

# THE CENTER LETTER

Volume 9, Issue 3

October 2015



## THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC

### The Hawaii Senate Commends the Mediation Center of the Pacific.

On March 12th, the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of the Mediation Center were proud to receive recognition from the entire Senate for providing outstanding services to Oahu's communities for the past 36 years. Following the recognition ceremony, all members of the Senate were asked to sign the Mediation Pledge.



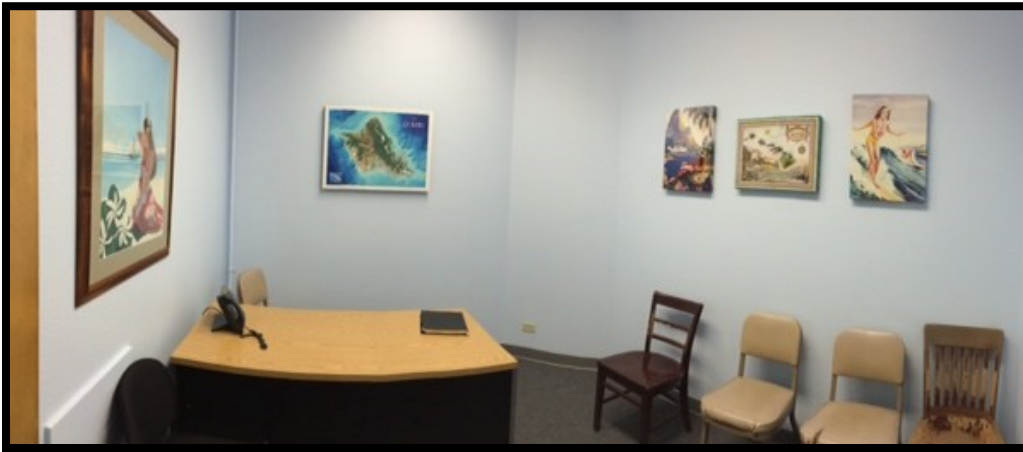
#### In This Issue:

Volunteers Going Above and Beyond	P. 2
Mahalo	PP. 3 & 4
Workshops & Trainings	P. 5
Upcoming Events	P. 6

***Bringing people together to talk,  
negotiate and  
resolve conflict creatively.***

## Volunteers Going Above and Beyond

In 2014, the Adopt-A-Court Mediation Program was created to expand the pool of mediators for the District Courts throughout Oahu. Through the Program, businesses were recruited to “adopt” the District Court located in their local area and have members of their management team trained to serve as volunteer mediators for Small Claims and Summary Possession matters at that court. To date, two companies have participated in the Program. The Islander Group adopted the Wahiawa Court and Hawaiian Cement adopted the Ewa Court. Their response to the Program was so enthusiastic that the CEO of the Islander Group, Steve Holmberg (also the current Vice President of the Mediation Center’s Board of Directors), took the initiative to repaint and “spruce up” the mediation room at the Wahiawa Court. Being a true mediator who strives to help the parties feel as comfortable as possible to increase their chances of reaching a settlement, Steve stated that “I believe that it (the spruced up room) actually makes our mediations a bit easier as the room has a more comfortable and tranquil feel to it.” Now that’s a dedicated mediator. Way to go Steve!



The newly “spruced up” mediation room at Wahiawa District Court.

## 2015 Pro Bono Celebration

Each year the Access to Justice Commission and the Hawaii State Bar Association host a Pro Bono Celebration to recognize dedicated attorneys who have generously donated their time to help individuals in the low income and vulnerable populations. Each of the Civil Legal Service Providers select a volunteer to honor at the celebration. This year, the Mediation Center recognized mediator Constance Hassell for her many years of service.

Since 1989, Constance has never hesitated to say “yes” to serving as a mediator whenever her busy schedule allows. To date, she has mediated a total of 138 cases involving 175 mediation sessions and totaling 530 hours. In addition, Constance regularly assists the Mediation Center in its related activities such as mediation trainings, mediator mentoring, and apprentice mediator evaluations. Given her extensive mediation experience and generally unflappable nature, Constance’s willingness to be assigned to the particularly difficult cases is especially appreciated! The dedication and generosity of volunteers like Constance Hassell, has allowed the Mediation Center to further its mission of providing high quality mediation and dispute resolution services that are affordable and accessible.



# MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Aloha United Way  
Bretzlaff Foundation  
Foodland Give Aloha / Western Union  
Friends of Hawaii Charities  
Hawaii Community Foundation  
Hawaii Justice Foundation

Hawaii State Bar Foundation  
Jhamandas Watumull Fund  
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# MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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The Islander Group

## Neighbors & Families in Conflict: Collaborating With HPD & the Honolulu District Court

Conflict is a fact of life that can unfortunately escalate to the point that feuding neighbors and families resort to going to District Court to request restraining orders against one another. While a restraining order may be necessary when there is the potential for violence, in many situations, the people involved in the dispute are emotional, unable to talk and don't know what else to do. They call the police on one another and they go to District Court to file for a restraining order.



Over the years, the Mediation Center and the Honolulu District Court have developed mediation programs both at the Mediation Center and on-site at District Court, to help people in dispute talk through and resolve their issues in mediation in lieu of being granted a restraining order. To strengthen this Program, on August 14th, two officers from the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and Judge Michael Tanigawa and Judge Hillary Gangnes from the Honolulu District Court participated in a panel presentation for twenty-two mediators.



Through an excellent presentation, and discussion, the mediators gained a better understanding of the restraining order process, and the HPD Officers learned about the opportunity to refer disputing neighbors to the Mediation Center.

## Ensuring Quality Services Through Mediation Training



The Mediation Center ensures quality services are provided by regularly conducting trainings and workshops throughout the year to recruit and train new mediators, as well as to provide support for current mediators. In keeping with these standards, a sold out Basic Mediation Training was conducted for 16 participants in September and an Accelerated Divorce Mediation Training was conducted for 8 family law attorneys and mediators in October. The Mediation Center is grateful to the many experienced mediators who volunteered their time to assist with the trainings by providing the mediation demonstrations and mentoring the trainees in small group practice sessions. The training participants agreed unanimously that it is the involvement of the experienced mediators that makes the Mediation Center's trainings first class!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**  
**Friday December 11, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**The Hawaii Federal Credit Union**

Contact [Nathan@mediatehawaii.org](mailto:Nathan@mediatehawaii.org) to register or for more information

**Developing Parenting Plans & Child Support Workshop**  
**Saturday February 6, 2016 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
**The Kukui Children's Center Conference Room**

Contact [Nathan@mediatehawaii.org](mailto:Nathan@mediatehawaii.org) to register or for more information



**9th Annual Under the Mediation Moon**  
**Saturday May 7, 2016**  
**The Hawaii Convention Center**



**Your help is needed to make the May 7th fundraiser a success.**  
**We are seeking donations of:**

- Fine wines from near and far
- Wine tasting packages in Hawaii and the Continental U.S.
- Airline coupons
- Fine dining gift certificates
- Golf packages
- Hotel and lodging packages

Contact [tracey@mediatehawaii.org](mailto:tracey@mediatehawaii.org)