



The 2nd Annual
Kūkulu I Nā Hūlili 2007
Bridging the Gaps

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Bridging the Gaps

Addressing substance abuse and mental health services for Native Hawaiians

(Honolulu, Hawai'i) Health agencies, service providers and Hawaiian organizations will gather as a community on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 to address mental health and substance abuse services for Native Hawaiians, their families and communities. Nearly 300 people representing health & human service agencies and Hawaiian organizations on all islands have already registered to attend the 2nd Annual *Kūkulu i nā Hūlili, Bridging the Gaps* at Ko'olau Golf Club in Kāne'ohe on July 24th beginning at 8:00 AM.

Keynote speaker Kekuni Blaisdell, M.D. will discuss the historical context of Kanaka Maoli (Indigenous Hawaiian) health disparities, stemming from the depopulation of Hawaiians in the 19th century and the shift of Hawaiians to a minority leading to cultural conflicts and resultant despair.

"This is a powerful opportunity for all of us working in this area to share the research and best practices, and identify ways we can partner to deliver better services to our Hawaiian clients," says social worker and forum organizer, Jackie Hong, of the assembly of the state's mental health and substance abuse service providers.

After lunch, kūpuna (elders) Howard Pe'a, ho'oponopono practitioner, cultural practitioner Ulunui Garmon and retired educator Betty Jenkins – all of whom advise or serve in treatment programs – will offer insight to service providers who want to know how Hawaiian values and concepts can be integrated into treatment and recovery plans.

With support from federal agencies SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency) and the Co-Occurring Center for Excellence, local sponsors include the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Papa Ola Lōkahi, Kū Aloha Ola Mau (formerly Drug Addiction Services of Hawaii, Inc.) and many other community partners.