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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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Final Report to the Hawaii Community Foundation

HCF Fund: Daniel K. Inouye Memorial Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
Grant ID: 63704
Grant Amount: \$10,000
Grant Purpose: Youth and Government program
Grant Period: 1/2/2014 to 1/1/2015

The YMCA of Honolulu is pleased to provide a final report to the Hawaii Community Foundation. We are so very grateful for the grant and additional opportunities provided through this relationship.

Activities and Results:

1. How many people were served and in what capacity?

Enrollment totaled 87 middle and high school students. Most students were from the island of Oahu, one from the island of Hawaii, one from Molokai, and two from Maui. Approximately a 12 adult volunteers gave their time to support the program and the students.

2. What challenges did you encounter during the course of your project?

Sustained supervision: We are re-evaluating the roles staff play and to what extent to ensure everyone receives adequate rest. We will also need to increase our volunteer base.

Traditional vs a New Style of Delivery: Traditionally, there had been a sense of rivalry between delegations and at times between individual students. Although this is not always a negative situation, we have begun to reshape the way students and delegations look at and approach one another. Today, we try to intentionally treat students and delegations as a collective team so that a greater sense of community and comradery is formed. This switch in thinking is difficult for some volunteers who have participated in the program for many years.

Staff vs. Teen Led: The program should be planned and executed by the teens themselves with little guidance from adults. This increases ownership, accountability, and pride. However, when the program restarted three years ago none of the teens had program experience, so it had to be adult driven the last few years. We are now in a position to have students take the lead. The students are ready for the opportunity, but the staff is struggling with turning over the program to them. The program director is working with the staff to change that.

3. What unexpected benefits occurred as a result of your project?

One of the highlights for the students was the ability to participate in discussions with key community leaders during elections weekend. This was not on the original schedule and partnering with the Daniel K. Inouye Institute made this possible. Students were amazed with the personalities, connectedness, and drive all of the volunteer speakers had. Many of the students were particularly struck by things they had in common with the speakers. Upon further reflection by the officer candidates, they realized that the shared qualities and characteristics were the characteristics that made a good leader – confident, humble, personable, and a great thinker.

4. How would you characterize the overall impact of the project on your program?

We teach students about the democratic process and issues relevant to all communities, not just their own so that they can gain a larger perspective and understanding about the world around them. This approach has formed a sense of community and connectedness between its participants which is made clear in the way they socialize and communicate. As students gain greater perspective and understanding, they have further shaped their own values and beliefs which have given them more self-confidence.

Waiialua student: "Youth and Government has always been such an amazing program to me and it has shaped my life in so many profound ways. When I started out as a rookie I was scared, nervous, and shy. I could hardly communicate my beliefs on certain subjects and had trouble making friends. But over the years, this barrier of self-doubt and limitation has disappeared. This program helped me step out of my comfort zone, make my beliefs heard, and establish many relationships with others. I went from a shy, quite, young teen to a confident outgoing young adult. I wouldn't be writing these words down right now if this program meant nothing to me. I truly care and want others who step into this program to take advantage of its endless possibilities it has offered me."

Kaimuki student: "This year's state session was great... No, it was amazing. This session I've been able to step outside of my comfort zone and run for office, make new friends, and even talk more in chambers. The Youth and Government Program has done so much for me in the only two years I've been a part of it. I've learned that I can be capable of great things, some just haven't happened yet."

5. What is the next step for this program? Is the program likely to be sustained?

We intend on expanding this program in two ways: 1) increased enrollment both from Oahu and the neighbor islands and 2) program offerings. We intend to increase enrollment by meeting with school officials and educators to talk about the positive effects the program has. We will also be scheduling staff members to fly to the neighbor islands to meet officials and educators but also to help train students and volunteers. In 2015 we will send our first delegation of students to the Conference on National Affairs in North Carolina. Students will write and prepare to debate proposals at the national level. The program will always have difficulty becoming sustainable because the nature of the program and its direct costs. Having said that, if not for the cost, students continue to return year to year.

Respectfully submitted by:



Michael Broderick
President and CEO

YMCA Youth & Government 2014 Expenses

Expenses for Daniel K. Inouye Memorial Fund Grant		
1	Office Supplies	\$ 7.00
2	Recreational Supplies	\$ 2,575.00
3	Food & Beverage Supplies	\$ 3,793.00
4	Postage	\$ 98.00
5	Printing & Publications	\$ 502.00
6	Program Admissions	\$ 470.00
7	Program Hotel, Meals & Incidentals	\$ 79.00
8	Program Air Travel	\$ 1,643.00
9	Owned Vehicle Expense	\$ 50.00
10	Program Assistance	\$ 783.00
	TOTAL	\$ 10,000.00