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Pualani Enos

Education official discovers partnering a powerful tool

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The Hui Malama Educational Center and its executive director, Pualani Enos, are finding success by being proactive in partnering, especially in this economic downturn.

Partnering is power for the 36-year-old nonprofit, whose expanded programming educates not only individuals to pass the high school equivalency test but also intermediate and high school students who struggle in traditional classroom settings.

"Many of our students had low grades and test scores,

but with small classes and hands-on learning projects, their performance improves significantly," Enos

said.

The Wailuku-based Hui Malama has partnered with groups by:

- * Showcasing local businesses in its monthly employer mentoring program. For example, Pacific Biodiesel principals recently described their job opportunities, community impact and personal career paths.
- * Working with the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center to provide free tutoring, books, Web-based education and transportation to Native Hawaiian and Hawaiian language immersion students.
- * Collaborating with the Salvation Army Family Intervention Services' Kanehoalani Maui Safe Home for Boys to improve academic, co-curricular and vocational activities for vulnerable youths. The students participate in Hui Malama's student music group led by isle recording artist Desmond Yap.

Article Photos



The Maui News / AMANDA COWAN photo Hui Malama Educational Center Executive Director Pualani Enos (left) has found success having her agency enter into partnerships with others. At the Teens On Call Pa'ia Learning Center, she poses with (from left) Delton Ah Yen of Hui Malama, Brian McCafferty of Teens on Call, Benson Panis of the Salvation Army's Kanehoalani program, and Dillon Deardorff of Hui Malama. Hui Malama works with Teens on Call to teach taro cultivation, aquaculture and other land-based, sustainable vocations. "Our goal was to have Hui Malama involved in the academic side of it, and our dreams are coming true," McCafferty said.

* Using the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui as a
resource in initiatives, such as the hands-on School Gardening Project and the Food for Thought Nutrition program.

* Linking senior citizens in the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service's Intergenerational Program with students, so the latter can experience traditional farming and cooking practices with help from kupuna.

* Joining with Teens On Call to provide sustainable technology-, energy- and agriculture-related vocational training.

* Serving as an umbrella nonprofit organization for halau Na Hanona Kulike 'O Pi'ilani when it sought funding for its Ho'oilina concert; hui students helped produce a video of the cultural event.

Other partnerships involve Hawaiian Canoe Club fitness and cultural programs; Maui Economic Development Board's wide-ranging resources; and The Hawai'i Community Foundation's statewide Youth Matters Initiative.

Enos invites businesses and individuals to share knowledge, resources, even a site tour - all of which can serve to empower and transform students.

"It's the diversity of intelligences and contributions that make us thrive," she said. "We're all interdependent, and the best way to learn is to just have a variety of sources of knowledge."

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