiate and  
resolve conflict creatively.*

# MEETING CRITICAL COMMUNITY NEEDS

## EARLY ACCESS LANDLORD-TENANT MEDIATION

Thanks to the support of the Hawaii Justice Foundation and the Friends of Hawaii Charities, MCP launched an Early Access Landlord-Tenant Mediation (EAM) Program at the start of 2017. Last fiscal year, MCP mediated 395 landlord-tenant cases at court. By then it is often too late, and many tenants end up being evicted. Therefore, MCP is encouraging landlords and tenants to mediate early, before going to court.

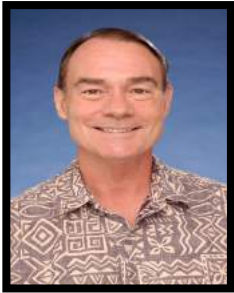
For the past nine months, MCP has been laying the foundation for the EAM Program by: creating a speakers bureau; contacting businesses, Rotary Clubs and churches to inform them about EAM and to seek their participation in providing mediation services within their community; conducting presentations for property management companies, non-profit and government agencies working with tenants; and developing working relationships with other organizations involved with tenants and the newly housed homeless, including Catholic Charities, Partners in Care, the Veterans Task Force and more.

MCP is grateful to Ned Busch, Cecelia Chang and Gary Shiraishi for assisting with outreach. Thanks to their efforts, the seeds for encouraging landlords and tenants to access mediation early through MCP have been planted and the awareness about EAM is slowly growing. Through continued work, more landlords and tenants will use mediation in the future to work out their differences early and prevent evictions.



Cecelia Chang Gary Shiraishi

## KUPUNA PONO



Charles H. Hurd

The Kupuna Pono Program (KPP) is one of the many critical services provided by MCP. KPP addresses the prevention and resolution of family conflicts involving the care of an elder family member. Caregiving can be extremely stressful, resulting in healthcare problems for the caregiver as well as potential abuse of the elder. Studies show that family conflict is generally a component of the caregiving experience. Conflicts result in poorer physical and mental health of the caregiver, as well as reduced quality of care for the elder family member. KPP provides elders and their families with mediation to resolve conflicts, as well as a family conferencing process to prevent conflict and create a shared caregiving experience that reduces the burden on the primary caregiver and more effectively meet the needs and desires of the elder person.

Thanks to the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation and the Charles H. Hurd Memorial Fund for Kupuna Pono, over the past three years KPP has steadily grown. 131 cases involving families with elder members ranging from 65 to 101 were managed. 75% of the KPP cases involved individuals in the low-income population. 94% of the elder mediations and family conferences conducted resulted in a written agreement or family plan. As a result of these outcomes families stopped fighting, stress was reduced, the elder family member received support to remain in their home and caregiver responsibilities were shared, reducing the burden on the primary caregiver.

MCP is grateful to Charles “Chuck” Hurd whose passion and vision lead to the development of KPP, to the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation whose three-year grant enabled MCP to take KPP to the next level and to all of the mediators and facilitators who worked with the many families and their elders to develop caregiving plans, as well as helped with outreach and the promotion of KPP. Through continued efforts, more families will have the opportunity to engage in difficult conversations through KPP.



Jana Wolfe and Pat Brandt (left) and Lisa Jacobs, Christa Otake, Owen Tamamoto and Doug Kaya (right), conduct a mock family conference for Catholic Charities Kupuna Program.



# MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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Hawaii Community Foundation

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Kukui Children's Foundation  
Pettus Foundation  
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## **CHARLES H. HURD**

### **MEMORIAL FUND FOR**

#### **KUPUNA PONO**

Susan Hurd  
Justice Steven H. Levinson (Ret.)  
Seth M. Reiss

## **MICHAEL NAUYOKAS**

### **EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION**

#### **FUND**

Robert G. Frame  
Frank and Mary Nauyokas

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Earl M. and Margery C.  
Chapman Foundation  
John and Kim Holzman  
Myra Kent

Throughout the year, MCP regularly conducts trainings and workshops to train new mediators, strengthen the skills of current mediators, and provide mediation and conflict resolution skills to all members of Hawaii's communities. We believe that if every child and every adult learned mediation skills, Hawaii's communities would be stronger and conflict would be prevented or resolved quickly, creatively and peacefully. The trainings and workshops offered through MCP help to achieve that vision. MCP is grateful to all of the wonderful trainers who so generously donated their time and expertise over the past few months!



## MEDIATORS WORKING AND LEARNING TOGETHER!

**LEFT**—In August, mediators gathered for a potluck at MCP.

**BELOW**—Mediators participated in a quarterly brown bag discussion.



**ABOVE**—Governor Ige declared October 17th Conflict Resolution Day.

**LEFT**—Anne Smoke reviewed the ground rules for the dispute resolution practitioners quarterly "Talk Story" gathering.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



### Volunteer Recognition and Holiday Gathering

Friday December 8, 2017 \* 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Community Room

*An annual gathering to say "mahalo" to MCP's volunteers and supporters in 2017*



Guest Speaker Dr. Peter Adler will share stories from his latest book, "*India-40 and the Circle of Demons*", a memoir of 2 years in India with the Peace Corps in the late 60s. It traces the run up to, the two years in, and some of the aftermath of diving deep into another civilization. Its also about the "inner journey" and some of the things that led to the work we do as mediators. It involves getting beyond right and wrong and comfortable in the "gray zone."

### Basic Mediation Training

Thursday February 22 & Friday February 23, 2018 \* 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 pm.

and Saturday February 24, 2018 \* 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union Community Room

*Learn the nuts and bolts of mediating conflicts of all types.*

### Accelerated Divorce Mediation Training

Thursday April 5 and Friday April 6, 2018 \* 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Saturday April 7, 2018 \* 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

The Kukui Children's Center 1st Floor Conference Room

*Learn a modified process to assist divorcing couples in creating agreements on time-sharing, co-parenting, and property division to finalize the terms of their divorce.*

### 11th Annual Under the Mediation Moon

Saturday April 21, 2018 \* 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Hawaii Convention Center

*A Benefit to Support the Work of MCP and to Honor Hawaii's Mediator Pioneers and Collaborative Leaders.*

### Mediation Skills for Managers Training

Friday May 18, 2018 \* 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location to be Announced.

*Managers learn an 8-step informal mediation process to empower employees to resolve their own disputes.*

Go to [www.mediatehawaii.org](http://www.mediatehawaii.org) to register for trainings and the annual fundraiser or contact [mcpadmin@mediatehawaii.org](mailto:mcpadmin@mediatehawaii.org) for additional information

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