

North Kohala Community Resource Center Receives New Moon Grant

NEWS RELEASE

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Hawi, North Kohala – The North Kohala Community Resource Center, a new nonprofit in North Kohala, has received a \$2000 grant from the New Moon Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation to help fund its program of supporting and providing fiscal sponsorship to a broad range of community improvement projects in North Kohala,

Dennis Matsuda, the Vice President of the Resource Center's Board, said the grant will be used as start up funds for the organization. "This is one of our first grants, and we expect it to contribute to getting our services under way," said Matsuda. The new center will provide project coordinators in North Kohala with a conduit to grant money available from the Federal and State governments and Charitable Trusts and Foundations in Hawaii and on the mainland. It will also give donors a way to offer tax deductible financial support to the community.

The organization was started by a broad-based coalition of nine residents in North Kohala to provide fiscal sponsorship and support to public service initiatives and efforts beneficial to the North Kohala community and its residents. These nine founders became the organization's Board of Directors.

The list of Directors includes a cross section of the community: Gino Amar, Lani Bowman, Cory Causey, Bill Graham, Bob Martin, Matsuda, Nani Svendsen, Fran Woollard, and Desiree Yamamoto. Volunteer consultant Susan Lehner has also been providing support.

The new center has identified 24 community projects which need support. "We're planning our services at this point," says Amar, the organization's Treasurer. "We want to provide training to the current and prospective project coordinators on planning and organizing projects, finding grant funding, and grant writing. It's an ambitious undertaking." In a series of public meetings planned for July, members of the Board will explain the new organization and how it plans to work.

"Our Board doesn't just represent one part of the community," says Yamamoto. "We have people who were born and grew up in North Kohala, and others who have come here from the mainland. It shows we can get together, trust each other, and get things done for the community. I want this to serve as an example for the future."

Projects selected for sponsorship will receive grant writing training, and assistance if needed, and the new Center will be able to receive grant money as a 501(c)3 for each project. "We have needed this resource for a long time," says Woollard. "I can remember times when grant money has been available and we didn't have a local 501(c)3 to officially receive it. That's going to be a thing of the past."

Causey says the new Center will strengthen North Kohala in other ways. "We hope to increase the number of volunteers in the community, and we'll be teaching skills in this program that have never been taught here before."

The source of the funds, New Moon Foundation, is a value based organization committed to the practice of right relationship in all areas of life. The Foundation's core values of openmindedness, openheartedness, accountability and wholehearted action frame their practice. New Moon's mission is to support healing and educational programs and grants, to steward the land by honoring its natural, historical and cultural essence, and to promote a mutually nurturing relationship between the land and the community.

The Hawaii Community Foundation, the grantor, is a nonprofit, statewide, charitable services and grant making organization supported by donor contributions for the benefit of Hawaii's people. Its mission is to help people make a difference by inspiring the spirit of giving and by investing in people and solutions to benefit every island community. With more than \$277 million in charitable assets, it is one of the 30 largest among 550 community foundations in the country. Each year, HCF gives nearly \$10 million in grants to benefit Hawaii's nonprofit organizations.

Individuals and project coordinators interested in more information about the North Kohala Community Resource Center may call 889-5604.