

# OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



## *Holo'ala Noio*

### **OCS to Receive Grant Monies for Seniors**

En Young, OCS Program Specialist, has procured Federal monies for Hawaii seniors from the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) grant. CSFP is administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The CSFP supplements low-income people's diets with nutritious food. The USDA purchases surplus allocates it through a number of different programs. OCS, as a qualified State agency, then distributes it to public and non-profit private local agencies, where eligible individuals are able to receive the food as well as nutrition education. While not a complete diet, it provides nutrients usually missing from the clients' diets. Unlike other programs that use food vouchers, the CSFP distributes actual food.

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### **September 30 is Here!**

Don't be caught off-guard not knowing the significance of this date! At this time, agencies should be switching in to a 'use-it or lose-it' mindset. Agencies with Federal programs should know this date marks the deadline for obligating millions of dollars, which would otherwise be lost. Agencies involved with Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) ARRA, should be taking steps to ensure none of that money is lost for these programs.

### **SFMNP Begins in Waianae**

Through cooperative outreach with the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, the Hawai'i Food Bank distributed Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program vouchers to senior citizens on the leeward side. WCCCHC broadcasted the information in the community and provided transportation for anyone interested in the program. Since 2008 the federal program has provided fresh and locally-grown fruits and vegetables for resident seniors.

Seniors, who heard about the program in the city, contacted HFB to request the program for their

*(continued on page 2, SFMNP)*

### **OCS Food Safety and Acculturation at the Hawaii Food Bank**

On October 4, 2010, the Hawaii Food Bank (HFB) will be hosting its annual conference this year entitled "Building Bridges: Making the Connection" for its over 200 member agencies. This conference is held to survey issues within the agencies and provide workshops to address them.

The HFB is working with OCS to address two big issues that new agencies may not be aware of – food safety and acculturation. Many people are unaware

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Westside community. On Wednesday, September 15, 2010, a year after the request, HFB distributed fifty vouchers. Seniors expressed their gratitude and presented lei to Roxanne Stark, HFB Director of Agency Affiliations. Vouchers can be redeemed with certified vendors at the Waianae Farmers' Market at Waianae High School, Open Farmers' Markets, and various independent farmers' markets.

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of some of the harms with food safety, especially when combined with working with the Compact of Free Association (COFA) migrants. OCS will be there to support and provide training alongside the HFB, with En Young leading this training.

The COFA food safety issue leads to the broader issue of working with the COFA population as a whole and their ability to acculturate into Hawaii. En Young and Dan Young of OCS will be joined by guest speaker Christina Simmons of Parents and Children Together (PACT), Hawaii Parental Information and Resource Center to discuss the acculturation issue.

An earlier OCS acculturation project with other state departments and non-profit agencies, the Micronesian Acculturation Handbook, addresses this issue and may be revived for another printing. Two thousand handbooks were printed in three languages and distributed throughout non-profit agencies and schools in Hawaii. The Department of the Attorney General, the Department of Health, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Goodwill Industries of Hawaii, Inc., PACT, and OCS of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations collaborated on this handbook together to provide adequate acculturation for Micronesians and other COFA migrants.

Handbooks will be available again at the HFB training, in English, Marshallese, Chuukese, and for the first time in Spanish.

For more information, contact En Young at [en.h.young@hawaii.gov](mailto:en.h.young@hawaii.gov) or (808) 586-8675.

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OCS has requested funds for 3,000 needy seniors in Hawaii to receive this supplement, and the Federal government will release final allocation information upon completion of its budget. Although a competitive grant, the Feds examine each State's caseload and request before allocating monies. Last year, the Feds paid out \$64.07 per case, a fair indicator of how much Hawaii may expect to receive this year.

## 2012 to 2013

### Requests for Proposals

A friendly reminder that requests for proposals (RFPs) for State Fiscal Biennium 2012 and 2013 will be solicited from qualified applicants to provide human services for the following programs and activities during the 2nd or 3rd week of October:

<b>RFP No.</b>	<b>Service Activity Title</b>
LBR 903-01	Employment Core Services for Low-Income Persons
LBR 903-02	Employment Core Services for Immigrants
LBR 903-03	Employment Core and Support Services for Refugees
LBR 903-04	Employment Creation for Low-Income Persons, Immigrants and Refugees
LBR 903-09	Weatherization Assistance Program Services for Low-Income Persons
LBR 903-12	Legal Advocacy, Outreach, and Referral Services to Protect the Rights of Children and Their Families