

**ALLIANCE FOR INCLUSION
ADVANCEMENT-HI INFORMATION
SHEET**

In October 2005, the Center on Disability Studies, a University Center for Excellence, at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa was awarded a collaborative grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Center on Disability Studies (CDS) is a sub-grantee of the primary grantee, UCLA's Tarjan Center. Other collaborators are the University of Miami's Mailman Center, and the mainland Hands-On Network. The CDS portion of the three year grant is approximately \$270,000. CDS, during its first year of funding, has advanced the participation of youth, 14 and older, adults with disabilities, including veterans, in community service.

The overall purpose of the Alliance for Inclusion Advancement—Hawai'i (AIA-HI) is to increase the capacity of individuals with disabilities to participate in volunteer opportunities and to act as a catalyst in enhancing the ability of service organizations to include volunteers with disabilities in their programs. Increasing these capacities will enable those with disabilities to be more actively engaged in their communities and enable community organizations to avail themselves of the talents and resources those with disabilities provide.

AIA-HI acted as a conduit for volunteers with disabilities to engage in short-term (as brief as a few hours) and ongoing (from day a week to full-time) volunteer opportunities. Below is a list of AIA-HI achievements thus far:

To achieve the preceding objectives, AIA-HI staff worked closely with key stakeholders in the disability and volunteer service sectors. During the next two grant years additional objectives will be added.

Key goals for the 2nd year of AIA-HI include:

- Continue LINC management on O'ahu and in Hilo
- Facilitate three LINC meetings for each LINC membership;
- Establish a third LINC
- Hold three Match Making meetings
- Continue to work with local service organizations to improve accessibility
- Make referrals to national service programs

AIA-HI staff:

Robert Stodden, Principal Investigator,

Jim Skouge, *Co-Principal Investigator*, employs multimedia technologies to support persons with disabilities and their families to share their stories. He has traveled and worked in American Samoa, Micronesia and Hawaii's neighbor islands, supporting indigenous peoples of the Pacific to employ technologies to share and document traditional knowledge and village wisdom.

Steven E. Brown, *Project Director*, is a person with a disability, works on several CDS projects and teaches graduate courses in disability and diversity. He has extensive community experience, including directing two independent living centers, serving on numerous nonprofit Boards of Directors, and working with members of the Self-Advocate Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Madeline Harcourt, *Assistant Specialist*, is a person with multiple hidden disabilities. Ms. Harcourt has vast experience with CNCS and AmeriCorps programs. She has served on various CDS committees and within the community where she has developed a wide network of resources statewide.

Alice Ehmes, provides administrative and fiscal duties to the AIA-HI. Originally from Micronesia, Ms. Ehmes brings added diversity to AIA-HI.

First year accomplishments

(October 2005- September 2006)

- Established 2 LINC's (Local Inclusion Network Collaboratives), to network with community volunteer and disability organizations;
- Held three LINC meetings; 2 on O'ahu and 1 in Hilo;
- Developed a survey to determine the needs of O'ahu LINC members;
- Facilitated a Match Making meeting between Office of Elections, Veterans Affairs and VA Council;
- An informal Match Making meeting was made for the Institute for Human Services and Hawaii Services on Deafness with Aloha United Way, Volunteer Hawaii and other volunteer organizations;
- Served as a conduit between community organizations leading to more than 110 volunteers with disabilities participating in all kinds of volunteer service opportunities;
- Launched and maintained AIA-HI website;
- Developed a list of 65 O'ahu organizations and 40 Hilo organizations to join each LINC;
- Initiated a listserv for O'ahu LINC members to use as a communication tool;
- Participated in outreach activities including the SPIN conference, Ability House/Habitat for Humanity build, Tools for Life and Art Enabled to promote AIA-HI project;
- Developed and distributed flyers for organizations to recruit volunteers with disabilities;
- Developed Climate Assessment evaluation instrument for all AIA collaborators.

For more information on Alliance for Inclusion Advancement- Hawaii please contact:

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For detailed information, you may visit the following

Alliance for Inclusion Advancement

<http://www.aia.hawaii.edu>

Center on Disability Studies

<http://www.cds.hawaii.edu>

Corporation for National and Community Service

<http://www.nationalservice.gov>

