

Person / Organization of the Week

Welcome Back. Now, each week, we will try to acknowledge people or agencies that have done an outstanding job in helping our communities, and who we feel are responsible for making our citizens safer in Hawaii.

This week, we'd like to recognize the Hawaii Homeless Outreach and Medical Educational Project (H.O.M.E.).

The issue about how to help our state's growing population of homeless families have become a high priority in Hawaii, as it has across our country recently. In Honolulu, a shelter in Kakaako was just recently opened for our homeless families by the State.

Each night, this shelter provides a temporary home for approximately 200 adults and 90 children. Virtually all of these families are too poor to even afford basic medical services to sustain a decent and healthy life.

This year, the University of Hawaii John A. Burns Medical School began the Hawaii Homeless Outreach and Medical Educational Project, also known as the "HOME Project."

Every Tuesday evening, faculty members and about 20 medical students go to the shelter to provide free healthcare for the residents and their children. As part of their community service project, this homeless outreach provides much needed aid to our under-served communities which I believe is compassionate and noteworthy.

Finally, this service project provides valuable training to medical students, who will care for all of our families in the future — no matter what their economic situation maybe.

It is my understanding that this homeless clinic operates with donated medical supplies from Wahiawa General Hospital and the medical school, free labor, and money made by the medical school students through fundraising efforts.

Accordingly, the UH John A. Burns Medical School's "HOME" Project is this week's "Helping Our Communities - Organization of the Week," and they will be notified of this recognition - with our thanks and praise.

If you know of a person or organization in our community that has contributed so much to the safety and welfare of our citizens, please let us know by writing to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Building, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 6100, Honolulu, Hawaii 96850.

Events Involving U.S. Attorney's Office:

In this last segment of our show, we will update the public on our activities in the state of Hawaii.

As you know, besides overseeing all federal investigations in this state and law suits involving the United States, I am a strong proponent of community outreach.

I believe that any public servant has a duty and a responsibility to be in the community and to serve them as best we can. Thus, I have been very involved in community events and from my discussions with countless people, this has given me much insight into how I may be able to help my state in my job.

This week I held a press conference on the Big Island announcing almost \$200,000 in federal grants were being given to the Pahoia Weed and Seed Program,— which has been very successful in reducing crime and increasing the quality of their life. I am so very proud of that community because everyone came together as a team to confront their problems and revitalize their neighborhood.

I also sponsored a law enforcement Children Birthday Party one night at the Kakaako Homeless Shelter. Along with my co-sponsor, State Public Safety Director Iwalani White, we brought out officers from the State Sheriff's Department, the Honolulu Police Department, and the DEA.

The children were allowed to go inside the law enforcement cars and vans and visit with the officers. We also had Keiki identification cards made for the kids.

After the Birthday song and cake, the children were treated to a movie on the wall, which brought their families together.

Recently, I also co-chaired the Hawaii Visitor Crime Awareness Conference at the Convention Center. This conference brought together hundreds of people who are actively involved in our tourism industry to explore ways that we may better collaborate and communicate to make our visitors safer.

I am very proud of what we are doing in our community because it has to result in a better environment for our families and our state.

Thank you to everyone for the work you do in making Hawaii a better place to live and visit.

Conclusion:

“Well, this ends our show for this week. I hope you found it informative. If you would like to report what you believe is a federal crime, please call:

- the FBI at (808) 566-4300, or
- for drug crimes, call the DEA at (808) 541-1930, or
- for gun crimes, call the ATF at (808) 541-2670, and
- for immigration crimes, call the Immigration and Customs Enforcement at (808) 541-2623.

On behalf of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for Hawaii, thank you for tuning in. Stay safe, and please join us next time for “This Week With Hawaii’s Law Enforcement.” Aloha.

[EXIT MUSIC / SOUNDS]