



For Immediate Release

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Billy and Debbie Richards, Hawaiian Community Assets and Helping Hands Hawai'i Peer Specialists to be Honored at 11th Annual Fundraising Dinner

HONOLULU—Billy and Debbie Richards, Hawaiian Community Assets and Helping Hands Hawai'i (HHH) Peer Specialists Macey Luo-Souza, Mary Anne Quidilla and Allena Kim will be honored at the 11th Annual Helping Hands Hawai'i Fundraising Dinner on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom.

The event will celebrate individuals and organizations that have dedicated themselves to the betterment of Hawai'i's communities. The agency picks an Agency Honoree (someone from within the organization), a Community Partner Honoree and an Individual or Entity Honoree that over the years has provided significant support to the communities it assists in the work it does.

The 2015 Individual Honorees are **Billy and Debbie Richards**, who have a lifetime of service and commitment to being strong and positive role models for Hawai'i, especially for young Native Hawaiians. The Richards have both had successful professional careers while also illustrating a depth of commitment to community that is very rare. They do what is right for the right reasons, even if doing what is right is at times risky or uncomfortable.

The 2015 Community Partner Honoree is **Hawaiian Community Assets**, a nonprofit HUD-certified housing counseling agency and native community development financial institution that serves low- and moderate-income communities statewide. Their work with HHH to help Native Hawaiian households work toward housing stability and financial self-sufficiency has been a great model of true community collaboration.

The 2015 Agency Honoree is **HHH Peer Specialists Macey Luo-Souza, Mary Anne Quidilla and Allena Kim**, who play a critical role in the Behavioral Health division through their ability to serve with empathy and strength and to build relationships with homeless or poverty-stricken adults with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

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Each year the dinner raises more than \$60,000 to fund human and behavioral health services for Hawai'i's communities, with the majority of the funds supporting HHH's efforts to provide school and learning supplies to Hawai'i's low-income or homeless students through its Ready to Learn program.

Ticket sales for the dinner are open until Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015. For information on table sponsorship opportunities or for other questions about the dinner, contact Helping Hands Hawai'i at 808-536-7234.

About Helping Hands Hawaii

Helping Hands Hawai'i (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through our variety of programs, we provide a full continuum of care and help people overcome obstacles, like homelessness, mental illness, substance abuse and language access. Our strong partnerships with local social service providers and innovative approaches strengthen our community by helping people to help themselves. To learn more about HHH, its programs or services, please visit www.HelpingHandsHawaii.org.

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