



Auamo I Na Alaka'i (AINA)

P R E S S R E L E A S E

(For Immediate Release)

FORD INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (FILP) AND HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP HONORS ANOTHER COHORT OF LEADERS

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Hilo, Hawai'i. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) partnering with the Ford Institute Leadership Program in collaboration with the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homes Association and the following funders, County of Hawaii – Department of Research and Development, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED), Harold K. L. Castle Foundation, Hi'ilei Aloha LLC, The Atherton Family Foundation and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will graduate a cohort of 29 on Sunday, November 18, 2012 in Hilo, Hawai'i Island.

East Hawai'i Island non-profit organizations including residential, farmers and pastoral community association leaders representing the Hilo, Puna and Ka'u areas will have completed a two day full weekend training held monthly during the past four months as part of the Ford Institute Leadership Program (FILP) led by instructors Ms. June Otow and Ms. Gigi Cairel.

“It's a rewarding experience to again provide this training opportunity to communities and especially the Hawaiian homestead association leadership with tools, techniques and methodologies for capacity building,” commented June Otow. Both Ms. Otow and Ms. Cairel completed the FILP training to a previous cohort of resident leaders in the Waimānalo community including Hawaiian homestead leadership in 2011. Graduates from this cohort assisted in delivering the training under their mentorship while using “actual volunteer work experience with our current community projects” added Mr. Paul Richards.



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The community and Hawaiian homestead participants in the Ford Institute Leadership Program Hilo, Hawai'i island.

Members of the recent cohort of participants represents a wide spectrum of the Hawai'i island including community resident Jeffrey Kekoa and wife Donna Kekoa of Ka'u expressed their gratitude and excitement during the two full weekend days training sessions over a four month period. "I learned a lot from the lessons presented including the manner in which meetings and leadership should be organized," commented Jeff Kekoa.

The lessons and presentations done during the class exercises helped prepared Jeff for an upcoming community meeting in Ka'u as his association hosted the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Community Commission meeting. Comments received after the meeting was highly positive and well received by not only the homestead residents, but non-homestead and extended community residents. "DHHL has not held a community meeting in the Ka'u region and we are certainly happy to have shared a moment with our trust beneficiaries along with members of our management team and Commissioners," added DHHL Director Jobie Masagatani.



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The participants of the Waimānalo community and Hawaiian homestead in the Ford Institute Leadership Program.

“The entire Ford Institute Leadership Program curriculum allowed everyone in our group the opportunity to learn, facilitate and lead in a worthwhile project which benefitted our community,” added Moana Akana from Waimānalo and Secretary for the homestead association.

The Ford Institute Leadership Program is a series of training classes based on the belief that vital rural communities can develop from a broad base of knowledgeable, skilled and motivated leaders, a diversity of effective and productive collaborations among various organizations.

The Ford Institute Leadership Program for rural communities in Oregon and Siskiyou County, California, was first offered in 2003. The Institute selects four new communities to enter the program each spring and each fall. For more information regarding this training opportunity, please contact Ms. Gigi Cairel at 808-596-8990.