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For Immediate Release
Contact Gail Hercher
808-396-7879

BE ORIGINAL VISUAL ARTS SHOW AIMS TO ADDRESS STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

The Arts Center at Linekona in Honolulu joins VSA Hawaii, the University of Hawaii Center on Disability Studies and the Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) in sponsoring a statewide juried exhibit for artists willing to use their artwork to make a statement to combat discrimination against people with mental illness.

Forty visual artists will show work in the Sixth Annual Breaking Barriers exhibit, April 20-May 11, 2010, at the Honolulu Academy of Arts Center at Linekona. Linekona Center Alban Cooper designed and installed the show.

An opening reception is Friday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. April 23, at Linekona, 1111 Victoria St., in Honolulu.

“For the past six years, the goal of “Breaking the Barriers” has remained the same — to showcase the diversity of two- and three-dimensional visual pieces by artists united to promote the end of negative stigma toward mental illness,” said Philippe L. Gross, Ph.D., of AMHD to founder of the exhibit.

“We continue the education campaign to eliminate discrimination against adults and youth with mental illness. The exhibit emphasizes the human dimension, which we’ve found is the best way to show creativity and the arts.”

Public opinion about mental illness has been negatively skewed by sensationalized coverage of tragic events involving people with mental illness. As a result, people with mental illness can be too ashamed to seek treatment and those already in treatment are often further ostracized.

For more information or comments, please contact Philippe L. Gross, Ph.D., (AMHD), Kathleen O’Bryan (VSA Hawaii Executive Director obryanstudio@gmail.com), Susan Miller (UH Center on Disability Studies, millers@hawaii.edu)