

Tula'i Project by Tui Lauilefue and Bo Keopaseut

The Tula'i project was established in September 2006 under the direction and support of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center, and is funded by a grant from the Hawai'i State Department of Health. In the context of the study, which focuses on dating and relationship issues, "Tula'i" is Samoan for "stand up."

The study focuses on dating issues and dating violence prevention amongst Samoan and Filipino youth in the Waipahu area. The study focuses on these particular ethnic groups because not much information has been gathered about this issue, especially for boys and girls from these groups. The first phase of the study will consist of holding six focus group discussions on dating issues – three focus groups with Samoan teens and three with Filipinos. The data from the focus groups will be used to develop a scale on dating issues that will be administered to a wider range of teens in the Waipahu area in 2007. The overall goal of the project is to develop support structures, such as school curriculum, after-school support programs, or crisis hotlines, that will be useful to teenagers in preventing dating violence in the Waipahu area and Hawai'i as a whole. These efforts will supplement the work being done in Kailua and Waimānalo.

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The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

NEWSLETTER



Principal Investigator's Welcome

The staff of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) welcomes you to the second issue of our newsletter. Although much has been accomplished in the past six months or so, we were all greatly saddened by the passing of one of our staff members. Mrs. Theresa "Cookie" Sumner, our Community Coordinator, passed away on August 9, 2006. In this issue we pay tribute to Cookie, her passion for community work, and her positive approach to life. As you read through this issue, please keep in mind the pivotal role that Cookie played in all aspects of the APIYVPC. On behalf of the APIYVPC, we send Cookie's family our sincerest sympathies.

In this issue, we provide information on events that have occurred within the past six months. The APIYVPC is particularly proud and honored to have been awarded a grant to serve as the Coordinating Center of the National Academic Centers of Excellence (ACEs) on Youth Violence Prevention. Dr. Gregory Mark, the APIYVPC's Co-Principal Investigator, will serve as the Principal Investigator for the Coordinating Center. This four-year project will coincide with the last four years of the ACEs, and will provide a great

opportunity to promote a national agenda on youth violence prevention.

In addition, the APIYVPC completed its first Site Visit and conducted its first Community and Scientific Advisory Board meetings in April 2006. In attendance were three representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Several community-based activities and events are also featured in this issue. The Kailua High School Safe School's Task Force (SSTF) is an important group that addresses youth violence prevention in the school setting. And this year, the APIYVPC and community members served as facilitators during Kailua High School's "JumpStart" Day for incoming 9th-grade freshmen. Additional components of the APIYVPC are highlighted in this issue, including our Training Program and a few of our important research projects that aim at addressing youth violence prevention.

Thank you once again for your interest and support of the APIYVPC and its aim to promote safe schools and communities.

Earl Hishinuma, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

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Safe School's Task Force by Ophelia Ongalibang

Kailua High School (KHS), home of the Surfriders, is one of the four public high schools located on the windward side of O'ahu. Founded in 1955, KHS has been serving the Waimānalo and Kailua communities for over 50 years. KHS is known for having positive school spirit and pride. Like all other public schools around the nation, however, KHS has its share of obstacles to overcome.



Ms. Kelly Kent, teacher (right) and Ms. Jay Bernardino, 2005 to 2006 Student Body Association President (left) at Kailua High School.

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Site Visit & Board Meetings by Earl Hishinuma

From April 10-13, 2006, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) had its first Site Visit and Advisory Board meetings of the 2005-2010 grant period.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Site Visit Team consisted of three representatives: Corinne Ferdon, Ph.D., who is the Lead Science Officer for the National Academic Centers of Excellence (ACEs) on Youth Violence Prevention; Michele Hoover, M.S., who is the Lead Program Officer for the ACEs as well as the Program Officer for the APIYVPC; and Jennifer Wyatt, Ph.D., who is the Science Officer for the APIYVPC.

The Site Visit began with the CDC Team meeting with community and school members, including the Waimānalo Work Group and Kailua High School Ethnic Studies teachers and students. This was followed by a full day of the CDC Team getting to know the entire staff of the APIYVPC through activities and presentations on the APIYVPC's six aims. The third

day consisted of the CDC Team attending the Community Advisory Board and Scientific Advisory Board meetings, with an enjoyable combined luncheon between both events. The CDC Team had an opportunity to hear about the various community-based work groups (i.e., parents, students, teachers, community leaders) and about each of the evaluation-research projects, as well as the very helpful advice by the respective Board members. This full day of events concluded with a leisure dinner at The Willows with APIYVPC staff, Board members, and the CDC Team. The final day of the Site Visit included attending the Kailua High School Health Fair, APIYVPC Training Seminar, and the APIYVPC Executive Committee meeting, all held at Kailua High School.

The subsequent CDC Report on their Site Visit confirmed the valuable work being done by the APIYVPC and provided useful suggestions and recommendations on how to continually meet the project's aims.

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A few years ago, the APIYVPC surveyed KHS students and decided to create a working partnership with the school. As a result, the Safe School's Task Force (SSTF) was one development. The SSTF is composed of students from diverse backgrounds. Initially, the students were concerned about the increasing number of fights involving students from their high school. They thought that the consequences of fighting, such as suspension from school, were not taken seriously. The SSTF, led by Student Body Association President Ms. Jay Bernardino, took it upon themselves to explore new ideas.

The group brainstormed ways to divert fellow students from getting into fights and wrote a proposal to change the existing suspension policy. The task force proposed to: (1) have students sign a contract for disciplinary action; (2) have parental participation programs following student suspension; and (3) require students to attend post-incident counseling or anger management classes. The proposal was redirected toward a more comprehensive response to include prevention, intervention, enforcement, and consequences. The SSTF took the next step to learn about tools and other activities to help them understand the root of the problems, and how those problems and other issues are linked to one another. They also brainstormed solutions and discussed alternative ways to handle

some of these related issues.

Last year, the task force was also involved in other activities in the community to promote public awareness and prevention. The students created a Public Service Announcement on "Rumors" and received \$500 for the product from the American Public Health Association, Maternal and Child Health Section. They also participated in the KHS Health Fair in which they produced and passed out educational brochures. In addition, the task force led an activity at the fair where the students facilitated a mapping problems-and-solutions activity. Finally, a SSTF member (who was also the Student Body Association President) wrote an article entitled "Got Kids?" that was published in the community newspaper, *96795 News*. The article urged parents, community members, neighbors, school officials and friends to emphasize good morals and good behaviors, and most importantly to communicate with each other.

For this school year (2006-2007) the SSTF is recruiting additional members. There were five active members last year, and we want to increase that number. Some of the activities proposed for this year include: assembly presentations, media campaigns, grant applications, policy changes, service learning, targeting major events, health fairs and peer mentoring.

Jump Start Day 2006 by Jeanelle Sugimoto

"Marks of a truly experienced facilitator are: preparation, ability to give clear directions and motivate others, effective speaking techniques, being a good role model, and the ability to 'roll with the punches'." These are some of the concepts conveyed during a training session held for volunteers of Kailua High School's Jump Start Day 2006.

Jump Start Day is an annual event held at Kailua High School the day before the start of the fall semester. The day is catered for freshmen, and serves to introduce students to the daily curriculum, layout of the campus, faculty and staff, and fellow students. While Jump Start Day is not a new concept to the school, a new activity was piloted this year in collaboration with the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC).



Facilitators participating in an ice breaker.



"Auntie" Sharon Majit-Gorion and Ilima Ho trying their skills in front of the group.

In the spring of 2004, the APIYVPC conducted a survey of the entire student body at Kailua High School. The survey asked students for their opinions on a variety of topics, including what they felt contributed to violent behavior. Five major indicators of violence were extracted from the results: impulsivity, substance use, moodiness, sexism, and victimization. In the spring of 2006, students from Ms. Amber Strong's Advanced Placement Psychology class created skits based on these indicators. The skits portrayed five situations that students may be confronted with, and alternate solutions to solve these problems without resorting to violence. Members of a teacher workgroup (comprised of Kailua High School teachers and APIYVPC staff) proposed using the skits in a new activity for Jump Start Day. The skits would serve as discussion points during a small-group activity led by APIYVPC staff and community members.

Once the plan was in place, recruitment began for facilitators to lead the activity. Community members from various organizations (Ke Ola Hou, Hui Mālama o ke Kai, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, Ke Ala Laua'e) as well as APIYVPC staff members answered the call. A few Kailua High School teachers also helped to coordinate the effort. A training session was held the week before the event to give facilitators background information about Kailua High School and Jump Start Day, as well as tips on facilitation skills. A few facilitators even volunteered to lead a practice discussion in front of the group.



Facilitators watching the students' skits on DVD.

On Jump Start Day all facilitators arrived much earlier than expected, showing their overwhelming enthusiasm and commitment to the activity. Kailua High School teachers were extremely helpful in coordinating logistical items. Each facilitator used his or her own style of communication to lead their group, and each was successful in engaging the students in discussion. Evaluations of the activity produced positive feedback from both students and teachers. We hope that through the feedback received, next year's Jump Start Day will allow for more activities that similarly engage students in making their campus a safer place.

I would like to sincerely thank all facilitators who helped to make our activity a success: Ami, Auntie Sharon, Bo, Chico, Corey, Dave M., Dave R., Deb, Eldon, Ilima, Jane, Janice, Katy, Linda, Nicole, Ophelia, Pavela, Pumehana, Ramsey, Rolinda & Steph. Thank you for all of your hard work!

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Receives CDC Funding to Coordinate Efforts to Prevent Youth Violence

by Jane Onoye

The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center was recently awarded a federal grant by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to serve as the National Coordinating Center for the Academic Centers of Excellence (ACEs) on Youth Violence Prevention.

The Coordinating Center will work closely with the CDC and the ten ACEs (Columbia University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Riverside, University of Hawai'i, University of Illinois, Virginia Commonwealth University, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Meharry Medical College) to strengthen the National ACE Program and its leadership capacity by supporting the work of the individual ACEs as well as collaborative activities across the ACEs. This support will help to enable the faster development of youth violence prevention research, products, and programs.

The Coordinating Center will also serve as a key resource for the national translation and distribution of knowledge and interventions generated by the ACE Program in order to strengthen the impact of health and community practice efforts that address youth violence. It will play an important role in raising the knowledge and awareness of ACE research and activities to reduce youth violence through activities such as the organization of conference presentations,

regional meetings, web-seminars, and a quarterly newsletter to highlight findings, collaborations, presentations, publications, and other noteworthy activities and events conducted in the ACE Centers.

"Youth violence spans across all cultures with many cultural differences playing a role. This valuable research will contribute to the nation's knowledge of what works to help reduce and prevent youth-related violence," says Dr. Gregory Mark, Principal Investigator of the Coordinating Center. "The Coordinating Center will be able to coalesce the Academic Centers into a focused effort to address youth violence prevention. The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center is honored to be awarded the Coordinating Center," says Dr. Earl Hishinuma, Principal Investigator of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center.

"We are pleased that the University of Hawai'i will serve as the Coordinating Center to help us face the critical challenge of bringing science to practice so we can protect our youth from violence," said Dr. Ileana Arias, CDC Injury Center Director.

For more information on CDC's work in injury and violence prevention, link to www.cdc.gov/injury. For more information about the University of Hawai'i's ACE program, link to: <http://www.hawaii.edu/apiyvpc>.

Naturalistic Study by Corey Adler and Katherine Irwin

Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) are the fastest growing group in the United States, numbered at 14.5 million in the 2003 census. Despite this, they remain one of the most understudied groups and are rarely considered in the design, implementation, or evaluation of violence prevention programs. Studies in California and Hawai'i indicate that particular API groups are disproportionately incarcerated and detained, often for violent offenses.

In an effort to understand API youth violence and community needs, the APIYVPC is conducting a study to evaluate how to make prevention programs relevant to and respectful of the cultural heritage of different API groups. The primary goal of this study is to place youths' and adults' views, voices, and perspectives in the center of the research agenda.

Through a partnership with Kailua High School and community groups, we are conducting focus groups with adults and students to identify youth violence prevention concerns, as well as discuss limitations of current prevention programs for the gender and cultural-specific needs of Hawaiian, Samoan, and Filipino communities. Three groups of Native Hawaiian adults have met, and recruitment is currently underway for the Samoan and Filipino adult groups. Student groups will begin this school year.

The information gathered from this process will be integrated into the development of a community-based action plan for youth violence prevention. If you live in the Waimānalo area and would like to participate in a focus group, or would like more information, please contact Dr. Katherine Irwin at 956-6481.

Tribute to Theresa "Cookie" Sumner by David Mayeda

It is with great sorrow that the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Center reports the passing of our Kailua-Waimānalo Community Coordinator, Theresa "Cookie" Sumner. Cookie passed away on August 9, 2006 after a battle with cancer. Cookie served as the APIYVPC's Kailua-Waimānalo Community Coordinator in 2005 and 2006. Cookie held many characteristics that made her special. She was a fierce advocate for the Waimānalo Community, employing her strong leadership qualities in the Ke Ala Laua'e Women's Support Group (Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center). Her high, positive energy and ability to speak her mind also enabled Cookie – and in turn those around her – to stimulate new ideas that will surely help the community and our Center for years to come.

Cookie's intimate connection with the Waimānalo Community also enabled the APIYVPC to network with various community groups. Cookie provided the initial introduction between the APIYVPC and the non-profit organization for Waimānalo Intermediate School students, God's Country Waimānalo (Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association). This eventually led to God's County Waimānalo being funded by the State of Hawai'i, Office of Youth Services to provide youth services. Cookie also linked the APIYVPC with the Waimānalo non-profit agency, Ke Ola Hou, and our organizational relationship has been growing stronger ever since.

These are just a few examples of the ways that Cookie helped our Center to truly support and collaborate with the community. In many ways, it was through Cookie that the APIYVPC became part of the community and continues to hold both professional



and personal friendships with numerous community partners. We will all miss Cookie's liveliness that remained with her until her passing. Cookie's energy in the way she led by example will always inspire the APIYVPC and our mission to improve life for Waimānalo youth.

Cookie is survived by her daughter, Sasha, her husband, Reed, a loving family, and the Waimānalo Community. As the APIYVPC continues to work with both Waimānalo and Kailua in its efforts to reduce and prevent youth violence, Cookie's contributions will always be remembered and utilized.



Cookie Sumner and Auntie Malia Craver at the April 2006 Community Advisory Board Meeting.



Cookie amongst APIYVPC staff, Board members and CDC team after dinner at The Willows during the April 2006 Site Visit (see page 2). Back row (standing, left to right): Ted Kaminski, Jim Spencer, Anand Samtani, Chuck Braden, Auntie Sharon Majit-Gorion, Janice Chang, Cookie Sumner, Kathryn Braun, Jeanelle Sugimoto, Bo Keopaseut, Gregory Mark, Jennifer Wyatt, Jack McArdle, Ami Scronce, David Mayeda, Francine Honda, Matt Ho, Jane Onoye. Front row (sitting, left to right): Cheryl Miyata, Earl Hishinuma, Corinne Ferdon, Michele Hoover, and Katherine Irwin.

Micronesian Project Status Report by Davis Rehuher

The APIYVPC has recently undertaken a project aimed at uncovering issues and concerns facing the increasing number of Micronesian students in Hawai'i's public schools. Students originally from the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Yap), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau are being recruited to take part in small focus group "talk story" sessions. Schools with significant numbers of Micronesian students serve as recruitment centers: Jarrett Intermediate School, Central Middle School, Farrington High School, and Waipahu High School. These focus groups typically have between 2 and 6 students and last between 30 to 50 minutes, depending on the number of students involved and their levels of English proficiency. A majority of the students we have talked to so far are enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. All interviews take place on campus. Snacks are provided, and students are given the following school supplies for participating in the study: a binder, a ruler, 2 post-it notes, and 6 pens. Reactions to the school supplies have been very positive not only from the

intermediate students (which was somewhat expected) but also from the high school students we have interviewed so far. This was a pleasant surprise.

The study, under the direction of Dr. David Mayeda and Dr. Scott Okamoto, seeks to find out directly from the Micronesian students themselves the kinds of issues they have to contend with as immigrant students in a foreign environment. During the course of the interviews we discuss their backgrounds, and how they feel about their schools, friends, families and cultures. We also ask questions on violence, substance abuse, after school activities, and any other topics they wish to discuss.

We are in the process of scheduling more focus groups for Waipahu, Farrington, and Central. Waipahu in particular looks promising. The response rate from one of the schools, Jarrett Intermediate, is worth noting: Of 17 students approached, 13 participated in the study. The project ends September 30, 2006. Results are forthcoming.

Meet the Staff

Earl Hishinuma, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Director of Research, Director of Communication and Dissemination

Gregory Mark, D.Crim., Co-Principal Investigator, Principal Investigator for Small Grant #3 and Seed Grant #1

I'walani Else, Ph.D., Director of Infrastructure and Collaboration, Study Co-Principal Investigator on Surveillance

David Mayeda, Ph.D., Director of Community Mobilization

Karen Umemoto, Ph.D., Director of Training

Kathryn Braun, Dr.P.H., Director of Evaluation

Deborah Goebert, Dr.P.H., Study Principal Investigator for Core Research

Katherine Irwin, Ph.D., Study Principal Investigator for Small Grant #1

SooJean Choi-Misailidis, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator for Core Research & Small Grant #1

Stephanie Nishimura, M.S.W., Ph.D. Candidate, Study Principal Investigator for Small Grant #2, Assistant Director of Evaluation

Janice Chang, M.A., Psy.D. Candidate, Program Manager for Training, Program Manager for Surveillance, Statistician

Jeanette Sugimoto, B.S., Project Manager, Assistant Director of Communication and Dissemination



From left to right: Anthony Guerrero, Ami Scronce, David Mayeda, Pavela Fiaui, Joanna Cruz & Earl Hishinuma

Anthony Guerrero, M.D., Director of Curriculum

James H. Spencer, Ph.D., Policy Investigator

Jane Onoye, Ph.D., Investigator

Tim Unten, B.B.A., Administrative Officer of Research

Cheryl Miyata, B.A., Personnel Officer

Ami Scronce, Research Support Specialist

Corey Adler, M.P.A., B.A., Graduate Assistant

Ophelia Ongalibang, B.S., Graduate Assistant

Jane Chung, B.S., Graduate Assistant

Pavela Fiaui, B.A., Research Associate

Davis Rehuher, B.A., Research Associate

Bo Keopaseut, B.S., Research Associate

Tui Lauilefue, B.S., Research Associate

Jessica Nakamura, B.S., Administrative Assistant

Joanna Cruz, Student Assistant

Mentee Trainings by Janice Chang

The aim of the training component of the Asian/Pacific Youth Islander Violence Prevention Center grant is to utilize teaching and learning as ways of furthering knowledge and understanding of what contributes to violence in adolescents. Junior faculty members are able to share their area of expertise by teaching and mentoring trainees. They are also able to attend seminars and further their understanding of topics they may not be as familiar with. Over the past nine months, the APIYVPC has provided research training to its Graduate Assistants (Ophelia Ongalibang of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and Corey Adler of the Department of Sociology) and Research Associates (Pavela Fiaui and Bo Keopaseut). Along with their department advisors and with the help of other junior and senior faculty members, they were mentored through the research process and worked on developing a publishable manuscript utilizing data

from the APIYVPC database. These sessions took the trainees step-by-step through the publication process. For some of the trainees, their manuscript would eventually lead into their thesis or dissertation to further their education. The training sessions were held monthly and were set up in a seminar format. Different presenters each month led seminars on various topics such as doing literature reviews, writing effective methods, results, and discussion sections, facilitating focus groups and running statistical analyses. This gave the trainees an opportunity to learn about different topics from experts in the field.

In the future, the training seminars will look to utilize this year's trainees as mentors for new graduate assistants, research associates, community members, students, and staff members.

More APIYVPC Staff

Community Advisory Board

Amy Agbayani Ph.D., Director of Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity, Office of Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa – Advisory Board Member for 2000-2005 APIYVPC

Claire Asam Ph.D., President and Executive Director, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center – Advisory Board Member for 2000-2005 APIYVPC

Charles Braden Former Director, Waimānalo Health Center

"Aunty" Malia Craver Hawaiian Spiritual & Cultural Consultant, Elder – Advisory Board Member for 2000-2005 APIYVPC

Shannon Hirose-Wong Ph.D., Director & Principal Investigator, Hui Mālama o ke Kai in Waimānalo

Matt Ho M.Ed., Vice Principal & Former Teacher, Kailua High School – APIYVPC Executive Committee Member

Francine Honda M.Ed., Principal, Kailua High School – APIYVPC Executive Committee Member

Wayde Lee Chair, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee, Office of Youth Services, State of Hawai'i

Sharon Majit-Gorion A.A., Director, Windward Unit, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center – head of Windward-area services

Judge Bode Uale J.D., District Family Judge, State of Hawai'i – Advisory Board Member for 2000-2005 APIYVPC

Scientific Advisory Board

Raul Caetano M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., Professor and Assistant Dean, School of Public Health, Health Science Center at University of Texas at Houston

Daniel Galanis Ph.D., Epidemiologist, Injury Prevention and Control Program, Hawai'i State Department of Health

Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni Ph.D., Director, Policy Analysis & System Evaluation, Kamehameha Schools

Jess Kraus Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor of Epidemiology and Director/Principal Investigator, Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center, School of Public Health, University of California Los Angeles

John McArdle Ph.D., Senior Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Southern California (also serves as a Consultant to APIYVPC staff)

John McDermott M.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychiatry, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Paul Perrone M.A., Chief of Research and Statistics, Department of the Attorney General, State of Hawai'i

Eldon Wegner Ph.D., Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa