



*"Building A Stronger Community"*

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 8  
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## ***Waipahu Community Association to hold Town Hall Meeting on the Prevention of Underage Drinking***

Waipahu is one of hundreds of communities nationwide that will hold an Underage Drinking: National Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Waipahu Intermediate School Cafeteria, to discuss and raise awareness about the issue of underage drinking.

The Waipahu Community Association's Weed and Seed Site and Drug-Free Coalition in collaboration with the Federal government's Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Prevention of Underage Drinking is sponsoring the event.

According to surveys conducted in 2007 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse it was noted that among eighth graders, about one in 20 (5.5 %) reported being drunk in the past month. Nearly one out of every five - 10th graders (18.1%) and about three out of every 10 - 12th graders (28.7%) reported being drunk in the past month.

In Hawaii, the problem of underage drinking is a growing community concern. According to a Honolulu Star Bulletin article dated May 23, 2007 it was reported that roughly 20% of Hawaii's underage population drinks.

At the Town Hall Meeting, parents, teachers, officials, youth and other community members will be educated about the impact that underage drinking has on the community, and they will develop possible ways to address this issue.

Speakers at the meeting include: Ed Kubo, U.S. Attorney; Allan Silva, Positive Connections; and representatives from the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), HPD Dare and HPD Weed & Seed.

The Waipahu Intermediate School Cafeteria is located at 94-455 Farrington Highway. The public is urged to come and participate. For more information please call

the Waipahu Community Association office at 677-6939 extension 25.

***"...roughly 20 percent of Hawaii's underage population drinks."***

***Honolulu Star Bulletin  
May 23, 2007***



## ***Message from the President***

I would like to thank our Waipahu Community Association members for sending in their membership dues. Your support is important to us. A large membership gives our organization leverage when addressing issues that require change or continued support. The dues help us to accomplish many wonderful things for Waipahu residents.



At the WCA, we strive to keep things simple and cost effective. Your help keeps our mission alive in making a difference here in Waipahu. Mahalo nui loa.

*Wayne Ogasawara*



*Waipahu Community Association Executive Director Angie Bugarin and President Wayne Ogasawara prepare to get the Chinese New Year celebration underway.*

### ***Festival Marketplace Welcomes the New Year Chinatown Style***

Firecrackers and the clash of lion dance cymbals rang in the Chinese New Year of the Rat at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace on Saturday, February 16, 2008.

Over 500 people enjoyed the fun event which featured three colorful lion dancers and Gung Fu demonstrations by the Gee Yung International Martial Arts Society, traditional Chinese dancers, Chinese New Year songs by Waipahu Festival Marketplace vendor Annie Kwei, narcissus bulb carving by Callman Au; Acupuncture, herbal medicine and massage by Brian Dos Santos.

To create a festive Chinatown atmosphere, the marketplace was strung with red and yellow lanterns and symbolic new year decorations with messages of business success, good health and family prosperity. Marketplace vendors Tina Giang of Princess Creative Jewelry, Sammy Trejo of Sam's Flowers and Imports, Beth Roberts of Giftsakes Products and Annie Kwei of He & She Gift Shop enhanced their individual shop areas with creative and colorful decorations to added to the celebration. Giang even brought in a privately owned lion dance costume to hang from the marketplace ceiling.

A special part of the day was the judging of the tong sam (Chinese clothing) contest. Festival goers were encouraged to come dressed in Chinese outfits. Several people came in cheong sam dresses or shirts sporting a Chinese motif. All were given a prize for their participation in the contest.

During the celebration, strings of 20,000 firecrackers were set-off every hour with the third lighting announcing the arrival of the 2008 Narcissus Festival Queen and Court. Queen Catherine Jayne, resplendent in formal Chinese attire greeted the

eager crowd and shared with them the history and symbolism of the Chinese New Year.

The queen and her court eventually made their way through the marketplace meeting with each of the vendors while being escorted by Waipahu Community Association President Wayne Ogasawara and Executive Director, Angie Bugarin.

"Our Chinese New Year Festival is the first of our planned festivals at the marketplace. It's a fun way to celebrate our cultural diversity and to bring the community together", said Bugarin.

Bugarin also said that Waipahu contained a large Chinese community from the 1870's to the 1930's and the festival was a way of showcasing their accomplishments and contributions to the Hawaiian way of life.

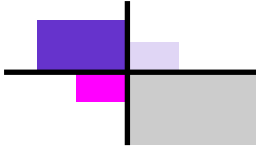


*New Year excitement at the marketplace*





### ***...a word from the Executive Director***



It is a pleasure and a privilege to be the Association's new Executive Director. I look forward to renewing old friendships, to making new ones, and to becoming more familiar with all aspects of the community.

Through our newsletter, the Waipahu Community Association will communicate its economic and social efforts. This is a time of challenge as we continue the revitalization of Waipahu town.

As we address these challenges, it is important that we keep having fun. Hopefully, our newsletter illustrates that there are many events and activities to enjoy. There are also many social causes that we need to address in order for Waipahu to be a healthy community.

I hope to see many of you at our scheduled events. Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to call on us if you think that we can be of help to you.

*Angie Bugarin*

### ***Free Tax Services Offered to the Community***

Over the last few months, over 100 persons have received free tax return and information services at the Waipahu Community Association. These services were coordinated by Liz Delfico of the Waipahu Weed and Seed Site in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistant Program and the Hawaii Asset Building Coalition.

The tax service has also encourage qualified wage earners to take the Earned Income Tax Credit which was created by the Federal government in 1975 to benefit lower wage earners. Says Bugarin, executive director of the WCA, "In these days of rising gas prices and higher food costs, additional income for the family is certainly welcome relief".

The tax service is being offered every Friday through April 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Association office which is located at 94-340 Waipahu Depot Street. Interested persons should call 677-6939 extension 25 for an appointment.

### ***Weed & Seed Bids Aloha to Sgt. Aaron Farias***

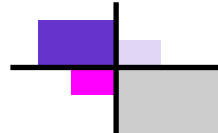
Waipahu will be bidding aloha to Sgt. Aaron Farias as a promotion to lieutenant takes him on to another assignment. Farias, a 25 year veteran of the Honolulu Police Department has been a participant of the Weed & Seed program since 2000.

We are very happy for his promotion, but Sgt. Farias will truly be missed in Waipahu. The passion for his work with the community was significant and appreciated, said Liz Delfico, Waipahu Weed & Seed coordinator.

### ***Waipahu Community Association to hold Annual Membership Meeting***

In an effort to increase its membership base, the Waipahu Community Association will be conducting its annual membership meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Waipahu Intermediate Cafeteria. Says Wayne Ogasawara, association president, "We get better opportunities for funding and legislative support if it is seen that we've got the community behind us".

The public is urged to attend. Call 677-6939 for more information.



Henry Aquino

### ***WCA Program Coordinator attends National Conference in Washington, D.C***

The Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America CADCA based in Alexandria, Virginia held their annual training conference in February in Washington, D.C.

The CADCA serves as a center for training, technical assistance, evaluation, research and capacity building for coalitions throughout the country.

The Waipahu Community Coalition, Waipahu Community Association's community building coalition is a member of the CADCA. This year's conference was attended by Waipahu Community Association program coordinator, Henry Aquino and Lighthouse Ministries' Pastor Joe Hunkin, Jr.

The training conference offered the attending coalition representatives specialized training in drug/substance abuse prevention, education, treatment, intervention, sustainability and evaluation. Over 2,500 coalition members, experts, and training specialists from across the country attended the week-long training.

Along with invaluable hands-on training, the conference also provided opportunities to meet with congressional officials to lobby for continued support of the CADCA and the DFC (Drug-Free Communities grant) program. Aquino and Hunkin also met with Hawaii's congressional delegation and other influential lawmakers during their visit to Capitol Hill.



## ***Waipahu Festival Marketplace Vendor Profile***

### ***Tina Giang of Princess Creative Jewelry***



Selling jewelry and owning her own business was the furthest thing from Tina Giang's mind when she left her country of Vietnam in 1979. As a 16 year old girl, Giang escaped the Communist controlled country with a younger sister, only to end up in a refugee camp in Malaysia for one year.

"Our parents wanted a better life for us. They paid a boat operator 20 oz. of gold for each of us to be taken out of Vietnam. We saw so many people die on that boat trip. They would just throw the bodies overboard when somebody died. When I think about what we went through it breaks my heart," says Giang.

Eventually, Giang and her sister immigrated to Portland, Oregon. She tried to attend school but the drastic changes proved to difficult for the youngster to concentrate of school-work. Giang went to work to supplement the funds sent to her by her parents.

"I was so young and so lonely then, but I had to work to help us survive", says Giang, "It was so hard and we faced so many difficulties. When it would get cold, we would cry because we could never keep warm."

Today, Giang and her family own Princess Creative Jewelry at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace and another store at the Chinese Cultural Plaza. They specialize in Hawaiian jewelry and design, watch repair, key copying, fine jewelry, gold and silver chains and Chinese jade pieces. Giang and her family business is a good example of how the Waipahu Community Association serves the small business community and encourages economic development at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace.

Giang says that she is happy about her family's good fortune, but often think about what it took to get to where she is now. "You could write three books about what I went through. It's a sad story, but I am happy that I am alive".

## **Waipahu Community Calendar**

**Wednesday, April 2**  
**Wednesday, April 16**  
**Saturday, May 10**  
**Saturday, May 17**  
**Saturday, June 21**  
**Saturday, September 20**  
**Saturday, November 29**  
**Saturday, December 27**

**National Town Hall Meeting on the Prevention of Underage Drinking**  
**WCA Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Mother's Day Fair at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace**  
**Empower Oahu: Micro-Enterprise Training begins**  
**Waipahu Graffiti Paint Out and Community Clean-up**  
**Filipino Fiesta at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace**  
**Aloha Waipahu Festival at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace**  
**Holiday Gift Fair at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace**  
**Japanese Mochi Pounding at the Waipahu Festival Marketplace**

*We're on the Web!*

<http://www.waipahucommunity.org>

**Waipahu Community Association**  
**94-340 Waipahu Depot Street , #201**