

November 2013

## E welina kākou,

It is nearly Thanksgiving, a time when we give thanks for the many gifts we have received. We are grateful for opportunities to continue learning and reflecting upon our work. In that spirit, we would like to share two updates recently posted to our website that represent valuable shared learning and collaboration with our Partners and colleagues.

The first post is the updated Theory of Change for our Hope for Kids Initiative. As we began the third year of this six-year initiative, we set aside time to refresh the theory of change that was developed before the Initiative was launched in 2009. At the three year juncture, we thought the 10 Hope for Kids Partners had plenty of experience working with the Initiative's "core elements" and desired outcomes. therefore, we agreed it would be ideal to refresh it together. Refresh it we did! The Partners took the assignment very seriously and together with us and our external evaluators from PREL we did a real overhaul. The new version has several parts - a logic model of what we believe occurs as Partners work with program participants. The logic model uses the images of a wa'a (canoe) on a journey and a navigational compass. A second part of the Theory of Change is a research and rationale document that cites traditional knowledge and research underpinning the Initiative's core elements and links the core elements to intended outcomes. There also is a references document. You can find all of this on our website at:

Hope for Kids - Theory of Change

A representative from one of the Partners captured what had been accomplished when she said of the new theory of change to the other Partners, "Mahalo to all of you with the patience, creativity, and wisdom to put this theory of change together. It's a fantastic model of how to use a stiff format and make it flexible and relevant."



The second post is a blog written by Sara Beggs from Association of Small Foundations (ASF). Sara and I share ideas back and forth regularly. Recently we were discussing what others are saying about strategic philanthropy. As we talked about some common concerns we're hearing about being "too strategic," we identified this list of responses: <u>Strategic Doesn't</u> <u>Have To Be a Bad Word</u>

I hope you will enjoy reviewing these documents. While they are very different, what I think they demonstrate is the opportunity for us to keep learning as we do our work. Spending time developing shared theories that reflect collective work or reflecting on critiques of the field take time, but the results can be rich.

Please accept a warm Thanksgiving greeting from all of us at Hau`oli Mau Loa Foundation.

Regards,

Jones alleig mann

Janis A. Reischmann Executive Director

