



## HALE NA`AU PONO

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### PRESS RELEASE

## State Department of Health out to Destroy Wai`anae's Community Mental Health Center

The Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) of the State Department of Health has targeted for destruction the only non-State operated community mental health center (CMHC). The Wai`anae community, over 2 decades ago broke away from the State to form its own center to meet the special needs of the Wai`anae mentally ill population. Within that period of time, it has garnered national and local recognition for its high quality of services. It has received national (CARF) accreditation for its services five consecutive times since 1995 (each accreditation covered a maximum 3 year term).

Hale Na`au Pono has developed an array of services from housing to social interaction to alcohol, tobacco and drug treatment, to clinical services covering the most seriously mentally ill to those well able to manage their illness. No other CMHC in the State has been able to extend its service array to the extent Hale Na`au Pono has. No other CMHC in the State has been able to retain national CARF accreditation.

Over the past three months, the State Department of Health has attempted to shut down all clinical services of Hale Na`au Pono. It is now requiring that its clients be reassigned to other service providers, none of whom are located in the Wai`anae community.

In a few months, the situation in Wai`anae will become explosive. The State's action is medical malfeasance.

Hale Na`au Pono will be calling an informational meeting on June 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wai`anae Multi-Purpose Center located behind the Wai`anae Gym. The public is invited.

Pōkā Laenui is the Executive Director of Hale Na`au Pono.

For further information, go to [www.wccmhc.org](http://www.wccmhc.org) or contact Bernie or Alvina at Hale Na`au Pono at 696-4211.