

# Lanai Culture & Heritage Center receives federal grant

The United States Department of Education (US DOE) recently awarded the Lanai Culture & Heritage Center (LCHC) a three year grant of nearly \$1 million under the Native Hawaiian Education Act Program to foster development of educational curriculum for Lanai, with programs in class room and field studies, partnering with Lanai High & Elementary School. A major component of the program will also make LCHC a distance learning center, where students and everyone interested in Lanai's history can connect with Lanai's little museum from anywhere around the world, and explore our island's unique cultural legacy.

The program titled *E Ike Hou ia Lanai* (Embracing Lanai's History Through Language and Literacy), is an initiative that engages the community and school in a collaborative effort to improve literacy and academic outcomes. The objectives of the community-school partnership of LCHC and Lanai High and Elementary School (LHES) include: (1) to utilize cultural curricula to improve academic outcomes for students in LHES; (2) to enhance early childhood and young adults literacy through the combined study of the Hawaiian language and English, cultural and natural history and outreach programs; and (3) to improve learning outcomes of Lanai students.

The grant was developed by a team of educational specialists working with Kapa Maly and Board members Martha Evans and Pam Alconcel. Donna Gun and Pat Hutcherson of Reading Associates, Mary



Mikala Enfield, Kapa Maly and John Schaumberg.

Matayoshi and Lynne Waihee of Read to Me International, OneVision, and many partners are working to help make the Lanai program a success and share the history of Lanai with people everywhere.

LHES Principal, Pierce Myers and Vice Principal Michele Holsomback, are spearheading the initial outreach in the school. The program seeks to provide new place-based curriculum resources and learning tools in the hands of teachers and students to foster greater awareness and appreciation of our community's history.

We are deeply indebted to our Congressional Representatives, the US DOE, and all who have supported this effort in creating new learning opportunities for Lanai.