



Ke Ao Lono



The monthly newsletter of Kama`ehu, a Program of Partners in Development Foundation

MAY 2010

YOUTH

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

ON THE FRONT

CLASSY BUILDINGS!

FEATURED:

THE LAST FURLOUGH?

ON THE BACKSIDE:

INTRODUCING OUR

CORE VALUES:

PO`OKELA

SPECIAL DEDICATION OF YURTS IN APRIL

By Michael Kahue

At a time when the economy is falling on hard times and the State of Hawai'i is experiencing budget cutbacks and layoffs, it is difficult to think there could be anything good on the horizon. Many families living in the shelters at Kalaeloa have fallen victim to these hard times and are dealing with financial and emotional woes.

For the children at Kalaeloa, a gleam of hope pierces the darkness of hard times through Ka Pa`alana and Kama`ehu. Both of these programs have outgrown its humble beginnings of hold-

ing activities in open tents and amidst the flying dirt particles of Pointer Field. Today, the children study and play in two large, circular structures that can comfortably seat 30 children in each.

These round buildings, called *Yurts*, are patterned after the durable homes used by nomadic peoples of Central Asia. They are supposedly "portable", can withstand winds up to 70 mph, and are surprisingly cool even on a hot summer day.

Ka Pa`alana program manager Danny Goya boldly wrote a grant to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in 2009, while simultaneously asking WCO if the land adjacent to the shelters could be used as the designated area to set them up. When both opportunities came through, the yurts began going up at the end of summer, 2009.

Normally, these structures are set down on the ground, but with liability issues, and ants, scorpions, and centipedes roaming the

grounds at Kalaeloa, Danny had a construction crew build two wooden platforms a few feet off the ground. Using 1-1/4 in. plywood flooring, those decks are built solid and will be around for a very long time (normal flooring of a typical house uses 1/2 in. or 5/8 in. plywood).

Then over a period of 3 weeks, almost like magic, the yurts were erected and ready for use as classrooms. Looking more like NASA command modules, these durable buildings (cont. on the backside)



Inside each of the Yurts at Kalaeloa are wooden plaques honoring the dedication and commitment of 2 people who have worked countless hours for the leeward coast community. See backside photos.



Yurts framework . . . with 3 people working, it was up in only 2 hours.



Each of these structures measures 30 feet in diameter and can comfortably seat 25 adults or 30 children. The sky dome at the top center can open up to let out warm air as it rises.

KAMA`EHU STUDENTS SPEND LAST FURLOUGH FRIDAY AT THE CAPITOL!

On May 14, 2010 the State of Hawai'i instituted its final "furlough Friday" of the year, and possibly the final one for a long time.

While most students took the day off to spend at the beach or mall, Kama`ehu came out to the shelters and picked up 37 students to bus them to the State's Capitol.

Through a joint effort from the Save Our Schools Coalition and programs from U.H. - Manoa, the capitol's rotunda was rolling with activities,



displays, poets, and musicians all working together to promote the importance of keeping kids in school and ending furlough Fridays.

Math games, lessons in zoology, physics lessons on flight and aerodynamics, a civics lesson, an inflatable skylab showing the stars and constellations, a dance class, demonstrations in slam poetry and rap, and full-on storytelling



were all made available.

Kama`ehu wishes to thank Ms. Olga Boric-Lubecke and her cadre of friends for hosting this free event! Mahalo Nui!

CONT. FROM THE FRONT . . .

are being used everyday by both the pre-school and youth programs.

The crowning jewel of this building project finally nestled in its place on April 21, 2010 when the honorable Rev. William Kaina humbly dedicated the two yurts buildings to two highly-impressionable women of the leeward coast community: Aunties Kanani Ka'alawahia Bulawan of WCO and Sweets Kameha'ililani Wright of Ka Pa'alana/PIDF.

The work and energy each has put into helping the families get off the beach has been phenomenal . . . so, as a way of showing them gratitude, PIDF had wood and lacquer plaques made with their names engraved, along with a short message of thanks and PIDF's five core values listed at the bottom. The two plaques have been permanently mounted in each of the two structures. Go in and see them!

Congratulations Graduates!

As the end of the school year draws to a close, the staff of Kama'ehu is pleased to see that many of the students in the program are being promoted to the next level. For some it means graduation!

To all you 5th graders at Barbers Point Elementary, Congratulations! Good luck in the fall as you start classes at Kapolei Middle!

Kama'ehu Youth Mentoring Program's Purpose and Mission

To provide a safe atmosphere for young people in transition, where learning and growth can take place.

To promote and equip families with positive values and develop healthy students.

Plaques for 2 women who are living examples of the P.I.D.F. value "Po'okela"

LEARN IT...LIVE IT!

CORE VALUES OF KA PA'ALANA / KAMA'EHU

As Kama'ehu continues to serve houseless families at Kalaeloa, its goal of teaching and embedding Partners in Development Foundation's five core values remains at the forefront of the program. Just as we were raised on Native Hawaiian traditions and strict moral guidelines, so we would like to pass on these key values to the families we serve. These *Hawaiian* values are timeless and help keep the family unit strong in order to endure all forms of hardship.

This month's core value is *Po'okela*. Po'okela is the Hawaiian word for best, superior, utmost; to be a champion. Whether you are involved in doing homework, sports, chores, helping a friend, or just looking after a pet dog or cat, you should always put your best effort into it.

For the Hawaiians who ruled in ancient times, doing an activity was often connected with life or death and if it wasn't done with the best effort in mind, the person could die or be killed. For us today, doing everything with po'okela in mind could lead to great opportunities and a better life. Bosses, co-workers, parents . . . all observe how you do things and make mental notes of those who work their hardest to get the work done. Will you be the one who practices *po'okela* all the time? You've learned it, now live it.

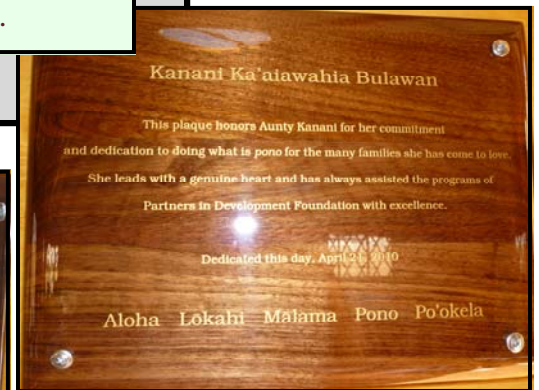
Aloha

Lōkahi

Po'okela

Pono

Mālama



These beautiful plaques are permanently mounted inside each of the Yurts structures at HOPE Shelter.

Program funded by:



State of Hawaii
Department of Human Services