

Survival Kits 4 the Real World

News Release

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Sixteen O'ahu Organizations Come Together 4 - *Survival Kits 4 the Real World*

O'ahu – On Tuesday October 14, 2003 Hawaii's high school students will begin to distribute 7,000 *Survival Kits 4 the Real World* to their peers at various public high schools around O'ahu.

These ground breaking Kits are in direct response to Hawaii's students outpouring of requests for information and local service providers and community organizations wanting to fulfill those needs. Never before have so many different service providers and community organizations come together to support our students and help prepare them for the future. "It is like FDR said, 'We cannot always build the future for our youth but we can build our youth for the future.' That is but one, albeit a major goal of the Kits" Michael Golojuch, Jr. *Survival Kits 4 the Real World* co-Coordinator.

While each piece in the Kit may not speak to every student, every student does know someone who could appreciate and use this information to keep them safe, more informed, and in some cases, alive.

The *Survival Kits 4 the Real World* as a whole are about freedom of speech, access to information and helping to provide our students a forum for critical thinking. While providing this forum we hope the Kits prepare our students to be active, contributing members of our communities and the world at large. For this to be possible students must have access to multiple sources of information as found in the Kits. When equipped with this knowledge our students will be more prepared to be responsible decision makers.

The local service providers and community organizations that are represented in the Kits are:

- American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
- American Friends Service Committee: Gay Liberation Project
- American Friends Service Committee: Demilitarization Program
- The Center – Hawai'i (formerly the Gay & Lesbian Community Center)
- Compassion in Dying of Hawai'i
- Domestic Violence Clearing House and Legal Hotline
- Hale Kipa
- Hawai'i Covering Kids
- Life Foundation
- Not In Our Name - Hawai'i
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays – O'ahu Chapter (PFLAG-O'ahu)
- Planned Parenthood of Hawai'i
- Real
- Refuse and Resist – Hawai'i
- Sisters Offering Support
- TeenLine

While each organization represented may not agree on every issue we all agree with the Mission Statement designed for *Survival Kits 4 the Real World*:

We the organizations involved in the *Survival Kits 4 the Real World* Project uphold the right for youth to have access to multiple sources of information so that they may make their own informed and responsible choices.

Those involved in this project may not support all viewpoints included in this packet, but we believe in freedom of speech and access to various opinions and voices.

It's all about REAL LIFE, REAL WORLD, REAL RESPECT.

The Kits are also about diversity and that can be seen just by looking at the organizations involved. Through our diversity we find our strength. It is our differences that help us grow as a society and a democracy. Each group has a steadfast commitment to the richness of diversity – in particular diversity in thought, opinion and beliefs. Even though each organization involved does not all agree on subjects we hold each other in the highest esteem.

We hope that this historic project collaboration will be a model for not only for similar projects like this but for the principle of finding strength through diversity.

Survival Kits 4 the Real World could not have been possible without the support of our benefactors: The Hawai'i People's Fund, Holly Huber & Mitch Kahle, Georgia Acevedo, Fred Rainville & Martin Rice, Ken Scott, Bob & Thanh Bidwell, Mike & Carolyn Golojuch, Compassion In Dying of Hawai'i, Al Toda, Thomas Aitken, Robert Aitken, PFLAG - Hilo Chapter, Alana Gay Haught, Alii.Net, Kiti & Tony Bartel, Define Normal and especially Revolution Books who gave *Survival Kits 4 the Real World* a home with the generous use of their bookstore.

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