

### Community Leaders' Workgroup *by David Mayeda*

In November 2006, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) hosted a meeting for community leaders from the Waimānalo and Kailua communities. The meeting was held at the Waimānalo Intermediate School library. At this meeting, APIYVPC staff made a dedication to our previous Community Coordinator, Ms. Theresa "Cookie" Sumner. Dr. Karen Umemoto showed a public service announcement on prevention of rumors, made by Kailua High School's Peer Mentoring Program. Ms. Pavela Fiaui presented some of the Center's recent research findings. A large component of the meeting was dedicated to the overview of request for proposals to fund after school youth



Members of the Ke Ala Laua'e Women's Group

programs. This was led by staff from the Office of Youth Services (OYS). The meeting helped to keep the APIYVPC connected with community concerns and maintained momentum in our collaborative community efforts, while also educating our staff and the community on approaches to grant writing.

Organizations represented included the Queen Liliu'okalani Children's Center, the Office of Youth Services, Windward Warriors Baseball Club, East O'ahu Boxing, God's Country Waimānalo, Kamehameha Schools, Olomana School, Kailua High School, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Hui Mālama o ke Kai, Olelo Community Television, Ke Ala Laua'e and the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association.

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# The

## Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

# Newsletter



### Principal Investigator's Welcome

A lot has occurred since our last *Newsletter* of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC). We are currently in the midst of Year 2 of our grant period and we are in "full swing." The present issue features some of the events and progress made within the past several months.

Several APIYVPC members and a representative of one Waimānalo community project on safe communities attended and participated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) "Reverse Site Visit" meeting held in Riverside, California. This is an annual event that brings together the 10 National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACEs) and CDC with the common goal of preventing youth violence in the ACEs' respective communities.

The APIYVPC also held its twice-yearly Community and Scientific Advisory Board meetings in October 2006 at Kailua High School. This event allowed the APIYVPC staff to update the Advisory Board members and incorporate their recommendations in the efforts of the APIYVPC. We greatly appreciate the time and expertise that these members provide to the APIYVPC, including three members who came from the continental U.S. for this meeting. One of the members was Dr. John J. McArdle, who is a Senior Professor at the University of Southern California (USC). He also provided the entire staff training on advanced psychometrics, including on Item Response Theory (IRT). Dr. McArdle is featured in this issue.

One of the community events that took place since our last *Newsletter* was a Waimānalo community leaders' meeting that was held in November 2006. This event brought together many of Waimānalo's community leaders to address the issues facing the community, including the topic of youth development. The APIYVPC presented research results involving youths from Kailua-Waimānalo. In addition, representatives from the

Office of Youth Services (State of Hawai'i) provided valuable information on resources that might be available. Follow-up meetings are being planned.

In this issue, we also provide an update on some of the research being conducted by the APIYVPC. We highlight the qualitative focus groups that have been completed in the past few months. These focus group sessions have provided the APIYVPC with critical information that lays the foundation for the second phase of developing a quantitative model of youth violence prevention, and subsequently, the development, implementation, and evaluation of prevention programs that are gender-specific and culturally relevant.

Further, the APIYVPC participated in two events that occurred on the continental United States. First, five APIYVPC and Kailua-Waimānalo community representatives attended and participated in an intense, week-long, youth-violence prevention training sponsored by the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center (January to February, 2007). The exciting outcomes and follow through as a result of this training are reported in this issue. Second, the APIYVPC and Coordinating Center presented at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) held in Boston, Massachusetts, as well as collaborated with the Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth (UNITY)—an organization whose mission is to address youth violence in urban areas.

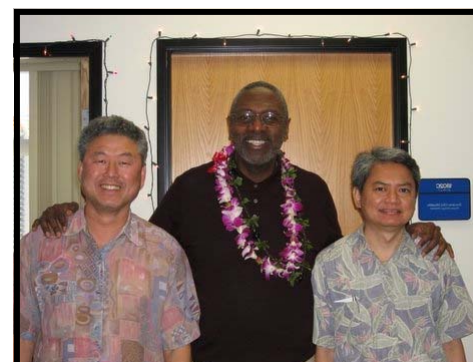
In this issue, we also feature Aunty Malia Craver, a Native Hawaiian cultural expert, who has been a Community Advisory Board member for the APIYVPC since the year 2000. We are so fortunate to be guided by her wisdom, expertise, and sense of humor.

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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Dr. Gregory Mark, Dr. Rodney Hammond, and Dr. Earl Hishinuma in Honolulu, December 2006

## Core and Tula'i Focus Groups

by **Davis Rehuher and Tui Lauilefue**

In the fall of 2006, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) began work on two studies: "Tula'i: Stand Up" and "'A'ali'i Kū Makani" (Core Project). Both look into different aspects of youth violence in Hawai'i, such as culture and gender.

Funded by the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Tula'i (which means "stand up" in Samoan) focuses on dating violence prevention amongst Samoan and Filipino youth in the Waipahu community. The Core Project's emphasis is on violence as expressed by Native Hawaiian youth in the Kailua and Waimānalo districts. The latter is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A total of 9 focus groups were held, consisting of 66 students. For each ethnicity (Native Hawaiian, Filipino and Samoan), three focus groups were conducted based on gender breakdown: one all male group, one all female group and a mixed gender group. Interviews were structured along the following general topics: violence (including teen dating violence), culture, gender, and prevention program development. Tula'i sessions were held in a Leeward O'ahu High School and Core groups took place in a Windward O'ahu High School. All focus groups were held on-campus and ranged from 60 to 80 minutes, with about 4 to 7 students per group. Each student was compensated with a \$25.00 US Postal money order.

Using the qualitative analysis software NVivo, the research team identified major themes emerging from the data. Preliminary results indicate that students are very concerned with inter-ethnic peer violence and dating issues. The students also indicated that gossip and rumors sometimes lead to misunderstandings and verbal or physical confrontations:

*"UH Researcher: So... so you're saying gossip, rumors...that can lead all lead to violence"*

*Student 1: They could really like make a little situation into a*

*big thing. [Student 2: Yeah the one that you can fix]. You can fix something and then no; they wanna make it into like, the whole world can know about it."*

With regard to prevention program development, students seemed to prefer an off-campus site, with a program leader of the same gender and same ethnicity whom students can relate to. When asked about possible cultural values that may be incorporated into violence prevention programs, students seemed to have difficulty thinking of examples. Other findings indicate that students were concerned with the following issues: substance use, cyber-bullying, inter-ethnic tensions, conflicts between schools, conflicts between communities, and familial influence.

Findings were used to inform a pre-existing school-wide survey that was administered to students at a Leeward High School and a Windward High School in late May 2007. The overall objective of the survey was to determine prevalence rates of violence, victimization, and risk-protective factors. The survey was a paper/pencil, self-report questionnaire that was group-administered to students in the school setting by trained high school teachers and/or trained APIYVPC staff. Consisting of 12 parts, the survey included questions on: demographics, ethnic identity and religiosity, violence/fighting, dating violence, substance abuse, sexual history and health, suicide ideation/depression, peer influence, family influence, school attitudes, attitudes on community, and media influence. The survey took approximately 60 minutes to complete, and will be administered yearly in the Windward High School until 2010 but will only be given once at the Leeward High School. These studies will contribute towards the APIYVPC's overall goal of reducing and preventing interpersonal youth violence, including teen dating violence, in the community.

## American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition by **David Mayeda**

In November 2006, Kailua High School (KHS) Ethnic Studies teachers Amber Strong and Kehau Glassco traveled to Boston, Massachusetts along with APIYVPC staff, Gregory Mark, Jane Onoye, Deborah Goebert, and David Mayeda. In Boston, our team of KHS teachers and APIYVPC staff presented at the Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in two different sessions. The first presentation focused on the collective efforts of the 10 National Academic Centers of Excellence and Urban Partnership Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The following Centers were represented and made presentations on some of the research and mobilization work they are conducting with their respective communities:

- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center

- Harvard University, Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center

- University of California at Berkeley, Center for Culture, Immigration, and Violence Prevention

- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center



From left to right: Dr. Gregory Mark, Ms. Amber Strong, Ms. Kehau Glassco, and Dr. David Mayeda in Boston

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## 2007 Annual Meeting of the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention by **Summer Nakaishi**



Representatives from The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center

Over 70 people representing all ten National Academic Centers of Excellence (ACEs) on Youth Violence Prevention nationwide, plus their community partners, as well as representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gathered in sunny Riverside, California for the 2007 National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention Annual Meeting. The intensive two and a half day meeting took place at the historic Mission Inn Hotel from February 5th to 7th, 2007. This was the first "reverse" site visit, where the meeting was held outside of CDC headquarters. The meeting was graciously hosted by the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention at the University of California, Riverside. Ms. Michele Hoover, Lead Program Officer from the CDC, provided much assistance to the structure and success of the conference.

Participating ACEs included the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention (CCYVP), the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center (HYVPC), the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence Center, the Center on Culture, Immigration, and Violence Prevention (University of California, Berkeley), the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (University of California, Riverside), the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention, the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Youth Violence Prevention, the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC), and the Nashville Urban Partnership, Academic Center of Excellence (NUPACE).

The meeting aimed to generate feedback and ideas and to establish networking amongst the ten participating ACEs, along with community leaders, CDC representatives, and the Coordinating Center. Meeting attendees participated in discussions on community mobilization, methodological and research design issues, and community member and outreach concerns. Participants were also offered the option of attending different workgroup sessions, which included topics

such as Adolescent Interpersonal Violence, Bullying, and Acculturation. Also available were three networking sessions on Outreach and Training, Surveillance, and Research. Workgroups were co-facilitated by staff from various ACEs and CDC personnel. Meeting attendees were able to participate in discussions and provide comments and reactions to the respective topics.

The agenda included introductions of three new Centers. The Nashville Urban Partnership, Academic Center of Excellence (NUPACE), the Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC), and the National ACE Coordinating Center presented overviews of their programs to the already established ACEs.

Program examples of Outreach and Training were shared with video and PowerPoint presentations by representatives from Columbia, Harvard, and Riverside.

Principal Investigators and the Steering Committee met privately during the conference to discuss the future direction and role of the Coordinating Center.

In addition to conference presentations and workgroups, meeting attendees also had several opportunities to socialize in a more casual atmosphere.

To jump start the National ACE Meeting, Riverside Principal Investigator Dr. Nancy Guerra generously opened her home to meeting attendees on the evening of February 5<sup>th</sup>, offering a chance for participants to network while enjoying a delicious meal. She and her staff members worked tirelessly to ensure guests had a wonderful meal, as well as an enjoyable stay in their home town.

The following evening, meeting attendees joined the Riverside site in a recognition dinner for their community partners at a local restaurant, Mexicali Bar and Grill. Dr. Guerra and Ms. Roxanna Alcaraz warmly expressed their gratitude to their community partners for their on-going efforts and contributions to the prevention of youth violence in their Southern California community. Representatives from the City of Riverside, the Latino Health Access group in Santa Ana and the Perris Youth Crime Prevention Red Team were honored with personalized plaques. Certain honorees even spoke to the ACEs of their involvement with the community.

Overall feedback generated from the conference was generally positive. Attendees appreciated the opportunities to network, the small workgroups, and the interchange of ideas.

The next ACE Annual Meeting is targeted for October 2008 back in Atlanta, Georgia.



The Historic Mission Inn Hotel

## PREVENT Institute Violence Prevention Training by David Mayeda

Early in 2007, representatives from the University of Hawai'i Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC, David Mayeda), Kailua High School (KHS; teacher Wess Unten and Vice Principal Matt Ho), Ke Ola Hou (Eldon Kohatsu), and God's Country Waimānalo (Ilima Ramseyer) were able to attend a 4-day violence prevention training held at the University of North Carolina. The training was run by the "PREVENT Institute (Preventing Violence through Education, Networking and Technical Assistance)." Aside from airfare, our team was able to attend this conference free of cost after having been accepted through a national application process. Other communities in the training included teams from Wisconsin, Toronto, Minnesota, New Mexico, and two teams from New York.

At this 4-day training, our team spent entire days assessing our personal work styles and identifying causes of youth violence in our community, while also listening to national experts explain how to conduct community surveillance, epidemiological studies, logic model development, and evaluation. Between these sessions, our team also spent intensive working sessions attempting to figure out how our new knowledge could best be implemented in preventing youth violence at Kailua High School and its surrounding communities. In supporting the ongoing efforts currently being carried out through the APIYVPC partnership, our team came up with the following goals: to implement violence prevention activities that would significantly reduce violence (1) at KHS via KHS related activities within 2 to 4 years; and (2) in the Waimānalo and Kailua communities within 3 to 5 years.

In establishing these broad goals, we examined some of the APIYVPC research as well as our individual observations about causes of youth violence in the community. After a number of lengthy discussions we hoped our efforts would address the following issues, some of which have been identified as risk factors for youth violence for KHS students in our research:

- Impulsivity (acting without thinking)
- Developing & understanding healthy peer relationships
- Developing healthy family role modeling
- Developing healthy interpersonal & coping skills
- Developing positive student & community leaders

Our team came up with two proposed activities to be institutionalized through KHS:

### Family Movie Nights:

Beginning in Spring 2007, we will hold family movie nights on the KHS football field every semester. We will seek a small amount of funding to provide a small meal for families. Each community attendee will be asked to fill out a very brief adult or youth volunteer survey that will assess information on community needs and desires. Prior to



The Hawai'i Team during a working session



Above: Dr. David Mayeda, Mr. Wess Unten, Ms. Ilima Ramseyer, Mr. Matt Ho and Mr. Eldon Kohatsu enjoying the North Carolina weather

showing the movie, we will show a few public service announcements (PSAs) that have been developed by KHS students and community partners that speak to promoting safety in the Waimānalo/Kailua community. The movie would be an inspirational one, appropriate for all family members. This event will be called "M&M Family Night – Movie & a Message."

### Institutionalize Mentoring Systems:

We are in the process of setting up the following mentoring systems:

1. KHS sports teams will mentor youth sports team in Kailua and Waimānalo. While in season, each major KHS sports team will hold one athletic clinic for a youth sports team. Members of the KHS teams will also talk with youth participants about the importance of school and staying out of activities that can lead to violent behavior. Coaches will ensure that KHS athletes who speak will represent both the Kailua and Waimānalo communities.

2. The KHS Peer Mentoring Program will continue making public service announcements on various topics that promote school safety (preventing the spread of rumors and having respectful dating relationships). Students from this class who have made the PSAs will show them to students at KHS feeder schools and/or in the community, and explain the importance of not engaging in adverse behaviors.

Attending the four-day training in North Carolina enabled our team to bond and really focus on developing mobilization activities that sometimes get lost in the midst of major research efforts. One of our team members – Matt Ho – was also able to be in snow for the first time ever! Our team will continue planning and implementing the M&M Family Nights and mentoring systems so that they become a regular aspect at KHS.

## Board Member Profile: Aunty Malia by Ami Scronce

The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) is very fortunate to have a member on its Community Advisory Board who was recently voted one of the seven "giants" of Hawaiian culture. "Aunty" Malia Craver is known locally as well as internationally for her work and wisdom in achieving peace by utilizing the practice of *ho'oponopono*, a method using the cultural and spiritual beliefs of the Hawaiian culture to peacefully resolve conflicts. In August 2000, Aunty Malia was invited to speak at the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual United Nations Conference of Non-Government Organizations. She was one of three to speak at the closing session on "New Responsibilities for Civil Society," along with other distinguished guests such as Ralph Nader. She is the Spiritual and Cultural Advisor to the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC), a child welfare organization dedicated to serving Hawaiian orphan and destitute children. One of QLCC's outcomes is to foster strong family attachment built on a cultural and spiritual foundation, which is in alignment with our Center's mission for cultural competency in community mobilization. Her work



with the Hawaiian community spans over the last 50 years, with her early influences beginning in Ho'okena, a small village on the Big Island of Hawai'i. She was raised by her grandparents, who instilled the importance of learning about the Hawaiian language, culture and values. She has helped countless families and organizations, not only through trainings and *ho'oponopono* sessions, but also with the composition of Hawaiian poetry and chant. Her ability to fluently speak the Hawaiian language helps to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture even further. Although Aunty Malia is 80-years old, there is no slowing down for her as she continues to conduct workshops on culture and spirituality to a variety of audiences.

Aunty Malia, who has been on our Advisory Board since the year 2000, has assisted us in making decisions that benefit the youth and communities of Hawai'i. She also educates our staff about Hawaiian culture and values. We will continue to look to Aunty Malia for guidance with regard to our work with the Hawaiian culture and youth, and in the practice of *ho'oponopono*.

## Board Member Listing

### Community Advisory Board

**Amy Agbayani Ph.D.**, Director, Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity (SEED), 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

**"Aunty" Malia Craver** Hawaiian Spiritual and Cultural Consultant, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center – Advisory Board Member for 2000-2005 APIYVPC

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

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

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

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

**Sharon Majit-Gorion A.A.**, Community Building Facilitator, Ko'olaupoko Unit, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center

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

### Scientific Advisory Board

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

**Christina Fa M.D.**, Pediatrician, Camino Medical Group, Santa Clara, California

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

**Marjorie Kagawa-Singer Ph.D., R.N., M.N.**, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of California Los Angeles

**Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni Ph.D.**, Director of Strategic Planning and Implementation, Kamehameha Schools

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

**John J. McArdle Ph.D.**, Professor and Director, National Growth and Change Study, University of Southern California (also serves as 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

## Board Member Profile: Dr. Jack McArdle

by Bo Keopaseut



Dr. John J. McArdle is a member of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center's (APIYVPC) Scientific Advisory Board. The Scientific Advisory Board is currently composed of ten highly regarded experts in various fields of science. These experts serve as an advisory committee for our ongoing research on youth violence prevention. The Scientific Advisory Board will provide consultation for the APIYVPC until the end of the current grant period in 2010.

Dr. McArdle earned his B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College and continued on to receive his M.A. and Ph.D. from Hofstra University. He is currently a Senior Professor and Head of the Quantitative Area in the Department of Psychology at the University of Southern California and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Department of Psychiatry. Since 1989, Dr. McArdle has worked as an academic consultant to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), where he has led the data analysis team for national research studies of college student-athletes. Dr. McArdle has authored and co-authored four books including the most recent, *Contemporary Advances in*

*Psychometrics*. He has published over 100 articles and book chapters throughout his academic career.

Currently Dr. McArdle serves as a journal reviewer on the editorial boards of many peer-reviewed journals, including *Science* and *Psychological Methods*. He is also a member of several professional groups that range from the American Psychological Association to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Of the numerous honors and awards bestowed upon Dr. McArdle, he recently received the "NCAA Award for Educational Research" from the National Collegiate Athletic Association in January 2003 and the "Jacob Cohen Lecturer for Distinguished Multivariate Research" from Columbia University in April 2003.

Dr. McArdle's current research examines the effects of aging on cognitive abilities of individuals over time. He is the Director of the National Growth and Change Study (NGCS), a large scale longitudinal study of cognitive changes over the entire United States. In 2004, he was named Co-Principal Investigator of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), and in 2005 he was awarded an NIH-MERIT grant from the National Institute on Aging.

The APIYVPC is very appreciative of the assistance and guidance received from Dr. McArdle, and we look forward to furthering our relationship in the years ahead!

## Meet the Staff

**Earl Hishinuma, Ph.D., APIYVPC 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

**'Iwalani 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

**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 and Surveillance, Statistician

**Mohan Anand Samtani, M.A., Statistician**

**Jeanelle Sugimoto, B.S., APIYVPC Project Manager,**  
Assistant Director of Communication and Dissemination

**Anthony Guerrero, M.D., Director of Curriculum**

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

**Jane Onoye, Ph.D., Investigator**

**Susana Helm, Ph.D., Investigator**

**Charlene Baker, Ph.D., Investigator**



**George King, Ph.D., Administrative Officer for Research**

**Cheryl Miyata, B.A., Personnel Officer**

**Tim Unten, B.B.A., IT Administrator**

**Keoki Fraser, B.A., Community Coordinator**

**Heather Law, B.A., Community Coordinator**

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

**Jane Chung, B.S., Graduate Assistant**

**Ophelia Ongalibang, M.U.R.P., B.S., Research Associate**

**Ami Scronce, Research Associate**

**Davis Rehuher, B.A., Research Associate**

**Bo Keopaseut, B.S., Research Associate**

**Pete Sele, B.A., Research Associate**

**Leighton Vila, Student Research Associate**

**Summer Nakaishi, B.A., Administrative Assistant**

**Jessica Nakamura, B.S., Administrative Assistant**

**Lynnette Chang, Fiscal Coordinator**

**Nolan Chung, Student Assistant**

## Board Meetings and IRT Training by Jeanelle Sugimoto

In October 2006, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) held its semi-annual Advisory Board meetings. Both meetings took place on the Kailua High School campus.

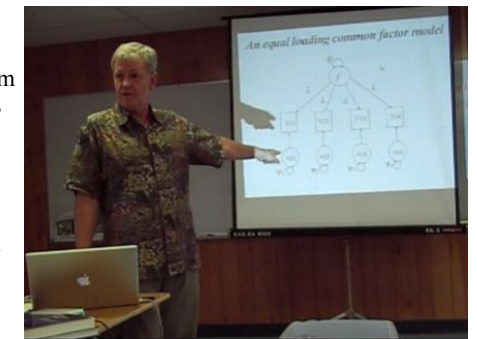
The Center's Scientific Advisory Board convened on Thursday, October 12, 2006. All but two of the members were in attendance. Dr. Shannon Hirose-Wong (Director and Principal Investigator of the Hui Mālama o ke Kai program, also a Community Advisory Board member) started off the meeting with a presentation detailing recent activities of her program. Dr. Deborah Goebert provided updates for the Center's "Core" research project, 'A'ali'i Kū Makani: Cultural Immersion and Gender-Based Interpersonal Youth Violence Prevention with a Diverse Asian/Pacific Islander Community. Dr. Katherine Irwin gave a status overview of the Naturalistic Study that she and Graduate Assistant, Corey Adler have been spearheading. Ms. Pavela Fiaui updated the Board on results of the spring 2006 Kailua High School Ethnic Studies Course. Dr. 'Iwalani Else and Ms. Janice Chang spoke about the Center's surveillance efforts (School-wide Survey Project, Secondary Data Collection, and the Household Survey Project). Finally, Dr. Karen Umemoto and Dr. Irwin gave an overview of the upcoming Genealogy of School Fights study.

The Center's Community Advisory Board convened the next morning, on Friday, October 13, 2006. We were fortunate that all but one member were able to personally attend the meeting. The meeting began with a traditional *pule* or prayer by board member "Aunty" Sharon Majit-Gorion. Members were then briefed on upcoming activities of the National Academic Centers of Excellence Coordinating Center. The Hawai'i Site had recently been officially awarded the grant, with Dr. Gregory Mark serving as Director and Principal Investigator and Dr. Jane Onoye

servicing as Assistant Director. Members were then briefed on recent activities of all four of the Center's community work groups. Dr. David Mayeda, Ms. Jane Chung, Dr. Susana Helm and Ms. Tui Lauilefue presented status reports of the Center's community-based research studies. Finally members were treated to presentations about two of the Center's community partnerships, the Hawai'i Speed and Quickness program and Ke Ola Hou. The meeting was brought to a close by a traditional *pule* led by Board Member "Aunty" Malia Craver.

In the afternoon of the Community Advisory Board meeting, Scientific Advisory Board member Dr. John J. McArdle gave a training seminar for APIYVPC staff on Item Response Theory (IRT). This was an honor and pleasure for the staff, as Dr. McArdle is renowned as an expert in the field.

The next Scientific Advisory Board meeting will be held on July 27, 2007. The Community Advisory Board has reconvened on June 22, 2007. Staff will continue to update members on the exciting progress being made with our studies and community mobilization efforts. We also look forward to receiving additional feedback from our members to continue striving toward our mission of reducing and preventing youth violence.



Dr. McArdle during his presentation on Item Response Theory

## APHA continued from page 2

UNITY (Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth) also presented in this conference session. This was a great initial opportunity for these Centers to talk further about collaborative research topics and provide momentum for the meeting of all ten Centers in Riverside, California that took place the following February. In addition, this was the first opportunity for investigators from the Center in Philadelphia to meet some of the other investigators who were involved in these efforts from 2000-2005. This meeting was organized by the Coordinating Center (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa).

In a second presentation, Amber Strong, Kehau Glassco, and David Mayeda presented within the Asian/Pacific Islander Caucus of the APHA. Their presentation was titled "Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center: Development of a High School Ethnic Studies Class to Prevent Youth Violence." Their presentation overviewed the evolution of the Kailua High School (KHS) Ethnic Studies Class and how it is developing according to ongoing research findings. For instance, the presentation outlined how the course incorporated a variety of community-based organizations in its expansion, and how the course has

turned into a regular elective course that was made available to over 90 KHS students (mostly juniors and seniors).

Presenters Strong, Glassco, and Mayeda also explained how risk factors for violence, which were identified through research with KHS, have been built into the Ethnic Studies curriculum. These five risk factors are (1) prior victimization; (2) substance use; (3) impulsivity; (4) holding sexist attitudes; and (5) moodiness. The Ethnic Studies Course will continue to change and develop according to the school's and community's needs. Next year the Ethnic Studies Course will be offered to KHS freshmen students, thereby making it more prevention-based as it is offered to younger students.

In attending and participating in this conference the APIYVPC staff and KHS faculty continued to bond, while also improving their professional skills. This conference also offered a variety of panel sessions that provided further insight into addressing indigenous issues, youth substance use issues, and youth violence prevention issues. The ongoing partnership among KHS, its surrounding communities, and the APIYVPC continues to cultivate and will keep doing so in our efforts to quell youth violence.