



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DIVISION

BULLETIN

Fall 2007

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/disability-services/developmental/current-dddbulletin.pdf>



The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Division is to assure community based supports and services for persons with developmental disabilities through the principles of self-determination and person-centered planning.

Welcome to the Developmental Disabilities Division's (DDD) combined news bulletin with information from Division Administration, Case Management and Information Services Branch, and Disability Supports Branch (Neurotrauma). The DDD news bulletin is a means to communicate Division happenings.

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SPECIAL OLYMPIC HAWAII ATHLETES TO COMPETE IN WORLD GAMES IN SHANGHAI CHINA

By Dan Epstein

Vice President of Sports, Special Olympics Hawaii

Eight Special Olympics Hawaii (SOHI) athletes will compete as members of Team USA in the 2007 Special Olympics World Games in Shanghai, China from Oct. 2-11. These athletes have been training three to five times a week for almost a year in preparation for the Games. For them, it will be a dream come true; a chance to experience the joy and excitement of competing with over 7,000 athletes from more than 165 countries around the world.

Fewer than 500 athletes from across the United States were selected as members of Team USA. The eight Hawaii athletes earned their way onto the team through exceptional performances at the 2006 SOHI Summer Games. They have worked extremely hard to prepare for the World Games with the support of their families and coaches.

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Team USA Hawaii at training camp

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Special Olympics Hawaii

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In addition to the eight athletes, two coaches and one staff member from Hawaii have also been selected as part of Team USA and have been actively working with athletes from Hawaii and the Mainland in preparation for the Games. All 11 members of Team USA from Hawaii attended a four day training camp at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN with the rest of the Team USA athletes and coaches.

The athletes and coaches from Hawaii on Special Olympics Teams USA are:

Athletes:

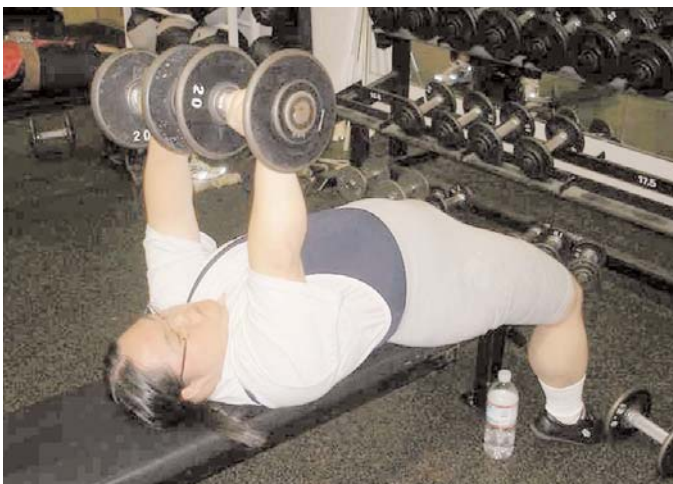
- Zachary Mar, of Honolulu – Swimming
- Leanne Ngai, of Honolulu – Powerlifting
- Sean Hivey, of Waimanalo – Golf
- Natalie Miyahira, of Kaneohe, – Golf
- Jennifer Wong, of Kaneohe – Track and Field
- Sol Ray Duncan, of Pearl City – Track and Field
- Nicole Kelley, of Ewa Beach – Swimming
- Ray Donager, of Kealahou – Powerlifting

Coaches:

- Sam Moku, of Kaneohe – Track and Field

- Denise Lindsey, of Kailua-Kona – Powerlifting
- Dan Epstein, of Honolulu – Support Staff

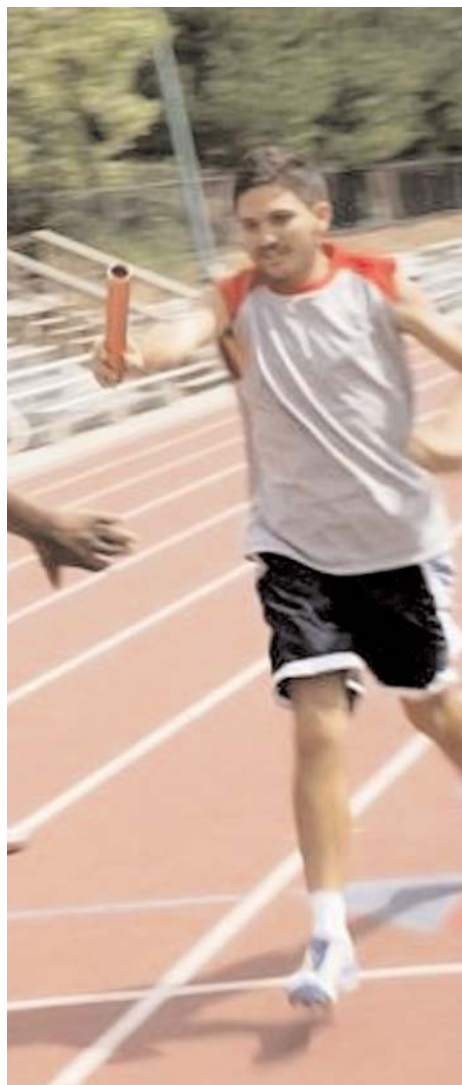
Every athlete who participates in a Special Olympics Hawaii program gains so much more than physical fitness. The athletes learn the value of discipline, hard work, good sportsmanship, and other skills applicable to everyday life that allows them to successfully integrate into our community. And now, with the World Summer Games in Shanghai, it will also be an opportunity to experience a new place and new culture and meet new friends.



Leanne Ngai powerlifting training



Sean Hivey putting



Sol Ray Duncan passing baton

“YOU CAN DO IT, YES YOU CAN!”

By Clarissa Ho, Case Manager, Case Management Unit 1

On July 29, 2007, 25-year-old Isaac Lau participated in his first “Specially Challenged” Martial Arts Championship at Saint Louis School’s McCabe Gym. This was an international event for individuals with disabilities that included participants from Hawaii, California, and Texas. Isaac went on to win a gold medal in his division in hapkido, a Korean martial art.

It was an impressive victory, not only because this was a first-time experience for Isaac, but also because of the physical challenges associated with cerebellar ataxia, a condition that affects his balance and coordination. “It felt good that I was able to participate,” says Isaac, who has been a student at the Abilities Unlimited Marital Arts Academy since January 2007, under the instruction of Marty Williams. Isaac is currently a white belt, and he hopes to continue improving his skills. Isaac has some advice for individuals who might be hesitant to participate in certain activities due to their disability: “Just go for it if you want to do something – don’t let your disability stop you.”



Warming up for the competition

Lisa Kunisaki, a 34-year-old woman with Down Syndrome, also participated in the “Specially Challenged” Martial Arts Championship. Previously, Lisa traveled to the mainland to participate in another international martial arts competition for individuals with disabilities. Lisa is currently a brown belt, the result of eight years of dedication to studying marital arts under Marty Williams.

Lisa’s intense concentration is seen during practices, demonstrations, and competitions, and she is a great

role model for her fellow students. Lisa’s favorite parts of martial arts include doing mat work, punching, and breaking bricks with hand strikes. In addition to being a disciplined martial arts student, she applies the principles she has learned from her training to everyday life, including the importance of being focused and being respectful of others. Although Lisa admits to being “nervous” before the competition started, she was “happy” to have been part of it and looks forward to future competitions.



Isaac Lau



Lisa Kunisaki

GETTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES INTO THE OCEAN

By Dara Fukuhara

AccesSurf Hawaii Public Relations Director

Imagine living in Hawaii but only experiencing the ocean from afar – only watching your friends and family enjoy the water but unable to enjoy it with them because it is impossible to get in the water without assistance. Too often, this is the reality for people with disabilities.

Happily, through the creation of AccesSurf Hawaii, things have changed. Many people with disabilities can now enjoy the ocean, changing that reality for myself and for many other participants.

Always drawn to the ocean, I enjoyed the water when I was a child. It was a wonderful feeling, floating and swimming wherever I wanted to go – no longer confined to a wheelchair. As I grew older, it became difficult for my father to carry me into the ocean or to find a pool with a working lift. I stopped swimming and went on with my life, discovering new passions.

NOW AccesSurf Hawaii, through its “Day at the Beach” program, gives people with all types of disabilities and their families the opportunity to enjoy the beach by using adaptive flotation equipment, such as

surfboards, kayaks, wheelchairs and beach mats. The “Day at the Beach” is held on the first Saturday of each month at Barbers Point Beach Park in Kalaeloa from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next one is November 3, 2007.

Volunteers are trained to assist



Dara surfing with Liam

people with disabilities both in and out of the water. Every participant is paired with a buddy volunteer while in the water.

AccesSurf Hawaii is a non-profit organization founded by Mark Marble, a recreation therapist at Shriner’s Hospital for Children. Mark realized there was a need for adaptive beach recreation and acted upon that great idea.

“As a recreation therapist, recreational activity is important for people with disabilities but there are many access issues at Hawaii’s public

beaches,” said Mark Marble, President of AccesSurf Hawaii. “I knew in my heart this needed to be changed.”

The first time I checked out this “Day at the Beach,” one of their volunteers, Liam, asked if I wanted

to go surfing with him but I couldn’t compute how that was possible. Nervous and a tad scared, several volunteers carried and set me, stomach down, on the long board. Then, off we went – Liam on the back of the surfboard, paddling us out. Minutes

later, he shouted, “Hang on!” and turned the board around, facing the shore. I felt the board first pulled backward and then in one powerful push, we rocketed forward! For the first time in my life, I was surfing!

I realized in that moment why people fall in love with surfing. The rush you get, riding the white water, is an amazing and indescribable feeling. You feel the power of the ocean and that feeling is such a “high” that I am now hooked on surfing.

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Into the Ocean

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Marble added, "It is difficult to express in words the extreme joy a person with a disability exudes when they catch their first wave and ride the white water back to the shore – their face glows with excitement and they just want to catch another wave."

The group has a partnership with Crocs and Crazy Shirts to sell red and black Croc sandals and t-shirts created and sold at selected Crazy Shirts stores in Hawaii or online (www.crazyshirts.com), with about one third of the proceeds going to support AccesSurf Hawaii and the Junior Lifeguard Association.

If you would like to participate in

AccesSurf Hawaii's Day at the Beach, please call 808-236-4200 or visit www.accessurf.org for more information. You can also help by donating your time and/or by contributing financially. Contact Jason McKinley, Director of Development, at Jason@accessurf.org for more information.

I-REC PROVIDES SOCIALIZATION * FUN * OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW EXPERIENCES

By Barbara Poole-Street, I-Rec Center Coordinator



I-Rec group at completion of a Friday ceramics class

Any school cafeteria is bound to be bustling and full of chatter as students share their meal and news of the day with friends. At Chaminade University, on Thursday evenings, the Silversword cafeteria is even busier and noisier than usual. That's because you'll find I-Rec participants munching happily and enjoying their meals while chatting and laughing with Chaminade students. Friday afternoon, the Chaminade Courtyard place is filled with I-Rec participants busily tie-

ing kerchiefs, painting flower pots or playing games with their college student friends at Chaminade.

So just what is I-Rec? I-Rec (Inclusive Recreation), in partnership with Easter Seals, offers and facilitates participation in leisure activities with the broader community, for children, teens and young adults with disabilities.

How does it work? I-Rec has three basic programs: Meet and Eat where

older teenagers and adults with disabilities join Chaminade students for conversation and a meal at Chaminade University; Friday Fun where older teenagers and adults with disabilities join one another and Chaminade University students to enjoy a variety of activities; and I Want to Try, a program which helps people ages 8 to 30 with special needs, identify and facilitate participation in community recreation programs.

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I-Rec

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While the programs help expand lifelong leisure skills, teach appropriate interaction with peers, provide an opportunity to try something new, and develop social skills while building self-confidence, the participants note with enthusiasm that they participate because it is FUN! Similarly, Chaminade college students, who often first join the program to satisfy community service or service learning requirements, often form friendships with the I-Rec participants and keep returning week after week. As volunteer Bei Ashley reports, "I feel good when I make them laugh or teach them card games or help them with their ceramics." But sometimes, it is the I-Rec participants who are the teachers, as they show their college student friends the value of a smile, or demonstrate how to decorate cookies, or how to persevere despite setbacks in forming that ceramic piece into the desired shape. I-Rec offers all of this in a relaxed

atmosphere of acceptance and co-operation.

How can I join? Our Meet and Eat program meets each Thursday that Chaminade University is in session, at 5:30 p.m., under the Chaminade Silversword awning. Diners pay for their own cafeteria meal and are finished by 7:00 p.m. Our Friday Fun program meets under the white tents in front of Chaminade's Henry Hall at 3:30 p.m. and finishes activities by 5:00 p.m. There is a \$15 annual registration fee for I-Rec

participation. More information on these programs can be gained by calling Barbara Poole-Street at 358-4292 or emailing her at streetb001@hawaii.rr.com.

People interested in the I Want To Try Program should call Ellen Vinson at 342-2906 or email her at evinson@hawaii.rr.com

Listed below is a schedule of the remainder of Fall 2007 I-Rec Friday Fun and special events:

When?	What?	Where?
Friday, Oct 5	Karaoke	Silversword Café
Friday, Oct 12	Crafts	Meet under the white tents in front of Henry Hall
Friday, Oct 19	Crafts	Meet under the white tents in front of Henry Hall
Friday, Oct 26	Halloween Party	Meet under the white tents in front of Henry hall
Friday, Nov 2	Chaminade Service Project	Meet under the white tents in front of Henry Hall
Friday, Nov 9	Movie	AV Room: Henry Hall Room 109
SATURDAY NOV 10	Pacific Island Review	Chaminade Campus
Friday, Nov 16	Bingo	Meet under the white tents in front of Henry Hall
Friday, Nov 23	<i>No I-REC</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
Friday, Nov 30	Chaminade Service Project	Meet under the white tents in front of Henry Hall
Friday, Dec 7	End of semester celebration Christmas on Campus	Under the white tents in front of Henry Hall

SELF ADVOCACY ADVISORY COUNCIL REACHES ONE YEAR MILESTONE

*By Ronalyn Rosenberg, Personal Agent
Joel Lakins and Evan Murakami, Individual Mentors
Program Supports*

The Self Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC) celebrated its first year in business on August 27, 2007, with a luncheon held at the CMISB Dole office. The room was full of self-advocates from Easter Seals, Lanakila and Kokua Mau. Joel Lakins, a board member, expressed how excited and pleased he was with such a large turnout.

When asked about the objectives



the council faced this past year, board members Lakins and Evan Murakami shared that it took a lot of teamwork to get the Council's mission statement, by-laws, and policy and procedures done. And prior to that, they needed to elect

board members to the Council. "It took us a while to have an election, but when it was done, we got right to work," said Joel.

SAAC has been searching for a logo for the Council and recently took its search to the community where a drawing contest was held at the Arts Enabled Festival at Kakaako

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Self Advocacy Council

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Waterfront Park. The Council had a booth at the Festival that was staffed by President Michael Tada and Vice-President Mitchell Stewart. The Council voted for the winning logo at the September 24 Council meeting. Other business discussion included recruiting strategies.

The winner of the contest, Bernie Keli'ia'a, received a \$10 gift certificate from Subway and the recognition of being the artist for the State SAAC logo. Some floor

members of SAAC suggested flyers and possibly a brochure for the Council as part of its recruiting strategy. Board members hope to expand to the Neighbor Islands in the near future and believe this information will help recruitment efforts.

Vice-president Mitchell Stewart announced that the Council will hire someone very soon to help facilitate the SAAC meetings. This person will be hired and paid with grant monies that the Council received in partnership with AmeriCorps.

The last thing on the Council's agenda that day was to announce that nominations for the October election will continue with speeches from each nominee, followed by a vote for officers.

The Council is dedicated to making a difference in our community for individuals with disabilities. They sure have come a long way since the start of the Council. For more information on SAAC and meeting schedules please contact: Joel Lakins and/or Evan Murakami at (808) 733-9167.

VISITING MY LITTLE FRIEND IN A NURSING HOME

By A Friendly Volunteer Visitor

Pictures of animals, cartoon characters, and photos of children sometimes adorn the walls. A



television mounted on the wall plays movies that children love to watch. Mobiles, stuffed animals and an assortment of toys surround the beds. Is this a typical children's room? It might be, but this particular room is in a nursing home where my friend, a developmentally disabled child who I have been visiting daily for many years, calls home. My weekday visits are at a time of day after my friend returns from school and has had some time to rest from the earlier day's classroom activity.

Other children with developmental disabilities and extensive health-care needs also reside here. The children who are able to go to school get picked up and transported to school, accompanied by a nurses' aide. Individuals who go to school join

other special education children. Those that are not able to go to school

have special education teachers come into the facility. At times, we volunteers work in cooperation with the teachers to support various activities.

After a long day at school, my friend and I like to relax and just visit. Going for short walks outside the facility into the sunlight to feel its warmth, to feel the gentle breeze of the wind, and to hear the birds and the sounds of passing cars is a special treat for both of us. We participate in activities my friend enjoys like listening to music, smelling specially scented pens, touching different textures, feeling vibrating toys, seeing and listening to musical toys, feeling cold versus warm towels, rubbing lotion on the skin, and combing our sometimes unruly hair.

Other things my friend likes me to do while visiting is listen to me talk, sing, and play musical instruments, as my friend responds to sounds, as well as touch and smells. At times we get to see performances by groups that come into the home to entertain the residents. My friend can hear the music and the laughter, which helps give sensory stimulation.

Other volunteers also come into the facility to visit with the other children and we all enjoy a variety of leisure activities. We are all volunteers with the Developmental Disabilities Division's Friendly Hospital Visitor volunteer program. We enhance the visitation and activity programs in place at the facilities and provide one-to-one interaction. At times I am the eyes and ears of the case manager. I write a monthly report of observations and activities that is used by

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Little Friend

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professionals involved in care and service planning.

Besides children, Friendly Hospital Visitor volunteers visit people of all ages in long term care facilities. Most residents are elderly, and volunteers who visit, talk with them, watch television together, play

music, read to them, and go for walks around the facility. They also look at pictures in books and magazines, sing to them, put together puzzles, play games and enjoy recreational and other activities.

Special holidays are celebrated and birthdays are especially nice. For my friend's birthday I usually bring a birthday cake with a bunch of

candles and a special gift. I make sure I bring my camera for snapshots of the events as a permanent memory of the occasion. Others in the facility join us to sing "Happy Birthday" and make the day a spectacular affair. Hope our birthday wishes come true! Having this friend and the many wonderful experiences I have had has really enriched my life. I plan to continue my daily visits for years to come.

DDD ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS



The Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) Advisory West Oahu Group meets every third Thursday of each month at the Waipahu Civic Center Conference Room from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18. The meetings are open to any family member living on the Leeward side of Oahu. The topics on the agenda for the next meeting will be Quality Assurance and Waiver Providers. Refreshment donations will be appreciated.

For more information call Case Management Unit Supervisors: Carol Batangan-Rivera, CMU 2 at 692-7485, Unit Supervisor, CMU 3 at 692-7493, Francis Tanji, CMU 5 at 587-7685 or Jessie Fernandez, CMU 6 at 587-1391.

CREATING RECEPTIVITY IN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The questions were posed to the Network of Volunteer Leaders (NOVL), a professional organization of volunteer leaders, dedicated to enhancing volunteer leadership in the state of Hawaii. Does your organization have volunteers with disabilities among its ranks? Have you given any thought as to whether you may inadvertently exclude potential volunteers with disabilities through your recruitment messages, job assignments, or policies?

At its July general membership meeting, NOVL created an opportunity for volunteer programs to be more receptive to individuals with disabilities. Guest speaker Madeline Harcourt gave helpful insights into working with volunteers with disabilities. If volunteer managers are ready to work with volunteers with disabilities, but still have a few questions or concerns, Madeline is available to meet individually with those managers ready to move



forward. Managers will determine what they want to know, with guidance from Madeline. In the consultation meeting Madeline can address concerns about feeling uncomfortable while interacting with people with disabilities, and about the types of accommodations or questions managers can and cannot ask in an interview.

Kelly Perry, volunteer coordinator at Waimea Valley Audubon Center, shared the following at the meeting. "Madeline has been a great resource in assessment of volunteers with disabilities at her organization. She will do site visits to agencies and organizations to review websites, job descriptions for volunteers, and give suggestions for greater inclusion opportunities."

Reviewing essential functions for volunteers will help those with a disability decide if they can do the job. This aspect of volunteer

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Creating Receptivity

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management is critical to the success of the volunteer opportunity. Kelly has two individuals with developmental disabilities who are volunteering at Waimea Valley.

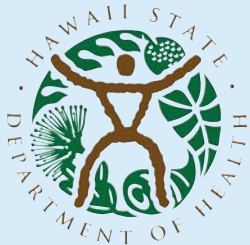
This is a win-win situation: volunteers enjoy the volunteer experience immensely, and the organization gets very valuable service from the volunteers.

Volunteer organizations and agencies

are inviting persons with disabilities to volunteer. Volunteers can add richness to any organization and organizations are becoming committed to providing programs, people, and services that individuals need in order to volunteer in appropriate activities.

Madeline is a faculty member at the Center on Disability Studies (CDS), College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She is the assistant specialist for the Alliance for Inclusion Advancement

(AIA) – Hawaii. CDS initiated Hawaii's first AIA Local Inclusion Network Collaborative (LINC) in March 2006, bringing together organizations that provide service with organizations that promote the capability of individuals with disabilities. Volunteer managers were invited to join the LINC. The LINC has met numerous times and has linked organizations together to give individuals with disabilities many opportunities to service their communities.



NEUROTRAUMA SUPPORTS

Disability Supports Branch
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Division

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If you have Microsoft Windows media player, check our website: www.hawaii.gov/health/disability-services/neurotrauma/index.html

for videos on-line. Videos that are relevant to survivors of brain, spinal cord injury and stroke will be shown periodically.

For information and resources, or to suggest topics of interest for this newsletter, call the Neurotrauma Helpline at 808-453-6151.



TBI PEER MENTORING PROJECT

The Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research Training Center, through the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Implementation Grant is starting a peer mentoring project for persons with TBI. One of the goals of the project is to adapt an effective, replicable mentoring program for culturally diverse, geographically dispersed, adults with TBI and their families to succeed in seeking needed services. The project will select and train individuals who are considered “veterans” of a TBI

experience and will help those who are recently adjusting to their new life after injury. The other goal of the project is to develop and disseminate an effective public service announcement campaign to educate the community on TBI and assist in recruiting mentors and mentees. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or would like more information on this project, call the Neurotrauma Helpline at 808-453-6151.

ADVISORY BOARDS

At the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board (STBIAB) meeting in May, Dr. Hao Chih Ho, board member and trauma physician at Queen's Medical Center, presented his proposal on "Preventing Recurrent Falls in the Elderly: A Multi-disciplinary Intervention Study." The outcome of the study is to prevent recurrent falls in the elderly through interventions by a geriatrician and occupational therapist. They will perform exams and evaluations of the person and assess the home environment. Neurotrauma staff also reported on the outreach efforts on Maui in March, and on Kona in April, including meeting with a few agencies and support groups.

At the Neurotrauma Advisory Board meeting in June, Patti Bazin, the Long-Term Care Assistance Program Officer from the Med-QUEST Division of the Department of Human Services, gave an update of 1115 Waiver Amendment submitted in February 2007. Home and community-based services for neurotrauma survivors were added to include residential care, intensive rehabilitative services, and long-term services. She asked that other services needed and desired be identified by survivors and community stakeholders. These will be added to those listed and be submitted to DHS for review.

The STBIAB meets on the third

Friday of odd months at the Capitol Center, 1177 Alakea St., Room 302; and Neurotrauma on the fourth Friday, even months at the Kalanimoku Bldg., 1151 Punchbowl Street, Basement, and the State Building in Kapolei on Oahu.

Both meetings can be accessed via the State video conference centers (VCCs) on Maui, Hawaii and Kauai. Meetings are from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. and are open to the public. Call 453-6295 for the specific dates, times or more information.

MAY WAS STROKE AWARENESS MONTH

The theme for the Neurotrauma poster board exhibit was "Stroke is a Medical Emergency." Information sheets, posters, and bookmarks in different languages from the American Heart/Stroke Associations along with Neurotrauma Supports brochures, newsletters and referral

forms were left out at Rehab Hospital, Lanakila and Kapahulu Seniors Centers, the State Building in Kapolei, the Pearl City Hongwanji Seniors' Day program and with the Stroke Club. A joint NT presentation, "Understanding Stroke/How Can We Help," given

by an RN and OTR from the Queen's Medical Center Neuroscience Institute, was presented to more than 80 volunteers from Project Dana, a program for those who work with the elderly.



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Director of Health