

A Short History of the Hawaii FBCI Work Group

The Hawaii FBCI Work Group held its first meeting on March 6, 2002 in the Prince Kuhio Federal Building in Honolulu. There were only Federal representatives at the first meeting. Over the past four years the work group membership has gradually increased so that it now includes Federal, State and City representatives. There are presently 12 active members.

For the most part, the work group meets quarterly. However, when an event comes up, the work group or a subgroup will meet more often.

From the very beginning, a decision was made to invite at least one faith-based or community organization to each of our regular quarterly meetings. Over the years we've had as our guests pastors, church representatives, executive directors and community leaders from a variety of organizations on Oahu. We feel this has helped our work group stay in touch with the current issues and concerns of the community. We've been involved in workshops and conferences either as guest speakers or sometimes as event organizers. Our work group members have been to churches, non-profit organizations and convention centers.

For example:

1. On March 6, 2003 one of our FBCI grantees sponsored a day-long conference at the Hawaii Convention Center for faith-based and community organizations. Approximately 350 people attended. Our work group was asked to give a panel presentation on the President's initiative. This Federal panel involvement was an outcome of a partnership which developed in 2002 between the FBCI grantee and the Hawaii FBCI Work Group.
2. On October 17, 2005 the FBCI work group helped put on a day-long conference at the Neal Blaisdell Center in Honolulu. We were able to bring in for this conference the Regional Director Calise Munoz and the former director of the Whitehouse Office of FBCI Jeremy White to give key addresses. The Governor of Hawaii Linda Lingle also gave a presentation. Approximately 400 people attended this conference. All Compassion Capital Fund grantees on Oahu helped with this conference either as workshop speakers or panelists.

Our next involvement will probably be with the Micronesian Cultural Exchange Day which is being planned for October 28, 2006 at the Hawaii Convention Center. We discussed this at our most recent meeting on May 31, 2006 and will continue to work on it at our next meeting on September 13, 2006.

Whatever success the Hawaii FBCI Work Group may have accomplished over the past four years is due largely to the commitment which each member of the work group has given. I would have to say that this has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had as a member of a work group.

Aloha,

Steven Kawamura
Work Group Facilitator
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