

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: PRESS RELEASE 06-14-11

### Imua Family Services Appoints New Executive Director



June 14, 2011 – Wailuku, HI -- Imua Family Services, Maui's premier provider of programs focused on early childhood development services to children and their families, announced today the appointment of its new Executive Director. Mr. Dean Wong was selected following an extensive and thorough executive search process.

"As a local nonprofit serving families in our local communities, the Imua Family Services required a combination of vision, compassion and management expertise in its leader," said Brian Kakihara, the Organization's Board President. "Dean has just this combination. His wealth of non-profit and community experience, track record of leadership success and commitment to

Maui's community will be valued assets in our ongoing efforts to assist families with support and resources needed to help their children achieve their full potential in life."

Dean Wong joins Imua Family Services with a 15 year background in health and human services and nonprofit leadership. His highly diversified career portfolio includes work with organizations serving the needs of many different and diverse communities. Most recently, he served as the House Manager of Maui Arts & Cultural Center, prior to the MACC was the director of HIV/AIDS Prevention Services at the Maui AIDS Foundation where he excelled as a leader in his field working in Health Prevention for Native Hawaiians, Asians and Pacific Islander communities.

"I was drawn to Imua Family Services because of the commitment to the special needs of children, lasting community involvement, dedication for their families as well as therapy and education programs to help our children thrive," said Wong. "The mission, the vision and the values of the organization are an inspiration and entirely compatible with my personal and professional orientation."

"I am very gratified at having been selected as the Organization's next Executive Director from a pool of highly qualified candidates," added Wong. "I look forward to working with our Board of Directors, our talented and qualified staff and Maui's community of families."

Wong's career has been dedicated to advancing the cause of people with who are at risk, require advocacy or have special needs. He has been instrumental in creating programs and services and develop fundraisers that promote healthy development and education, and to advocating for policies that elevate the well-being of minority based populations. He has served as president on community boards such as Women Helping Women and advisory committees such as National Native American AIDS Prevention Center and has worked with national, state and local legislators to help shape policies in support of the well-being of Native Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Imua Family Services, a non-profit organization serving Maui and Lanai, provides early intervention services to children and their families. Our comprehensive, family-centered, community-based, culturally-appropriate, multi-disciplinary programs include the Infant & Child Development Program, Early Childhood Development Program, Newborn Hearing Screening and Camp Imua. Since 1947, Imua Family Services has provided quality services through programs that exemplify its mission *to provide comprehensive early childhood development services to children and their families with the support and resources needed to achieve their*

*full potential in life.* Imua Family Services has a strong foundation in therapeutic service provision to young children and their families. For more information, visit: [www.imuafamilyservices.org](http://www.imuafamilyservices.org)