



WEST HAWAI'I
MEDIATION CENTER

JUNE 2016

WORKING IT OUT TOGETHER

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MEDIATOR SPOTLIGHT: Michelle



I was trained as a mediator over 25 years ago by Jean Fargo, former director of volunteer development for the Neighborhood Justice Center in Honolulu. I was grateful to find a place where people were encouraged to share and take responsibility for their conflict, instead of turning it over to outside "experts." It is an honor to hold a space for those feeling vulnerable, and encourage them to open their hearts and listen to another person's perspective. For me, it is about letting down our own expectations and biases, believing it can

be different in the future.

WHMC relies on volunteer mediators to help us meet the needs of our constituents. To learn more about how to become a volunteer mediator, contact us at (808) 885-5525 or at info@whmediation.org

[VOLUNTEER TODAY](#)

WHMC IN THE SCHOOLS

WHMC Hosts 3rd Annual Middle School
Peer Mediator Conference



Nearly 50 peer mediators from Kohala and Kealahou middle schools gathered in Hawi for the 3rd Annual Middle School Peer Mediator Conference. The students were joined by numerous adults and volunteers, including WHMC BOD members Ruth Smith and Jan

Marrack.

The purpose of the event is to bring together peer mediators from different schools so that they can get to know one another and develop camaraderie over their shared interest in mediation. Students were sent on their way with gift bags and our sincere aloha for the service they offer to their schools.

We are grateful for the support of the Hub, volunteer videographer Mike Frailey, school counselors Lauren Canton and Lisa Harris, WHMC BOD and staff members, our donors, and most of all – the kids!



students planning their video commercial



Peer mediators assemble in a circle at the beginning of the event



Board President, Jan Marrack, chats with a group of peer mediators



Lunch time

If you are interested in learning more about peer mediation or would like to volunteer for the program during the 2016–17 school year, please contact Robyn Skudlarek at rskudlarek@whmediation.org

WHMC IN THE COMMUNITY

2016 Hawai'i Access to Justice Conference

On June 24, WHMC staff will attend the 2016 Hawai'i Access to Justice Conference on Oahu. The keynote speaker is Jonathan Lippman, former Chief Judge of the State of New York and of the New York Court of Appeals, and champion of equal access to justice issues. The conference is an opportunity for our staff to participate in some exciting, provocative discussions about affordable housing issues, landlord–tenant mediation and the always important discussion of expanding access to justice throughout Hawai'i.

Community mediation is always a hot topic of discussion at the conference because of the important role that it plays in ensuring that everyone has equal access to conflict resolution services—even those who can't afford lawyers and costly litigation. WHMC is honored to play a key role in helping to make equal access to justice a reality on the Big Island.

We thank the Access to Justice Commission and the Hawaii Justice Foundation for their continued work on these important issues.

TRAINING & EDUCATION AT WHMC

The following trainings are for mediators only:

Hawaii Civil Rights Training:

The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission is hosting a civil rights training for our volunteer mediators in Kona, on June 16. At the training mediators will learn about the different types of civil rights issues that can be mediated and how they can best mediate them.

Landlord–Tenant Training:

WHMC and Legal Aid Society of Hawaii will be holding a Landlord–Tenant training for mediators in Kona on Friday, July 1, 2016 (with time afterward for additional Q&A). The training provides a broad overview of the laws that

apply to private landlord-tenant relationships.

For More Information Contact Chelsea at clafance@whmediation.org or call us at (808) 885-5525.

[MORE NEWS & EVENTS](#)

Charity Walk 2016

Thank You for Supporting WHMC & Walking With Us!







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