

## 2008-2009 Training Workshop Series by Karen Umemoto

Graduate Assistants and Research Associates at the Asian Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) recently completed a series of nine monthly training workshops for the 2008-2009 academic year. Trainings included approaches to youth violence prevention and research, professional development, and opportunities to network with youth-serving agencies and organizations. Specific topics and activities included:

**Applying a social-ecological model to youth violence prevention**, with examples of how the APIYVPC uses this approach to youth violence prevention work, presented by Dr. Karen Umemoto and Ms. Tai-An Miao.

**Indigenous evaluation** focusing on the work of evaluators working with native populations in New Zealand, Canada and the United States, presented by University of Hawai'i doctoral candidate Ms. Kas Aruskevich.

**Assertiveness training** workshop conducted by Ms. Jen Graf of the University of Hawai'i Ombudsman's Office.

**Organizational assessment** using the APIYVPC as an example to identify the assets and challenges of an organization and to develop ways to strategically make improvements. Research Associates and Graduate Assistants presented the ideas generated from this training exercise to the APIYVPC

Principal Investigator as a way to put their assertiveness training into practice.

**Time management** workshop conducted by Dr. Rosemarie Woodruff of the University of Hawai'i Learning Assistance Center. Follow-up sessions included examples of time management strategies and tools shared by Ms. Katie Kinkade, Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, and Dr. Earl Hishinuma.

**Reporting of child abuse/maltreatment** covering the laws and policies relating to the reporting of incidents, including the role of professionals in reporting such information, presented by Dr. Anthony Guerrero.

**Qualitative analysis** using videotaped material to understand community visions, values, and ideas for positive youth and community development.

**Networking and various workshops on effective practices** at the "Children and Youth Summit" and the "Get the 411" Conference. Topics at the conference included internet predators, cyberbullying, sex assault, underage drinking, new drugs entering youth culture, child prostitution, teen suicide, mixed martial arts and teen violence, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youths (LGBTY) and violence, and social norms marketing.

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# The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

## Newsletter



### Principal Investigator's Welcome

Welcome again to the *Newsletter* of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC). As in past issues, so much has occurred since our last publication.

One of the milestones for the Waimānalo Community has been their *collective* determination to improve the lives of the youth in Waimānalo. Their efforts were deservedly acknowledged and rewarded by U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye during his town-hall meeting held on April 14, 2009, in Waimānalo. To complement this report, Ms. Deanna Gonda and Ms. Tai-An Miao provide a very nice summary of the progress made by the Waimānalo Collaborative, including on the Pono Lōkahi Curriculum Project.

The APIYVPC has partnered with Kailua High School (KHS) since 2003. On May 26, 2009, the APIYVPC was

acknowledged at KHS's *Night of Excellence* for its contributions to KHS. We were extremely grateful and honored to be recognized. We all count our blessings in having the opportunity to work with KHS's staff, teachers, and students. In this context, we report in this issue on KHS's Community Service Day and "Movie and a Message" (M&M) Night.

The APIYVPC has the opportunity to spread the good word about all that is occurring in the Kailua-Waimānalo Community. Several APIYVPC staff members presented at the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) Conference in Washington, DC. While in DC, APIYVPC members also visited with staff from U.S. Inouye's Office and U.S. Congresswoman Mazie Hirono's Office, to update them on our efforts.

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### Senator Daniel Inouye Pledges Support for Youth Programs in Waimānalo

*"It is wonderful to see the Waimānalo Community so unified in promoting positive youth development and making progress on their concept of programs for a youth-community center. I am in full support of the community's effort and will be eager to bear in a year on the community's progress," said U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye.*



Senator Daniel K. Inouye listens to the presentations being provided by Waimānalo community members.

At an event marked by hope and optimism, Senator Inouye threw his support for youth programs at the Waimānalo Teen Project Center for Waimānalo's youths and families in a meeting with

Waimānalo Community members and staff from the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC). This effort was a culmination of two years of hard work on the part of the Waimānalo Community. Dedicated members forged the Waimānalo Togetherness Meetings that occurred monthly during the two-year period.

One ambitious outcome from these meetings was the formation of the Waimānalo Youth and Family Collaborative, which has been working hard for the past seven months on plans for youth-centered programs and a new youth-family center, called the "Waimānalo Youth and Family Collaborative Center."

Attending the meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at the Teen Project Center were representatives from several Waimānalo organizations, including Hui Mālama O Ke Kai, God's Country Waimānalo, Ke Ola Hou, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, Na Wahine Council, Kailua High School, Blanche Pope Elementary School, Blue Print for Change, Friends of Waimānalo, Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association,

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## Society for Prevention Research 17th Annual Meeting *by Janice Chang*



ACE panel presentation at the Society for Prevention Research Conference.

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Society for Prevention Research (SPR) was held from May 26-29, 2009 in Washington, DC.

From the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC), Dr. Janice Chang and Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda presented on, "Ethnicity, Gender, and Attitudes Toward Violence" in Asian/Pacific Islander adolescents. Dr. Jane Onoye presented on "School Ethnic Context, Multiculturalism, and Youth Outcomes" on a panel with fellow ACE (Academic Centers of Excellence) investigators, Dr. Thao Le, Ms. Mary Lai, and Dr. Greta Massetti, with Dr. Earl Hishinuma serving as the discussant of the panel.

While on Capitol Hill, Drs. Earl Hishinuma, Gregory Mark, Jane Onoye, Janice Chang, and Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda had the opportunity to meet with staff members from the Offices of Senator Daniel Inouye and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono. Although the Senator and Congresswoman were attending engagements in Hawai'i while on recess, their staff members took time out of their schedules to learn more about the APIYVPC, our mission, and key concerns of the Kailua and Waimānalo Communities. APIYVPC brochures and other information were left with the staff members to help relay information to the Senator and Congresswoman. Staff members from both offices conveyed excitement about the Executive Branch and their desire to support the State of Hawai'i. They emphasized the importance of community members and agencies becoming active participants with local and national governments. While change may not occur over night,

writing about valid concerns can bring attention to the issue and educate representatives about the needs of the people of Hawai'i.

Later that afternoon, a meeting was held with Dr. Annie Toro, the Associate Executive Director of the Government Relations Office for the American Psychological Association. Dr. Toro's primary interest is in children's mental health and bullying. She provides the APIYVPC and Coordinating Center with guidance in our efforts to educate others on the need for youth violence prevention programs, specifically in the State of Hawai'i.



Dr. Chang and Dr. Hishinuma meeting with APIYVPC Consultant, Dr. Fumiaki Hamagami.

Prior to the meetings in Washington D.C., two stops were made in the neighboring state of Virginia. Drs. Hishinuma and Chang met with APIYVPC Consultant, Dr. Fumiaki Hamagami, at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. This was the first meeting in person with Dr. Hamagami, after many months of consultation via conference call.

The following day Drs. Mark, Hishinuma, Chang and Ms. Sugimoto-Matsuda met with Coordinating Center consultant Dr. Robert Cohen. After discussing business for several hours, the group joined Dr. Cohen and his wife, Nancy, at their home in Richmond for a wonderful home-cooked meal.

All in all the ten-day trip to Washington D.C. and Virginia was both extremely productive and memorable. Although the APIYVPC has been working with these organizations and individuals for many years, the strengthening of professional relationships in person is certainly invaluable.



Meeting with Congresswoman Hirono's Staffers. Pictured above (left to right): Dr. Jane Onoye, Dr. Gregory Mark, Mr. Scott Sakahihara, Dr. Janice Chang, Dr. Earl Hishinuma, Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, and Ms. Susan Kodani.



Sunday brunch with Coordinating Center Consultant Dr. Robert Cohen and his wife, Nancy.



Above (left to right): Dr. Janice Chang, Dr. Jane Onoye, Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, Dr. Earl Hishinuma, Dr. Jacqueline Rychnovsky, and Dr. Gregory Mark.



Left: Drs. Hishinuma and Mark outside of Senator Inouye's Washington D.C. office.

## "Movie and a Message" Night *by Katie Kinkade and Tara Hiramatsu*

On May 1, 2009, Kailua High School (KHS) hosted the fourth "Movie and a Message" (M&M) Night. Unique to previous events, M&M Night was held in conjunction with KHS's May Day program, themed *Ka Pili Kaiulu Aloha*, or "Connecting the Community with Aloha." The family-friendly community event drew a record crowd of approximately 700 students, family members and friends of KHS.

As participants entered onto the field, they were greeted by APIYVPC staff and KHS students with the opportunity to enter their names in a raffle. Over 160 youth and adults won a raffle prize, ranging from a goodie bag to an iTunes gift card. Prizes were generously donated by God's Country Waimānalo and KHS art teacher, Ms. Floyd.

After performances by the Polynesian Club, families enjoyed a spaghetti dinner provided by Big City Diner, delicious desserts donated by KHS teachers, games for their keiki, entertainment, and face painting. M&M Night also provided a venue for community organizations to share information about their services with the KHS 'ohana. In addition, new to M&M Night this year was an art tent showcasing artwork of KHS students. Youth and adults were also given the opportunity to give their feedback on the event, for which they received gourmet M&M's candy.

As the sky started to darken and the twinkling stars emerged, families and friends gathered onto their blankets and chairs to relax and enjoy student-made public service announcements (PSAs), which featured topics such as "respect" and "gambling." The message of the night, "Believe in yourself," was exemplified through the featured movie, "The Express," which depicted the life of football legend Ernie Davis, the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy. He proved that even with impossible



APIYVPC Staff passing out M&M candies and surveys during Kailua High School's Movie and a Message Night on May 1, 2009.

obstacles, anything can happen if you just believe in yourself. The projector, screen, and sound system were graciously provided by New Hope Kailua.

M&M Night was initially developed by a team of educators and youth service providers after attending the PREVENT Institute Violence Prevention Training in 2007. The partnership among the APIYVPC, KHS, and other community organizations sustains M&M Night as an event for the community and to promote KHS as a safe place for gathering. The continued goal of this event is to strengthen

the bridge between the school and community to foster cohesiveness and healthy youth development.

In an effort to increase the sustainability of the event at KHS, involvement from students and staff was encouraged throughout the planning process. For example, students and staff used feedback from previous events to schedule M&M Night on a date convenient for families and community members, which resulted in the event falling on a Friday. The KHS Peer Education Program (PEP) students selected the movie and the message, Leadership students organized the keiki (children's) games, and the students of the KHS counseling group produced the PSAs.

KHS Leadership, PEP, and other student groups collaborated during a joint camp to finalize M&M Night planning. Students were able to rehearse their roles in the event, as well as gain confidence and build leadership, teamwork, and planning skills. These skills were reinforced through participation in a ropes course and kayaking. At the end of the camp, students reflected about their experience and made the connection that sometimes the scariest things in life, such as the ropes course, are often the most rewarding and memorable.



A sincere Thank You to everyone who helped make M&M Night a success!

## Community Service Day at Kailua High School *by Jane Chung-Do*

One of the values that Kailua High School (KHS) strives to instill in their students is the importance of being a good citizen and contributing to their community. The third annual Community Service Day was held on May 16, 2009 by the KHS Social Studies Department in cooperation with the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC). Each year, all grade levels engage in various community service activities to promote and practice civic competence.

This year the Freshman class was tasked with working in *lo'i* (taro) patches. The Sophomore class cleaned the beaches of Kailua and Waimānalo and picked up trash left on the hiking trail to the *Makapu'u* Lighthouse. The Seniors spent the day tutoring and interacting with elementary school students in Kailua and Waimānalo.

The APIYVPC partnered with the Junior class who invited 8th graders, or the incoming Freshman class from Waimānalo and Kailua Intermediate, for a day of activities to help them become familiar with KHS and make connections with the KHS teachers and students. These activities had several purposes. For the incoming Freshmen, it served to help ease the transition into high school and to familiarize them with the classrooms, campus, and teachers that they will encounter for the next four years. It also helped them build relationships with other students in their own class and in the next year's Senior class so that they would become familiar faces when they start their journey at KHS. For the juniors, it was an opportunity for them to take on leadership roles, to empower them to be role models to incoming freshmen, and to share their own experiences as freshmen as well as lessons they may have learned with experience in high school.

For Community Service Day, each Junior Personal Transition Plan/Leadership (PTP/L) class hosted a small group of 8th graders throughout the day. PTP/L classes consist of 10-15 students who meet weekly to develop life skills, and college and career plans. The class sizes are small to promote bonding among the students, as well as with the teacher who remains with the class throughout the students' entire journey in high school.

### Pono, Lōkahi Curriculum *by Tai-An Miao*

In March 2009, a group of Waimānalo residents, leaders from youth organizations, educators, public health nurses, and APIYVPC staff gathered for a three-day workshop on the Pono, Lōkahi Curriculum (The Right Balance in Life) developed by Mr. Wayne Lee of Moloka'i. "Uncle Wayne" is also a member of the APIYVPC Community Advisory Board.

Uncle Wayne initially shared an overview of the curriculum at the January 2009 Waimānalo Togetherness meeting. He then led an interactive, in-depth training that was hosted by the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association and co-sponsored by the APIYVPC and Hui Ola Pono (University of Hawai'i School of Nursing). Co-facilitating with his sister Wanette and accompanied by his mother, wife, and grandson, Uncle Wayne created a safe place for participants to self-reflect and explore together what it means to be *pono* (balanced). As described by Uncle Wayne, "The curriculum uses a canoe as a metaphor to assess youth problems. Each paddler on the canoe teaches a Hawaiian value or concept as they relate to substance abuse and violence prevention, thus creating a balance in his or her life." Participant feedback on the training was overwhelmingly positive, and the majority of the trainees expressed their intention to use elements of the curriculum with their youth. The APIYVPC plans to partner with at least one organization to assist in the evaluation of the curriculum as it is implemented in Waimānalo.

Community Service Day 2009 began with a gathering in the KHS cafeteria where the 8<sup>th</sup> graders met the Junior class they were paired with. They were warmly greeted by KHS Principal Francine Honda, and watched a video about KHS made by current KHS students. Thereafter, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and juniors all proceeded to their classrooms where they engaged in relationship-building activities, such as the "Community Ball" activity and "Where I'm From" poems.

After lunch, more than 20 APIYVPC staff members and community leaders from Waimānalo facilitated activities and discussions with the juniors and 8th graders to encourage them to find commonalities and appreciate diversity to create lifelong friendships and memories with their classmates. Community leaders from organizations such as Ke Ola Hou, Ke Ala Lau'ē, the Waimānalo Men's Fellowship, and the Hawai'i State Department of Health dedicated their time and energy to share their wisdom and create connections with the students. The ongoing involvement of community leaders with Community Service Day and other KHS activities has provided valuable insight that has shaped the APIYVPC's efforts to bridge the community and school together in an effort to create a healthy and safe school environment for KHS students.



*Ms. Jane Chung-Do prepares facilitators for Community Service Day by teaching them icebreakers and the activity "Bridging Identities" to use with the juniors and incoming freshmen.*

## Principal Investigator's Welcome *(continued from page 1)*

We also took a detour to Virginia to meet with Dr. Robert Cohen, who is the Consultant for the Coordinating Center of the National Academic Centers on Youth Violence Prevention, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and to also meet with our Advanced Statistical Consultant, Dr. Fumiaki Hamagami at the University of Virginia.

On the research front, we continue to make steady progress. Updates are provided on the Kailua High School (KHS) Ethnic Studies Course, KHS School-Wide Survey, and Kailua-Waimānalo Safe Community Survey. In addition, Dr. Karen Umemoto, Director of Training for the APIYVPC, provides a brief description of the topics covered for our Research Associate and Graduate Student training.

This issue features key individuals associated with the APIYVPC: (1) "Auntie" Sharon Majit-Gorion, Community Building Facilitator, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC) and Community Advisory Board Member,

APIYVPC; (2) Dr. Eldon Wegner, Scientific Advisory Board Member, APIYVPC; (3) Ms. Ami Scronce, Research Associate, APIYVPC; and (4) Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, Director of Infrastructure & Collaboration, Assistant Director of Research, Assistant Director of Evaluation, and Program Manager, APIYVPC. We also acknowledge the major career accomplishments of APIYVPC staff, many of whom are of Asian American and Pacific Islander descent.

Finally, center staff represented the APIYVPC at the annual reverse site visit held in Atlanta, Georgia, sponsored by our funders, CDC. Among other purposes, this event provides a formal opportunity for the youth violence prevention centers to share ideas and collaborate, as well as update CDC on the progress of the centers.

Thank you once again for YOUR support!

*Earl Hishinuma, Ph.D.*

*Principal Investigator, APIYVPC*

## Senator Inouye's Visit to Waimānalo *(continued from page 1)*

Waimānalo Men's Fellowship, Hui Ola Pono, and Waimānalo Health Center. About 50 people were in attendance.

After an opening Hawaiian song and pule, the meeting began with four youth members of Ke Ola Hou talking about challenges, such as drug use and violence facing youths in Waimānalo. They also recognized the efforts of organizations such as Hui Mālama O Ke Kai, God's Country Waimānalo, Na Wahine Council, and Ke Ola Hou, whose

representatives gave detailed testimonies regarding their organization's work and the positive effects for the youths.

Uncle Gordon Mattos, from Friends of Waimānalo, noted the collaborative teamwork displayed by community members and organizations and urged Senator Inouye to help the community by providing funds to support youth programs at the location. Principal Francine Honda from Kailua High School noted challenges faced by educators and emphasized the need to work collectively, with support from the state and federal governments, to create positive outcomes for youths.

Senator Inouye thanked the community for inviting him to such an important meeting and took note of the community's readiness and willingness to work together. He noted that 70% of kids want to go college and that Waimānalo students can also achieve those goals. Senator Inouye also noted that Native Hawaiians today have the highest rate of recidivism, and that this has to change. He then pledged to be one of the supporters for the youth



*Left to Right: Mr. Eldon Kohatsu, Ms. Tai-An Miao, Senator Inouye, and Dr. Earl Hishinuma.*

programs. Senator Inouye closed his remarks by saying that he will be eager to hear about the progress the community has made in a year's time.

The meeting was a great success. Senator Inouye's positive response provided even greater motivation for the community. Everyone in attendance seemed pleased with the outcome and with the efforts to get different community organizations to work together collaboratively and collectively. According to Dr.

Earl Hishinuma, Principal Investigator for the APIYVPC, "The Waimānalo Community graciously hosted Senator Daniel Inouye and truly demonstrated their unity and sheer determination in promoting positive youth development in Waimānalo. It was so nice to see Senator Inouye acknowledge this collective effort and commit to supporting the community's plan for positive youth

programs at the Teen Project. This provided an added boost to the dedicated youths, parents, and community members."



*Left to Right: Principal Francine Honda, Senator Inouye, and Mr. Gordon Mattos.*

## APIYVPC Research Update *by Ami Scronce and Fa'apisa Soli*

### Kailua High School Ethnic Studies Course

Past research results from surveys and focus groups with students have shown that racial conflict, personal relationships, anger/impulse control, and media influences were factors that were related to youth violence. The purpose of the Kailua High School (KHS) Ethnic Studies course is to address these issues by teaching high school students the importance of appreciating and understanding the histories and contributions of diverse cultures and ethnic groups. The Ethnic Studies course was introduced to KHS in 2005 and has evolved to become institutionalized in the curriculum.

The 2008-2009 school year was the fourth year of the course. The evaluation study consists of obtaining both qualitative data such as journals, and quantitative data from surveys that are administered at the beginning and end of the course. U.S. History classes served as the comparison group, and these students participated in only the quantitative evaluation. Participants received a movie ticket as a "thank you" for participating in the study. Approximately 70 students from the Ethnic Studies classes and 30 students from the comparison classes participated in the study.

In the 2009-2010 school year, students will continue to write daily reflection journals and participate in surveys. Changes to the curriculum include the reintroduction of video taping class discussions for qualitative analysis, and revised surveys based on analyses of past years' data.

Mrs. Amber Makaiiau and Mrs. Kehau Glassco are the original teachers of the Ethnic Studies course at KHS. During the 2008-2009 school year, Mrs. Makaiiau took a sabbatical to complete her dissertation. Mr. Clint Medeiros was also an Ethnic Studies teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (see below).

### **Mr. Clint Medeiros** *by Ami Scronce*



At the end of the 2008-2009 school year, Kailua High School (KHS) said goodbye to a number of young and enthusiastic teachers and staff members. One of them was Mr. Clint Medeiros, a Social Studies teacher who had been teaching Ethnic Studies classes for the past school year.

Mr. Medeiros feels that the most important lesson of the Ethnic Studies class is that, "...the message gets across about mainly how to treat others and respecting others in and out of class...this class helps the students focus on how to deal with problems." He stated, "Terms that they learn like prejudice, discrimination, and sexism, become familiar to them and they can recognize it in a situation, and they actually use the terminology in their daily lives to make changes." Mr. Medeiros also indicated that he noticed a change in himself as well: "In my day-to-day life, I am practicing what I preach. I am more aware of myself." He feels that the class is unique to what it provides to students, and that there are noticeable difference in the students' behavior. For example, students who were normally missing school were showing up to Ethnic Studies class.

Mr. Medeiros was born and raised in Kailua and Waimānalo, and is a graduate of Kailua High School. He is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Secondary Education with a focus on History/Social Studies.

### Kailua High School School-Wide Survey

The purpose of the Kailua High School (KHS) School-Wide Survey is to gather surveillance data specific to KHS. The results are used to inform various collaborative projects that take place at KHS. The survey touches upon a number of different topics, including ethnic identity, attitudes about violence, substance use, peer and family relationships, dating violence, attitudes about KHS, and use of media and technology. The most recent KHS School-Wide Survey was administered on February 25, 2009. Parent permission and student assents were obtained, and approximately 440 students participated in the study. Students that participated received a movie ticket, and classes with a 75% or greater return rate for permission forms received a pizza party.

The APIYVPC would like to acknowledge the KHS teachers, staff, and administrators for their tremendous support for this and all of our studies. A special *mahalo* to all of the teachers who assisted with administering the survey (or providing the alternate lesson plan) and recruiting students to turn in their permission forms and participate in the survey. We also acknowledge Principal Francine Honda and Vice Principal Matt Ho who altered the bell/class schedule allotting more time for administration of the surveys.

### Kailua-Waimānalo Safe Community Survey

Primary surveillance data is collected from the Kailua and Waimānalo communities via a Safe Community Survey. This survey is conducted on a yearly basis and was first administered in 2006. The purpose of the survey is to obtain perceptions, attitudes, and beliefs about community safety, youth violence and delinquency in the Kailua and Waimānalo Communities. Also, the survey aims to assess what surveillance methodology is most appropriate for collecting data in these communities.

This year, the administration of the Safe Community Survey for 2009 began in June and will continue through the end of August. Four different methodologies are being tested this year, one with a long version of the survey (approximately 9 pages), and three using a brief version of the survey (4 pages). Approximately 350 randomly selected households were distributed among the four methodologies.

Brochures which highlight the results for the previous years are available on our website ([www.apiyvpc.com](http://www.apiyvpc.com)). A manuscript as well as a technical report are currently in preparation.

## Community Mobilization Update: Youth & Family Collaborative, Strengthening Hawai'i Families *by Deanna Gonda and Tai-An Miao*

The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) has been working in the Waimānalo Community for the past four years, assisting in capacity-building efforts at both organizational and community levels to address youth violence and related issues. From November 2007 to February 2009, the APIYVPC hosted monthly meetings to gather family- and youth-serving organizations and agencies, schools, and residents in Waimānalo. The "Waimānalo Togetherness" meetings were a forum for sharing information, deepening relationships, and exploring the potential for collaboration to improve conditions and opportunities for Waimānalo youths. By engaging in collective problem-solving, the groups identified strategic points of collaboration. In the early meetings, family support was identified as a high priority and several organizations went on to cooperatively introduce the "Strengthening Hawai'i Families" (SHF) Program in the community. Led by a team of facilitators from Waimānalo, the SHF program has recently completed its second term with nine families graduating in spring 2009.

In September 2008, the concept of a center to serve youth and their families emerged from discussions among the "Waimānalo Togetherness" members, based on a successful model presented by a guest speaker from New Zealand. Many Waimānalo organizations and residents desired to see a similar network of support created for Waimānalo youth and families. The collective organizations that have



Around the table, left to right: Ms. Erda Rindrasih, Ms. Napua Ho-Lastimosa, Ms. Ku'ulei Kahiapo, Ms. Hitomi Obata, Ms. Karla Filibeck, and Mr. Eldon Kohatsu.

committed to this project have identified the benefits in working collaboratively and building relationships as organizations. The mutual commitment allows groups to share resources, communicate about the needs and services for their community, and better organize services to meet their common goals.

The form and frequency of the "Togetherness" meetings have changed as the group's efforts have become more focused on the formation of the "Youth and Family Collaborative Center."

An open and inclusive planning

process was convened to encourage community input in determining what kinds of activities, programs, and services can assist youth and their families to overcome challenges they face, and to build a healthy, safe, and sustainable community in Waimānalo. From January to May 2009, a group of graduate students from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa facilitated the planning process under the supervision of Dr. Karen Umemoto. A youth vision retreat was held in February 2009 where 55 Waimānalo youth aged 10-19 years gathered to discuss youth issues in Waimānalo. In a design charrette workshop, they created models of the collaborative center based on the activities and programs that would be needed. This *mana 'o* from the youth was shared with the adults as the starting point for a strategic planning retreat in March 2009. Community members and organizations as well as foundations, government entities, and programs participated in the two-day retreat. The results of the four-month planning process have been compiled in the Youth and Family Collaborative Center's Strategic Plan. Ninety people attended a presentation of the preliminary plan made to the Waimānalo Togetherness group in May 2009. Many community members responded to the invitation to join committees to fulfill the vision and mission of the Waimānalo Youth and Family Collaborative Center. The committees began meeting in July 2009 to outline the goals and timeline for the development of the center.

The APIYVPC will continue to support the Waimānalo Youth and Family Collaborative through training, technical assistance, and assistance in evaluation design. The APIYVPC is a partner organization of the collaborative, represented on the Board of Facilitators for the Center and providing part-time funding for the collaborative coordinator, Ms. Deanna Gonda.



Youth participating in activities at the Waimānalo Collaborative Youth Vision Retreat.



### Staff Member Profile: Ms. Ami Scronce

Ms. Ami Scronce is currently a Research Associate with the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC). Ami was first hired as a Research Support Specialist in 2004 to perform administrative tasks for the Center.

She simultaneously supported another study within the Department of Psychiatry, collecting data in the community on alcohol and substance use. In January 2007, she was promoted to a Research Associate position. Since then, Ami has continued to take on additional responsibilities within the Center. Her current appointments are as Study Program Manager for both the Ethnic Studies Course Evaluation Study and the Hui Mālama O Ke Kai Program Evaluation.

Ami has participated in a number of projects and events with the Center over the years. In December 2005, she accompanied teachers and students of the pilot Kailua High School Ethnic Studies Course to the World Indigenous

Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) in New Zealand. In June 2007, she was part of a panel of APIYVPC presenters at the Pacific Global Health Conference (PCHG) held at the University of Hawai'i.

Ami's career aspirations include enrolling in a local nursing program, and eventually serving as a pediatric nurse. She is currently completing coursework in preparation for the nursing school application process. At home, she has dedicated herself to educating and raising her daughter, Maya.

Of all her skills and strengths, Ami's ability to build rapport with various individuals has been most valuable for the Center. As a "people person," Ami is able to make working with schools and communities seem effortless. Her positive energy and compassion for others truly empower her to serve as an excellent representative for the APIYVPC. We anticipate that these character traits will also serve her well in her future endeavors in the health field.

### Staff Member Profile: Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda



Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda joined the APIYVPC in 2006 as the Center's Program Manager. Since then, her responsibilities have multiplied to include Assistant Director of Research, Director of Infrastructure, and Assistant Director of Evaluation. Jeanelle has contributed to nearly every aspect of the APIYVPC,

willingly serving where she is needed most.

Jeanelle has published a book chapter on youth violence, presented at several national and local conferences, and is currently working on a first-authored peer-reviewed manuscript. Her tireless dedication and hard work earned her a nomination for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) Outstanding Employee of the Year for three years in a row. As a supervisor, Jeanelle supports and mentors students and research associates in the development of their professional goals.

### Reverse Site Visit: March 2009 by Georgine Perez

The 2009 Annual National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACE) Meeting was held in Atlanta, Georgia, from March 2 to 4, 2009. On the evening prior to the start of the reverse site visit, an opening reception was hosted by the ACE Coordinating Center (CC) to welcome all of the ACE colleagues and partners.

On March 2nd, Dr. Greta Massetti of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began with an overview of the day, followed by three think-tank sessions: (1) Working with at risk/vulnerable populations; (2) Exploring contextual conditions on youth violence and partnering with state and local-level agencies to inform policies; and (3) Balancing needs of research and community.

The events of the day also included a dozen student posters

Along with her full-time schedule of professional responsibilities, Jeanelle has also achieved a number of milestones in her personal life. In December 2008, she graduated from Chaminade University with her Master's Degree in Forensic Sciences. In February 2009, she married Chad Matsuda, her boyfriend of seven years. Jeanelle is interested in pursuing a doctorate in health policy in the near future, and would like to continue working in research.

Jeanelle's strengths are organizing and coordinating even the most complicated tasks. She is detail-oriented and lets nothing slip past her when planning major events, such as Advisory Board meetings, Research Retreats, and even the daily functions of the APIYVPC. Her willingness to learn new things and be involved in many of the different aspects of the Center have made her indispensable and an incredible asset to the APIYVPC and the Department of Psychiatry.

from various ACEs, a CC Steering Committee luncheon to discuss moving the ACE Action Plan forward, presentations by each of the four ACE Action Plan work groups (Surveillance, Policy & Practice, Analytic Tools, and Community Mobilization & Interventions), and lessons learned and future directions of the centers. This meeting was particularly important as a majority of the Centers will soon be entering their fifth and final year of the funding cycle. Sessions continued the next day with a training on Item Response Theory hosted by the Analytic Tools Work Group, and a two-day training on communicating effectively with state policymakers.

For a more comprehensive summary of the ACE Meeting, please contact the Coordinating Center (Georgine Perez: PerezG@dop.hawaii.edu).

## The APIYVPC Honored at Kailua High School's Night of Excellence by Janice Chang and Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda

The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) of the Department of Psychiatry, John A. Burns School of Medicine, received the highest award bestowed by Kailua High School (KHS). KHS and the APIYVPC have been in collaboration since 2003.

On May 26, 2009, Kailua High School honored the APIYVPC at their *Night of Excellence* Awards Ceremony for academic achievement or service to the school. Principal Francine Honda acknowledged APIYVPC staff members individually, and described a few of the key projects that KHS and the APIYVPC have developed and implemented during their partnership. Among the projects mentioned were Freshman Jump Start Day, M&M Night (Page 11 of this issue), and Ethnic Studies (Page 4 of this issue).



Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center staff members at Kailua High School's Night of Excellence. From left to right: Ms. Ami Scronce, Dr. Deborah Goebert, Mr. Davis Rehuher, Dr. Stephanie Nishimura, Ms. Jane Chung-Do, Ms. Katie Kinkade. Also pictured is the koa bowl presented to the APIYVPC staff by KHS.

Six members of the APIYVPC Staff (Ms. Ami Scronce, Dr. Deborah Goebert, Mr. Davis Rehuher, Dr. Stephanie Nishimura, Ms. Jane Chung-Do, and Ms. Katie Kinkade) attended KHS's Night of Excellence as invited guests (see Page 6 for the complete APIYVPC staff listing). Staff members who attended said that the award was unexpected and they felt very honored.

Dr. Earl Hishinuma, Principal Investigator of the APIYVPC was not able to attend as he was traveling at the time of the event. He stated, "We are truly honored and humbled to be recognized in this capacity. It is only with the support of Principal Honda and her administration staff and faculty, that we are able to continue our work with Kailua High School and the surrounding community."



## Highlights on APIYVPC Staff Accomplishments

Since the beginning of 2009, there have been a number of staff accomplishments to celebrate. This list is by no means comprehensive, but is just a sample of the high caliber of staff currently at the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center.

### DEGREES OBTAINED

- Student Assistant Ms. Christie Momohara graduated from Kailua High School, and served as Co-Valedictorian at the school's graduation ceremony. She will begin her undergraduate career at Creighton University in August.
- Mr. Randy Bautista obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics in May 2009, and was promoted from Student Assistant to Research Associate.



Ms. Christie Momohara (left) earned several awards. Also pictured is Principal Francine Honda who presented the awards.

### PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

- *Within the APIYVPC*
- \* Ms. Tai-An Miao was promoted to Director of Community Mobilization.
- \* Ms. Fa'apisa Soli was promoted to Assistant Program Manager.
- \* Ms. Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda was named Assistant Director of Research.
- *Other Promotions and Awards*
- \* Ms. Tai-An Miao received second place in the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) 2008 Outstanding Employee of the Year Awards.
- \* Dr. Naleen Andrade, Professor and Chair of the John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Senior Mentor for the APIYVPC, was named Outstanding Community Mental Health Leader for 2009.
- \* Dr. Anthony Guerrero, Associate Chair for the John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist for the APIYVPC, was promoted to Professor (with tenure).

## Board Member Profile: Dr. Eldon Wegner by Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda



The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) is honored to feature Scientific Advisory Board Member Dr. Eldon Wegner in this newsletter issue. Dr. Wegner is Professor and Chair Emeritus of the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). His career with UHM began over 40 years ago as an Assistant Professor of Sociology, and he is still going strong despite his recent "retirement". He is also an Investigator for the National Center on Indigenous Hawaiian Behavioral Health (NCIHBH).

Dr. Wegner's main research interests include issues of healthcare and aging, and long-term care for the elderly. He has also collaborated with the APIYVPC on peer-reviewed manuscripts, most recently submitting a paper on youth violence and school attitudes. Dr. Wegner has served as a peer reviewer for many distinguished journals, including *American Politics Quarterly*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *Sociology of Education*, *Canadian Journal of Sociology and Anthropology*, *Qualitative Sociology*, and *Pacific Sociological Review*.

Several honors and awards have exemplified Dr. Wegner's dedication to teaching and research. In 1982, Dr. Wegner received a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar Fellowship to study the coordination of medical and social services in Yugoslavia. In 1990, he was given the Outstanding Teaching Award by the UHM College of Social Sciences. Most recently Dr. Wegner received the Outstanding Research/Training Award in 2000, part of the Na Lima Kokua Ma Waena O Makua Awards of the Hawai'i Pacific Gerontological Society.

Dr. Wegner received his B.A. in Sociology at the University of Redlands, and both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Since retiring he has enjoyed traveling the world, but still finds the time to continue serving on several graduate student committees. The APIYVPC is deeply appreciative of the expertise that Dr. Wegner brings to our research and dissemination projects. It has also been a pleasure to collaborate with him on manuscripts and other efforts. Dr. Wegner has been a valuable addition to the APIYVPC's Scientific Advisory Board, and we are truly grateful for his time, effort, and support of the Center.

## Meet the Staff

**Earl S. Hishinuma, Ph.D.**, Principal Investigator (PI), Director of Research, Director of Communication and Dissemination

**Gregory Y. Mark, D.Crim.**, Co-Principal Investigator

**Karen N. Umemoto, Ph.D.**, Director of Training

**Stephanie T. Nishimura, Ph.D.**, Director of Evaluation

**Tai-An Miao, M.U.R.P.**, Director of Community Mobilization

**Janice Y. Chang, Psy.D.**, Assistant Director of Communication & Dissemination, Statistician

**Jeanelle J. Sugimoto-Matsuda, M.S.F.S.**, Program Manager, Director of Infrastructure & Collaboration, Assistant Director of Research, Assistant Director of Evaluation

**Deborah Goebert, Dr.P.H.**, Study PI for Core Research

**Jane J. Chung-Do, Dr.P.H.** Candidate, Graduate Assistant, Study Co-PI for Core Research

**Davis Rehuher, B.A.**, Assistant Program Manager, Study Co-PI for Surveillance

**Fa'apisa M. Soli, B.S.**, Assistant Program Manager, Study Program Manager for Surveillance

**Ami C. Scronce, Research Associate, Study Program Manager for Ethnic Studies and Hui Mālama O Ke Kai**

**Katie Kinkade, B.A.**, Research Associate

**Randy Bautista, B.S.**, Research Associate

**Deanna Gonda, Community Coordinator**

**'Iwalani R. N. Else, Ph.D.**, Investigator

**Katherine Irwin, Ph.D.**, Investigator

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

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

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

**Corey T. Adler, Ph.D. Candidate.**, Investigator

**Anthony P. S. Guerrero, M.D.**, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Investigator

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

**Georgine L. S. Perez, Administrative Assistant**

**Christie Momohara, Student Assistant**

**Tiffinie Kiyota, B.S.**, Administrative Coordinator

**Lynnette Chang, Fiscal Coordinator**

**Tim Unten, B.B.A.**, Technology Specialist

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

**Sue Korus, C.P.A., M.B.A.**, Director of Finance, Contracts & Grants



## Board Member Profile: "Aunty" Sharon Majit-Gorion by Ami Scronce

In this newsletter issue, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) is honored to feature Community Advisory Board Member Sharon Majit-Gorion, affectionately known as "Aunty Sharon" by all who know her. Aunty Sharon is a passionate advocate and mentor for health and wellness in her community of Waimānalo.

Aunty Sharon started her work in the field of substance addiction, prevention, and intervention as a community advocate because of her own experiences with substance abuse. Although her recovery from substance use was a struggle, she views her experiences as an asset that has led her to a successful career in substance abuse counseling, intervention and prevention, and social work.

Aunty Sharon saw the value in a treatment program for people affected by substance abuse in Waimānalo. This became apparent when a group of women came to Aunty Sharon asking for her support in providing technical assistance to develop a support group for women affected by substance use and social ills. This group of women, now known as Ke Ala Laua'e, teamed with Aunty Sharon and Care Hawai'i to create Kupala, the first substance abuse treatment program for men and women in Waimānalo. In addition to supporting each other, the women also participate in many activities that give back to their community.

Aunty Sharon's knowledge and dedication to the treatment of substance abuse has led to many requests for her expertise, such as being asked to join the Project Task Force of the COSIG (Co-Occurring State Incentive Grants) funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). She was also asked by Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona to serve as the consumer

advocate to assess the state's current treatment programs for people with co-occurring disorders, to identify the needs of the people in the treatment programs, and to advise the Task Force on ways to address those needs.

Currently, Aunty Sharon is the Community Building Facilitator for the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center (QLCC), Ko'olau Poko Unit, Waimānalo Satellite Office. QLCC is an organization whose motto is, "Healthy Children, Strong Families, and Caring Communities." She continues to apply this motto throughout her life. One example of this is her participation in the initiation and development of Hui Mālama O Ke Kai ("the caring group from the ocean"), a culturally focused prevention and wellness after-school program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Aunty Sharon credits the church and her family as major support systems in her life. In addition to all of her community work, Aunty Sharon and her husband (of 20 years) are active members of their local church. She is a Deaconess in her church and sings in the Praise and Worship Choir. She is a proud mother of four, and grandmother of five. The importance of family and church are passed down through the generations by regularly attending church and coming together for weekly Devotion Night.

Aunty Sharon has provided invaluable mentorship to the APIYVPC staff while working with the Waimānalo Community. Through this partnership and collaboration, she shares her wisdom and continues to provide us with the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience in the community.



## 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

**Claire Asam, Ph.D.**, Trustee, Queen Lili'uokalani Trust  
**Ofelia Carag, Principal**, Blanche Pope Elementary School  
**"Aunty" Malia Craver, Hawaiian Spiritual and Cultural Consultant**, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center

**Lani Eckart, B.A.**, Program Director, Hui Mālama O Ke Kai  
**Keoki Fraser, M.A.**, Program Director, CHAMP

(Comprehensive Health, Academic, Mentoring Program)

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

**H. Ilima Ho Lastimosa, Program Director**, God's Country Waimānalo

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

**Wayde Lee, Program Director**, Kahua Ola Hou

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

**Sherice Naeole, Program Director**, Nā Wāhine Council

**Noel Richardson, B.A.**, Principal, Waimānalo Elementary and Intermediate School

**Judge Bode Uale, J.D.**, District Family Judge, State of Hawai'i, Family Court of the First District

### 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 & 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

**Noella Kong, M.A.**, State Adolescent Health Coordinator, Hawai'i State Department of Health

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

**Nolan Malone, Ph.D.**, Senior Research Analyst, Strategic Planning & Implementation, Kamehameha Schools

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

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

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