

A quarterly newsletter published by the Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Capacity-Building Assistance (API HIV CBA) Program, a national program of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through Cooperative Agreement No. U22/CCU918544-02.

## • Inside

- PIJAAG Corner: One-On-One with Vince Crisostomo
- Riding Waves at the APIWHANN Retreat (continued)
- Announcements & Events
- Aloha from Maui
- First National A&PI CPG Training

A copy of this newsletter is available online at: [www.apiahf.org/programs/hivcba.html](http://www.apiahf.org/programs/hivcba.html)

We welcome your comments, suggestions, and/or contributions. Please send to:

APIAHF - API HIV CBA Program  
ATTN: Program Assoc.  
942 Market St., Suite 200  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
or email [rgacula@apiahf.org](mailto:rgacula@apiahf.org)

Main line: 415.954.9988  
Fax: 415.954.9999  
Agency Website:  
[www.apiahf.org](http://www.apiahf.org)

# Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Forum

## Riding Waves at the APIWHANN Retreat

By Rachel Gacula, APIAHF

During late winter, a group of women came together at Stinson Beach in Northern California to laugh, learn, collaborate, and meet new acquaintances. The Asian & Pacific Islander Women's HIV/AIDS National Network (APIWHANN) had another successful retreat on February 22 - 24, 2002. While Tri Le of International Community Health Services (Seattle) facilitated the retreat, New York "iron chef" Suki Terada Ports (Family Health Project) whipped up meals with her cooking associates. It was an opportunity to introduce new members, develop subcommittee activities, recap past issues, discuss emerging topics, and share one another's gifts and stories.

APIWHANN has 5 subcommittees open for all to participate in: policy and advocacy, mentorship, linkages, research and data, and membership. The subcommittees recruited new members as well as planned and discussed activities for the new year.



"Iron Chef" Suki Terada Ports (NY) & Joann Wong (CA)

The steering committee took a new turn for co-chair positions: new co-chairs Joy Alumit (formerly of Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team - Los Angeles) and Erme Maula (University of Pennsylvania & East Coast A&PI AIDS Network). Xuan-Lan Doan (Malama Pono & Hawai'i Multicultural HIV Resource Project - Honolulu) will be leaving her co-chair position in July, and Lina Sheth (formerly at the Massachusetts Asian AIDS Prevention Project - Boston, and currently at Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center - San Francisco) has left her co-chair position in January.

Continue on page 4.



The Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Capacity - Building Assistance Program is a national program of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF). Our HIV Capacity - Building Assistance Program, seeks to increase the organizational and programmatic capacities of community-based organizations (CBOs) who provide HIV prevention interventions to API populations in the United States and U.S. jurisdictions.

#### Program Staff

Prescott Chow - Program Manager  
 ManChui Leung - Program Coordinator  
 Nina Nanda - Program Coordinator  
 Rachel J. Gacula - Program Associate

#### HIV CBA Partner Agencies

Asian and Pacific Islander  
 Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA)  
 150 Lafayette St., 6th floor  
 New York, New York 10013  
 212.324.7940  
[www.apicha.org](http://www.apicha.org)

Asian Health Coalition of Illinois  
 (AHCII)  
 4554 North Broadway, Suite 306  
 Chicago, IL 60640  
 773.878.3539  
[www.asianhealth.org](http://www.asianhealth.org)

Asian & Pacific Islander  
 Wellness Center (A&PIWC)  
 730 Polk St., 4th Floor  
 San Francisco, CA 94109  
 415.292.3400  
[www.apowellness.org](http://www.apowellness.org)

Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention  
 Team (APAIT)  
 605 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 610  
 Los Angeles 90015  
 213.553.1830  
[www.apaitonline.org](http://www.apaitonline.org)

Malama Pono - Kaula'i AIDS  
 Project  
 P.O. Box 1950  
 Lihue, HI 96766  
 808.246.9577  
[www.malama-pono.org](http://www.malama-pono.org)

## PIJAAG Corner

Pacific Island Jurisdiction AIDS Action Group

### One-On-One with Vince Crisostomo

Interview by ManChui Leung, APIAHF



Pacific Island Jurisdiction AIDS Action Group (PIJAAG) chair, Vince Crisostomo (Guam), and member, Bernie Schumann (Guam) reached another PIJAAG high point with their presentation at the bi-annual Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) meeting in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands in March 2002.

PIHOA is the primary regional health organization in the Western Pacific. The members of the board are the Ministers or Directors of Health of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Vince and Bernie focused on PIJAAG's mission and activities that advocate for a regional response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Pacific region

APIAHF staff spoke with PIJAAG chair, Vince Crisostomo about their meeting with PIHOA.

How did PIJAAG get invited to speak at the 2002 PIHOA meeting?

Last year when PIJAAG was forming, we strategized on who we needed to get involved in our work, and PIHOA was one of them. We got a letter of support from PIHOA that endorsed PIJAAG's letter to CDC in July 2001. We then inquired about doing a presentation at their upcoming meeting, which they were open to.

What was your impression when you got there?

It was intimidating at first. Everyone was a [health department] director. None of them had CBOs doing HIV/AIDS work on their island, and there were few community people. When Bernie and I started to work on our presentation, we realized that PIJAAG had a lot of the same priorities for HIV/AIDS that PIHOA had for health in general.

Continue on page 3.

(One-on-One with Vince Crisostomo, continued from page 2.)

Bernie and I worked really well together. She was able to provide the public health perspective where I was able to provide the community perspective. The presentation was the perfect balance of public health and community HIV/AIDS needs and what can be done about it.

What was the response from the PIHOA members?

What we were able to gather from their response was that it was a success! They took an interest to what we are saying and what PIJAAG has been doing. My other sense is that folks at PIHOA are aware that HIV/AIDS is out there but they don't know to what extent. Like I told them, what I'm seeing in the Pacific, is what I saw happening in New York, and the A&PI community in San Francisco, which in turn led to people dying. What PIJAAG is doing is so important. We have to build the regional infrastructure now. We have to address issues before it becomes a problem otherwise we will be forever reactive - and PIHOA understood that.

"Another challenge is how do we convince people HIV/AIDS is an issue before it actually is. The issue is that if we're doing HIV prevention, we have to do it now, not wait until it becomes an epidemic."

What are some of the challenges PIJAAG and it's members are facing now.

We all acknowledged the difficulties of getting the federal government agencies to work together. We should all be united, and working together is something we should strive to do. Another challenge is how do we convince people HIV/AIDS is an issue before it actually is. The issue is that if we're doing HIV prevention, we have to do it now, not wait until it becomes an epidemic. One of the things that PIJAAG is going to have to do is to stay focused and keep in contact with PIHOA.

Do you think that this meeting was a high point for PIJAAG?

Yes, for someone who has been doing this work for the last 12 years, it really validated my vision for the work that I had and the reason I thought PIJAAG was important.

.....

Subscribe to HIV CBA's Electronic Mailing Lists: Visit the website or email a blank request to the subscription address you interested in receiving information from.

Asian & Pacific Islander HIV Info:  
api-hiv-subscribe@topica.com

Asian & Pacific Islander Women's HIV/AIDS National Network:  
apiwhann-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

National Asian & Pacific Islander Youth and HIV/AIDS Network:  
apiyouth\_hiv-subscribe@topica.com

(Riding Waves at the APIWHANN Retreat, continued from page 1.)



Some of the issues under the spotlight were HIV Prevention for Positives and expanding APIWHANN's capacity in linguistic access for non-English speakers. The retreat participants expressed great concern with involving more bilingual and monolingual participants, sustaining continued support and involvement of women living with HIV/AIDS, and the need to begin movement on issues such as domestic violence.

Perhaps one of the best highlights of the last day was Debbie Kanei's (Malama Pono-Kaua'i) singing of the Native Hawaiian "Good Morning Song" in her Aretha Franklin voice with the group, illustrating that APIWHANN continues to ride with the waves and move like the wind.

"Good morning song"  
introduced by Debbie Kanei, Malama Pono

E ala e  
Ka la i ka hikina  
I ka moana,  
Ka moana hōhōnū  
  
Pi'i ka levva,  
Ka levva nu'u  
  
I ka hikina ai akala

If you would like to learn more information about APIWHANN, please contact ManChui Leung at 415.954.9993/ [mleung@apiahf.org](mailto:mleung@apiahf.org).



Eleanor Sos (Chuuk), Debbie Kanei (HI), Piliiana Loney (Guam)

## SUBSCRIBE to the National Asian & Pacific Islander Youth and HIV/AIDS Network Newsletter

If you would like to subscribe to the tri-annual newsletter, please send the subscription information to: APIAHF, ATTN: HIV Program Associate, 942 Market St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94102, fax to Rachel Gacula at 415.954.9999, or email [rgacula@apiahf.org](mailto:rgacula@apiahf.org).

### API Youth and HIV/AIDS Newsletter Subscription Info

Yes, I would like to subscribe to APIAHF's API Youth & HIV Newsletter.

Please choose one of the following distribution modes:

Online Version (you must subscribe to [apiyouth\\_hiv-subscribe@topica.com](mailto:apiyouth_hiv-subscribe@topica.com))

Paper Version (mail)

Please give your: Name, Position, Agency/ Organization, Address, Telephone, Fax, and Email.

## Consultants Wanted!

Are you a grant writing expert? Have you started or implemented HIV programs before? Do you have skills as an advocate on your Community Planning Group? Have you helped mobilize your community to be involved in HIV prevention?

APIAHF is expanding its database of consultants to help build capacity of CBOs and Health Departments regarding HIV Prevention programs targeting Asians & Pacific Islanders. We're looking for consultants in different priority areas, including organizational development, program development, community mobilization, and HIV prevention community planning. We will be recruiting consultants in all regions, including the Northeast, the Midwest, the South and Southwest, the Northwest, the West, Hawai'i, and the Pacific Island jurisdictions.

If you would like to be on our database, please contact us and send us your resume. We will also send you an application. We will also be posting the announcement and application on our website @ [www.apiahf.org](http://www.apiahf.org).

For questions and info, contact: Prescott Chow @ 415.954.9970 / [pchow@apiahf.org](mailto:pchow@apiahf.org).



Have an event you would like to announce? Please contact Rachel @ [rgacula@apiahf.org](mailto:rgacula@apiahf.org)/415.954.9969.

Sixth Annual United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) September 19-22, 2002 Anaheim, California [www.nmac.org/usca2002](http://www.nmac.org/usca2002)



National Leadership Summit to Eliminate Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Health July 10-12, 2002 Washington, DC [www.omhrc.gov](http://www.omhrc.gov)



XIV International AIDS Conference July 7-12, 2002 Barcelona, Spain [www.AIDS2002.com/NET\\_Home.asp](http://www.AIDS2002.com/NET_Home.asp)

# Aloha From Maui

By Puna Hoopii

Reprinted from Diva News May 2002\*



I and eight other Maui mahu attended the retreat at Malaekahana and had a blast. We had to work a little harder to bring nine us over. We were provided with four round-trip tickets so we had a fundraiser to collect more money. With help from other performers on Maui we were able to raise enough money to pay for five additional girls to go to the retreat. Jabba's Bar and Grill was kind enough to let us have a show there and raise money for the TG community.

The girls and I had a lovely time on O'ahu and would like to say mahalo to those of you who extended a loving hand and warm smile to us while we were there. I personally would like to say aloha to all of my fellow leaders and directors who helped make this retreat run as smoothly as they could. I would also like to send out a big aloha to all of our kupuna who attended the retreat. With you come a level of 'ike and understanding that can only be gained with time and experience. To aunty Nell for being such a loving mother figure to many us that weekend, thank you. And to aunty Dina for your strong words of tough love and hope for the future, you will always be a pillar of this community held steadfast by your convictions and love for the girls.

I'd just like to say something to you girls living on O'ahu. Sometimes I feel a lot of you don't realize how fortunate you all are to have so many people around you caring for your safety and well being. The girls at Ke Ola Mamo are there for you but in turn you also need to malama and nurture them back. You don't want these girls to burn out and dash because one day there will be no one who's going to want to take their place. So please, love those who also love you!

"Growing up on an outer island where the mahu community is very small and spread apart, we didn't have much options when dealing with our sexuality and gender. Our lack of knowledge and resources made it very confusing for us at times."

Growing up on an outer island where the mahu community is very small and spread apart, we didn't have much options when dealing with our sexuality and gender. Our lack of knowledge and resources made it very confusing for us at times. Life was often filled with depression and no one to turn to when things got so bad you almost did something you couldn't undo. Because growing up here, if you were mahu, you just had to figure out a way to deal with it.

Looking at how much support and love you girls have surrounding your lives brings tears of joy to my eyes. Tears of hope that one day our sisterhood will be able to raise above all trials and tribulations and one day bring back unconditional love and acceptance of all Hawaii's people.

Well, again, we'd like to say mahalo to you all for a lovely weekend and I'll be moving up to Honolulu in August so that's right [girls], you'll be hearing my potagee mouth a lot more now... hehehe!

Me ka ha'aha'a

\* This newsletter is published by Kulia Na Mamo in collaboration with Lei Anuenue. Lei Anuenue HIV Prevention Services is located in Honolulu, HI. You may contact staff member Christina Marsh at 808.505.0885 for more information.

Xuan-Lan Doan (HI), Lina Sheth (CA), Debbie Kanei (HI),  
Bryan Kim (GA), Javid Syed (CA)



## First National Asian & Pacific Islander Community Planning Group Training

By Ed Tepporn, Asian & Pacific  
Islander Wellness Center

On March 10 & 11, fifteen Asians and Pacific Islanders (A&PIs) from across the country braved the near-freezing temperatures in Chicago, IL to attend the first-ever national training for Asians & Pacific Islanders in Community Planning Groups (APIs in CPGs). Every state and some local health departments convene CPGs in order to develop a comprehensive HIV prevention plan that is based on scientific evidence and community values. The state health departments in turn utilize this plan in their application to the CDC for HIV prevention funds and the consequent allocation of these funds statewide. These CPGs are made up of not only health department representatives, but also representatives from AIDS service organizations, other community-based organizations, and other community members.

Right from the start of the training, participants bonded over the common challenges they face as API representatives in the CPG process (i.e., tokenism, lack of awareness/sensitivity of API culture, lack of prioritization of API populations). They discovered that they shared more in common as they engaged with each other in an icebreaker exercise entitled "No way! Me too!" Some of the participants found themselves "in the dog house" as they worked together on a leadership-developing activity where they had to work collaboratively with other participants to construct a life-size doghouse out of just flipchart paper and masking tape.

The training also covered other integral topics such as intra-A&PI issues; meeting dynamics and A&PI communication styles; behavioral science and epidemiology; epidemiological profiles and needs assessments; CPG prioritization processes; A&PI recruitment; and coalition and alliance building. By the end of the two-day training, participants were a tad exhausted, but all of them expressed appreciation for the opportunity to network and bond with other A&PIs involved in CPGs. Plans are currently underway to conduct this training for community members in the Orange County/Los Angeles area. Also, a stand-alone manual based on this training should be available by early summer. For more information about the APIs in CPGs training and/or manual, please contact Ed Tepporn at the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center in (415) 292 3420 x 346 or [edt@apiwellness.org](mailto:edt@apiwellness.org).



Nina Nanda (CA), Joanna Su (IL) - far left