



Life Foundation
FIGHTING AIDS IN HAWAII AND THE PACIFIC

For Immediate Release:

Native Hawaiians Included in National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Honolulu, HI: March 15, 2009- March 20 is third annual National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This day recognizes those affected by HIV/AIDS in Native Hawaiian, American Indian, and Alaska Native communities.

HIV has continued to increase among Native people over the past decade. This day of awareness is meant to create a greater awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS to Native communities, to call for resources for testing and early detection and for increased treatment options, and to eventually decrease the occurrence of HIV/AIDS among Native people.

Life Foundation, a local organization that provides free HIV testing and services to those living with HIV/AIDS, has reported an increase in the number of Native Hawaiians who are in need of their services. The Foundation has seen the percentage of their clients living with HIV/AIDS who are Native Hawaiian steadily increasing.

In response, Life Foundation created a special Native Hawaiian program, which provides traditional healing practices, including lomilomi and ho'oponopono. Lomilomi is the manipulation and rebuilding of one's physical being. Similar to counseling, ho'oponopono strives to revitalize and maintain balance through prayer, discussion, confession, repentance, and ultimately restitution and forgiveness.

Life Foundation also provides free and anonymous HIV testing. Individuals interested in learning more about HIV testing or services for people living with HIV/AIDS can contact Life Foundation at 521-AIDS (521-2437), by web at www.lifefoundation.org, or by email at mail@lifefoundation.org.

Drop-in testing is available at Life Foundation, 677 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 226, Monday through Friday from 9:00am – 4:30pm. Testing is available after hours by appointment.

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