Mohala ka pua, ua wehe kaiao
The blossoms are opening, for dawn is breaking. One looks forward with joy to a happy event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29th
7pm live broadcast Na Hoku Hanohano Awards

May 30th
Memorial Day, JABSOM MEB Closed

June 2nd
5-8 pm Papa Mau Film Showing @ JABSOM MEB Auditorium

June 3rd
5:30-7:30 pm Imi Ho‘ola Program Completion Ceremony

June 7th
2:30 pm DNHH Department Meeting @ JABSOM MEB Auditorium

June 10th
Kamehameha Day, JABSOM MEB Closed

June 13th
3-5:30 pm Mala Lapa‘au @ JABSOM Garden

June 15th
Deadline for Name our Newsletter

June 17th
12:30-1:30 pm NHCOE Staff Meeting/potluck @ MEB 301

June 25th
Huaka‘i Potluck Picnic at Hui Ku Maoli Ola Nursery

Message from NHCOE Director
Winona Lee, M.D.

Welcome to the first Native Hawaiian Center of Excellence (NHCOE) newsletter. I am still in awe of what has been accomplished thus far in the 2 years of the grant. NHCOE funding makes it possible, but it is the people that MAKE IT HAPPEN. We hope this newsletter provides a snapshot of the exciting activities and events of our students and faculty. As you will notice, it truly “takes a village” and the success of NHCOE is dependent not only on our faculty and staff, but also on the unique partnerships and collaborations within the Department of Native Hawaiian Health and the community. The theme of this first issue is “New Beginnings.” In the spirit of this theme, we welcome article ideas and submissions for future issues. Mahalo for your continued support of NHCOE!

Name our newsletter challenge!
This newsletter needs a name! Please submit ideas to nhcoe@hawaii.edu no later than June 15th. The winner will receive a fantastic mystery gift!

Planting Preservation
By Kerri Wizner

Rick Kaponowaiwaiola Barboza from Hui Ku Maoli Ola shared his wealth of knowledge about the Native Hawaiian plant community at a lunch-and-learn on May 3rd. He is a regular speaker every 2nd Tuesday of the month in the JABSOM Native Hawaiian Healing Garden (Mala Lapa‘au).

Approximately 100 native Hawaiian plant species no longer exist in the wild, and only a handful have been saved in cultivation. Of the remaining 552 Hawaiian plant species that are rare, 150 have fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the wild, and those numbers are decreasing every year.

Rick and business partner, Matt Kapaliku Schirman, combined...
This year, Hawai‘i’s Na Hoku Hanohano nominations will include one of JABSOM’s very own graduates and current NHCOE fellow, Dr. Malia Lee.

“A doctor is in a unique position of needing to meet a person, develop a trusting relationship, and quickly gather and understand details in the lives of strangers,” Malia said. This relationship became a muse for Malia to compose a collection of songs in her first album, “Eyes of a Stranger,” which addresses various aspects of life, despair, suffering, resilience, and faith.

The album has been nominated into the category of “Religious Album of the Year” and offers inspiration in the face of self-doubt, fear, loss of a loved one, homelessness, and the difficult decision of abortion. There is also a song inspired by Hawai‘i’s own Saint Damien, entitled ‘Holy Man,’ in which she gives a voice to people suffering from Hansen’s Disease who had been cast away to the remote peninsula of Kalaupapa.

“Eyes of a Stranger” can be found online at CDBABY.com and on iTunes and will soon be available at Na Mea Native Hawaiian Bookstore.

For more information about the 2011 Na Hoku Hanohano awards visit http://www.alohavalley.com/blog/na-hoku-hanohano-awards.