



LOKELANI 'OHANA

*Building Community, Changing Lives
With People of Special Needs in Hawaii*

WINTER SOLSTICE NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 22, 2007

“Lokelani ‘Ohana” Begins Camphill inspired initiative on Maui, Hawaii

The flame for the Maui born initiative, Lokelani ‘Ohana, was first ignited in a vision given to Christina Chang on a visit from Pennsylvania back to Maui in 1999. Her hapa daughter, Angelica La’a Kea Chang had attended Beaver Run since 1994 and had returned to Maui in 2004 at the age of 21 to be one of the guiding angels in bringing forward the destiny for Camphill inspired communities in the Hawaiian Islands.

Lokelani ‘Ohana has begun a lifesharing home and has created a biodynamic farming program in Waihe’e on Maui. Enthusiastic groups from three Medicare waiver day programs come out to the beautiful rural environment of Maui’s north shore to work on the farm. Today, the group from Easter Seals was excited to see their newly planted corn and squash breaking ground and greeting them as they came into the garden. They happily weeded, watered and harvested arugula, mizuna, basil and green leaf lettuce for their lunches. In addition to sharing produce with friends and family it is also sold weekly to an organic farmers market and occasionally to a health food store.

The USDA Small Farm Agency Branch and the Natural Resource Conservation Service has completed an evaluation on the old Hawaiian land Lokelani ‘Ohana is leasing and farming and the USDA will be assisting the initiative with funding in areas of water, soil, crop, air and animal husbandry.

Dana Allen, a gifted weaver and artist of over 30 years, is pioneering the Saori Weaving project at two Medicaid waiver program sites. All of the staff and clients love the creative freedom and expression that Saori weaving brings to them. The philosophy of Saori is self discovery through free weaving. Sai translated from Zen, means everything has its own dignity and ori means weaving. Lokelani Ohana’s weaving program has become the 15th Saori Pioneer Coaching Site for the United States. You can obtain complete information about this program at: <http://saoriworchester.com/documents.htm>. Lokelani ‘Ohana has also established a relationship with the Pestana’s, owners of Maui Alpaca Ranch, who breed and raise alpacas upcountry and make the beautiful wool available for the weaving program.

Lokelani ‘Ohana Board of Director Joan Bellard, was appointed to the Governors Council for people with Developmental Disabilities. She has the honor in representing Maui County supporting legislation at the State level. She also chairs the Maui County Developmental Disability Committee. Lokelani ‘Ohana is also a proud partner with the Maui Disability Alliance Legislative Forum with Joan heading the Dental issues and Christina chairing Housing issues. This year two legislative bills, one Federal and one State, in support of housing issues for the special needs population have resulted from the work of this group effort. And many legislative bills over the years have been presented in nine different areas improving the quality of life for people with special needs.

Our goals for 2007 & 2008 are to acquire land, friend and fundraise as we plan to expand our services and lives with people of special needs.

In Hawaiian: Loke translates as rose,
Lani translates as heavenly
Ohana as family

We invite all interested people to join this vision and appreciate any support, donations and services helping to fulfill the mission of this new endeavor.

With Aloha,
Christina Chang and The Lokelani ‘Ohana Board
www.lokelaniohana.org

