



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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**SPECIAL ARTISTS MEAN BUSINESS:
ART EXHIBIT SHOWCASES CREATIVITY AT WORK**

HONOLULU — The Hawaii State Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) is sponsoring the art exhibit “Artists Mean Business – Putting Creativity to Work” to showcase developmentally disabled/mentally retarded (DD/MR) artists that intend to earn income through their artwork. DDD aims to promote career opportunities for the DD/MR in alignment with Hawaii’s self-determination law established in 1998, emphasizing the individual’s right to make decisions, participate fully within the community, and to reach an optimal quality of life. Hawaii is the only state in the nation that has a statute requiring person-centered planning for our DD/MR individuals.

“We are so proud of the artists who have participated in the exhibit. We hope this will propel their career as well as educate and inspire the business community about the talent and skill of the DD/MR,” said Dr. David Fray, Developmental Disabilities Division Chief.

The event happens Monday, September 27, 2004 at Kahala Mall. Kahala Mall will feature the art exhibit throughout the week until October 3, 2004.

Susan Miller with VSA arts (Vision, Strength and Artistic Expression) Hawaii-Pacific and University of Hawaii, Center for Disability Studies partner with DDD for increasing opportunities for income and employment of the artists. The Artsplace based at the DDD

Waimano facility is an initiative to support and provide a place for artists and community groups to meet and attend art classes during the week. For more information about Artsplace, contact Calvin Ebesutani, DDD staff, at 733-9191.

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