

HAWAII COUNTY PROJECT ASSISTANCE GRANT

Grantee	Micronesians United – Big Island (MU-BI) PO Box 5451 Hilo, HI 96720 www.mu-bi.org	
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Project Title	Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day (PIYED) <i>formerly, Pacific Youth Empowerment for Success (PacYES)</i>	
Project Period	9/1/2015 – 12/30/2015	
Award Amount	\$5,000	

PROJECT REPORT

FUNDING SUMMARY

The County of Hawaii awarded a Project Assistance Grant in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to the Micronesians United – Big Island (MU-BI) organization to support the 4th Annual Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day on October 24, 2015 at the University of Hawaii at Hilo’s Campus Center. The funds were earmarked for food for the participants and volunteers (\$2,300), t-shirts for volunteers and participants (\$1,800), and conference supplies (\$900).

PROJECT EVALUATION

Conference Overview

The 4th Annual Navigating Success – Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day (<http://www.navigatingsuccess.org/pacific-islander-youth-day/>) was held successfully on Saturday, October 24, 2015 at UH Hilo’s Campus Center. This was the largest number of pre-registered and actual participants for these annual conferences. It also involved the largest number of volunteers including college students and community leaders from around the State. Successful Pacific Islander professionals and successful Pacific Islander college students served as role models for the high school participants. The

theme was college, career and community readiness and there were panels with Pacific Islanders and others speaking about college and career opportunities.

At the close of the daylong event, a 1-page survey was administered by the Evaluation Team to the high school participants. The volunteers were asked to complete a separate online survey due one week after the conference.

The Pacific Students Media team from UH Hilo produced an 8-minute video showing highlights of the conference which can be viewed from their YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/pacificstudentsmedia) or directly from YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZbZ2UHVUMU>

PARTICIPANTS

A total of 203 Pacific Islander high school students pre-registered for the conference using our online form as well as paper forms that were issued by our partners in the Hilo – Waiakea Area Complex. On the day 133 high schoolers actually participated in the daylong conference. The participants were comprised of 39% Juniors, 29% Seniors, 20% Freshmen, and 15% Sophomores. These participants came from homes where the following languages are spoken: Chuukese (41%), Marshallese (39%), Samoan (5%), Tongan (3%), Kosraean (6%), and Yapese and Pohnpeians at 1% each. 10% of the participants claim that English is the major language spoken at home.

High School Representation

The participants represented the following local high schools: Hilo High School (45%), Waiakea High School (20%), Kealakehe High School (17%), Kea‘au High School (16%), and Pahoa High School make up 5% of the participants. Most notable were the two students from Pearl City High School who traveled to Hilo from Oahu specifically to participate in this conference which has garnered much attention among Pacific Islander students around the state.

Participants Feedback

At the closing ceremony, a program evaluation survey was distributed to all participants which yielded an 82% response rate. The participants were asked to rate each of the components of the conference:

- General Session
 - 70% strongly agreed that the session “increased my awareness of the importance of completing high school education.”
 - 71% strongly agreed that this session “increased their motivation to apply for college”;
- Career Readiness session

- 74% strongly agreed that it “increased my knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Pacific Islanders.”
- 76% strongly agreed that it “increased my knowledge and understanding of how Pacific Islanders in Hawaii can make their voice heard.”
- College Readiness session
 - 63% of the respondents strongly agreed and 35% agreed that the session “increased my knowledge and awareness of ways to prepare for college.”
 - 72% strongly agreed while 25% agreed that it “provided an opportunity to make connections with college students from my ethnicity.”
- For the lunch time Resource Fair, the participants rated it as..
 - 74% strongly agreed and 25% agreed that it was “helpful in providing information about colleges, individuals, clubs, agencies, etc.”
 - 61% strongly agreed and 30% agreed that “having a Grand Prize was helpful to motivate me to visit the resource tables.”
- Community Readiness session
 - 67% strongly agreed while 32% agreed that this session “increased my knowledge and awareness about doing my best to support my community.”
 - 64% strongly agreed and 33% agreed that it “helped me to understand how to engage in the local community.”
- Closing Session
 - 70% of the participants strongly agreed that the closing session “helped summarize my experiences today.”
 - 79% strongly agreed while 19% agreed that it “helped me appreciate the college students roles in the conference.”

Overall, 83% of the respondents strongly agreed and another 16% agreed that the conference was great. On the question of whether the participants “would recommend this conference to my friends,” 85% strongly agreed while 13% agreed. No one disagreed or strongly disagreed to these two statements.

(See attachments for full survey results)

VOLUNTEERS

The conference has been a collaborative effort from its inception in 2012. It is built on the goodwill of Pacific Islander college students and members of the larger community in Hilo. The first College Day in 2012 for Kau High School Marshallese students had 5 student volunteers from the Marshallese lakwe Club and 6 staff from other units on campus including the Pacific Islander Student Center, Financial Aid, Admissions, International Student Services & Intercultural Education, Student Support Services Program, and Multicultural Access & Achievement Program. Over the years, the number of college student volunteers and community partners have grown. This year we had

130 volunteers who helped in the planning and implementation of the conference 75% of whom were college students.

Colleges Represented

The college student volunteers served as panelists, speakers, greeters, food servers, evaluation teams, hospitality teams, resource fair hosts, media team, evaluation and team leaders. They represent some of the colleges in Hawaii including UH Hilo, Hawaii Community College, Chaminade University, and University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Community Partners

The PIYED was co-sponsored by a number of schools, agencies, organizations, individuals, businesses, and elected leaders. These partners included the Micronesians United – Big Island, Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hilo – Waiakea Area Complex, UH Hilo’s Diversity Committee, Councilman Greggor Ilagan, United Nations Association – USA, Resort Management Group (RMG), Rotary Club of Hilo Bay, Pacific Relevance Consulting, LLC., Raatiior Consulting, T & T Electric Inc., Clark Realty (Nerie Padamada), Kilisou Fishing, Mountain Candy Apple Bananas, and Starbucks Coffee. A number of UH Hilo offices were represented during the lunchtime resource fair including the Pacific Islander Student Center, Campus Center, Admissions Office, Multicultural Access & Achievement Program, International Students Association, Pacific Islands Studies Certificate, and others..

Volunteer Feedback

An online survey was conducted for the 130 volunteers which yielded a 65% response rate. 83% of the respondents “Strongly Agreed” that volunteering in the PIYED motivated them to continue their college education as role models for others. On the question of whether the conference provided opportunities to work with people with whom they normally do not work, 80% of the respondents selected “Strongly Agree.” On the overall rating of the event, 65% of the volunteers rated it “Excellent” while 23% felt it was “Very Good.”

(See attachments for complete survey results)

FINANCIAL REPORT

County Grant Accounting

The \$5,000.00 awarded from the Hawaii County Project Assistance Grant was spent on the PIYED expenses as requested in our grant proposal. The following specified the

amount funded, the actual expenses, and the remaining balance. As you can see, the Hawaii County grant was much needed to ensure a successful conference.

EXPENSES	FUNDED	EXPENSES	BALANCE
Food \$5.00 x 200 bento lunches for participants and volunteers	\$2,300	\$	\$
Volunteer T-shirts 94 shirts from Hawaiian Arts	\$800	\$	\$
Participant T-shirts 170 shirts from Creative Arts	\$1,000	\$	\$
Supplies Markers, tapes, boards, signage, nametags, badges, etc from Office Max	\$900	\$	\$
Total	\$5,000	\$	\$

Shared Financial Support

The PIYED Planning Committee of which MU-BI is an active member acknowledges the shared responsibility for the continued success of the youth engagement initiative. Our committee’s common belief is that a successful Pacific Islander youth (or all youth for that matter) is good not only for them and their families, but for the entire Hawai’i ohana. Over the years the financial and in-kind support for the PIYED conference has continued to grow through the active outreach of the committee members. We understand that the sustainability of this initiative depends on the expansion of the shared commitment of all stakeholders.

2015 Donors List - 4th Annual Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day

Financial Sponsors

- County of Hawaii Project Assistance Grant
- Micronesians United – Big Island
- Hawaii County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney
- Resort Management Group (RMG)
- Rotary Club of Hilo Bay
- Pacific Relevance Consulting, LLC

In-Kind Donors

- Hilo – Waiakea Area Complex
- UH Hilo’s Pacific Islander Student Center
- UH Hilo’s Diversity Committee
- UH Hilo’s Campus Center (Ellen Kusano)

- Councilman Greggor Ilagan
- United Nations Association – USA
- Raatior Consulting
- Clark Realty (Nerie Padamada)
- Kilisou Fishing
- Mountain Candy Apple Bananas
- Starbucks Coffee

Previous Funders

- Councilman Greggor Ilagan
- T & T Electric Inc.

(See attachments for full financial report)

MOVING FORWARD

A week after the conclusion of the conference, the PIYED Planning Committee held a meeting at the Pacific Islander Student Center with the volunteer Team Leaders. The goal was to discuss the successes and challenges of the 4th Annual Navigating Success – Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day. The following are some of their recommendations:

- **Please Note:** The joint committee wishes to correct the historical accuracy of the PIYED to include the very first one held at UH Hilo specifically for Marshallese students from Kau High School on October, 2012 (<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.484226434943162.117160.185377138161428&type=3>). The 2016 PIYED will be considered the 4th Annual Navigating Success - Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day.
- **Parent Session:** Expand the parent session to include more resources.
- **Resource Fair Raffle:** The raffle prizes system successfully incentivized student participation during the lunchtime Resource Fair.
- **Role Modeling:** Provide more interactive sessions between college students and high school students to deepen role modeling.
- **Community Outreach Team:** Expand the scope of the Community Outreach Team for the college students to continue to visit the local schools to meet with PIYED participants.

- **Community Readiness:** Need to build on the community readiness goal of the PIYED that might include encouraging students to engage in community service.
- **Next Year's Date:** The 5th Annual Navigating Success – Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2016. The Campus Center Plaza and upstairs rooms in Campus Center have been reserved by Vidalino Raatior from the Pacific Islander Student Center at UH Hilo.

APPENDIX

- **Financial Statement**
- **Survey Results – Participants**
- **Survey Results – Volunteers**
- **Program PIYED 2015**