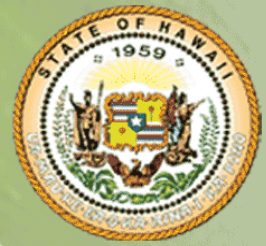


March 2011

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



Holo'ola Noio



Governor
Abercrombie
and
DLIR Director
Takamine
address
DLIR HIOSH
and
OCS

SMILE...!!!!

"Governor Neil Abercrombie and Lt. Governor Brian Schatz shared this "Kodak Moment" with OCS Director, Mila Kaahanui, on their recent visit to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations sharing their appreciation and reconfirming their commitment for the important work this department is doing for the State of Hawaii. They also shared some quality time listening to comments from employees on how we can continue to build the positive momentum this new administration brings to the overall well-being of the State."



TANF continues...

For a limited time only!!!

We are excited to share this exciting news... We encourage all providers to continue to send in your required Monthly Listing of Active TANF Eligible Clients. Should you have any questions regarding this announcement, please contact your hardworking OCS program specialist. Mahalo.

SENIOR FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM (SFMNP) CONTINUES....

OCS received notice from USDA that Hawai'i will again receive limited funding for the SFMNP, a vital program that promotes local farmers and enhances nutrition for seniors. The grant helps low-income seniors purchase fresh, unprocessed locally grown produce from farmers' markets and community supported agricultural programs.

The Food Basket (TFB) on the Big Island will manage the SFMNP as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) venture. Under the program TFB pledges to buy a portion of local farmer's crops for the season. TFB packages the varieties of produce and seniors pickup up their weekly allotment at designated centers. The program, which began in 2002, is the first SFMNP in the state of Hawai'i.

On O'ahu, the Hawai'i Foodbank will issue seniors \$50 coupons to exchange for produce from certified farmers at the city's People's Open Markets and other independent markets. In 2010 HFB certified farmers in thirty markets around the island.

SFMNP will operate from June 1 – September 30, 2011. To qualify, seniors must:

- Resident of Hawaii
- 60 years of age or older
- Household annual income of less than 185 percent of the annual poverty income guidelines (\$23,051 for single or \$31,006 for a couple)



OCS Executive Director and CSBG and WAP State Managers Attend Mid-Winter NASCSP

Conference in Washington, D.C.

OCS Executive Director Mila Kaahanui, CSBG State Manager Laurie Hirohata and WAP State Manager Sonya Seng met with other State and Community Action Agency staff in Washington, D.C. at a midwinter conference for the National Association for State Community Services Programs. The weeklong conference provided updates on current issues for both the Community Services Block Grants program and the national Weatherization Assistance Program, along with progressive opportunities needed to build capacity and future viability.

Director Kaahanui stated, "...the conference provided a valuable resource for OCS to provide future training tools for our Hawaii providers to meet the increased trends regarding poverty and fiscal competency."

NASCSP Speaker and CEO of the Community Action Partnership Don Mathis stressed this is a critical time for the state and agencies to educate newly elected federal legislators and policy makers about the on-the-ground ill effects due to diminishing funds. Many of these officials may have little or no knowledge of how CSBG and WAP actually affect millions of Americans every year.

Dr. Donna Beegle of Communication Across Barriers gave a relevant and provocative perspective on fighting poverty. To see an exciting preview of her upcoming PBS documentary please visit <http://www.combarriers.com/node/39>.

Dave Finet, the Executive Director of a CAP agency in Bellingham, Washington, highlighted an inspiring overview of how his agency developed a comprehensive Healthy Homes program. Healthy Homes is a growing national initiative and partnership between the DOE, EPA, HUD and CDC. This unique relationship holds exciting potential for a number of post-ARRA programs.