



Graduates to tackle community projects

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THE GARDEN ISLAND

NUKOLI'I — Hands-on experience provides the foundation from which the leaders of tomorrow will spring.

That was clearly demonstrated by the second graduating class of Leadership Kaua'i, an organization dedicated to motivating leaders to address community needs and improve the island's quality of life.

At the ceremony last week at the Kaua'i Beach Resort, 22 graduates were divided into three groups to work on three significant projects benefiting the community. Unlike traditional textbook learning, the projects are already underway and in the care of various community leaders; the Leadership Kaua'i students will work themselves into the projects, helping where they can.

"We intend to see this through," said graduate William

Trugillo. "We're committed to seeing this to completion."

Trugillo was in the group designated to help build a "field of dreams" stadium for Kapa'a High School and the Kapa'a Pop Warner Association.

Utilizing individual talents of its members, Na Ha Ewalo, or, Breath of Eight, set out to address the logistics of building a football stadium.

Kaua'i mayor Bryan Baptiste's desire for a September completion date only added to the pressure.

And once the graduation celebrations die down, the group will get busy.

"This is not our project," Trugillo said. "We are helping to see this happen."

The challenge of building a stadium brought people together from all parts of the island. Another graduate, Matt Taba, is an alumni and former coach at rival Waimea High School, and he had to put aside loyalty to work

for the common goal.

"This is not just about building a stadium," Trugillo said. "This is about helping the community help itself."

Another group is working with the Kapa'a Business Association to restore a neglected Japanese lantern in one corner of Kapa'a Beach Park.

A steel frame put in place to hold the crumbling landmark together is a blemish on the heirloom.

"The restoration is part of the community's overall effort to revitalize Kapa'a," states a KBA brochure. "The project will eliminate a visual blight as well as preserve a civic monument that will enhance community pride."

The third group of leadership graduates immersed itself in a nine-month program to develop and facilitate leadership skills and personal growth for high school juniors.

Pi'ina Hoku, or Stars that Rise, will meet once a month from August to April for group discussions, field experiences, workshops, simulations, presenters, panel discussions, videos, role-playing, skill practice sessions and individual work.

Sponsored by Leadership Kaua'i with funding assistance from the Annie Sinclair Knudsen Fund of the Hawai'i Commu-

nity Foundation, Pi'ina Hoku is about to start a three-day retreat in Koke'e to plan out the year.

As he did with the inaugural graduating class, former governor George Ariyoshi delivered the keynote address. Executive director Tim Bynum hosted the celebration and lunch.

Cultural consultant Puna Dawson's value went deeper than the pulse she provided. Each group talked about her insight and perspective and how it helped them address their tasks.

In addition to Trugillo and Taba, the graduating class was made up of Erik Burkman, Kathy Clark, John Cox, Jeffrey Deren, Larry Dill, Ryan Elston, Allison Fraley, Michael Hubbard, Janice Ikeda, Nacole Kaai, Michelle Lizama, Michelle McGregor, Lynne Nagaoka, Corey Nakamura, Kenneth Pierce, Caven Raco, Char Ravelo, Rayne Regush, Soncy Tamashiro and Caroline Texeira.

"I just added 22 more friends to my list of friends," Nagaoka said. "They're all leaders who come from a wide variety of backgrounds."

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Mohala i ka wai ka maka o ka pua

