

# LAHAINA NEWS

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**A new county fund will help expand local businesses.**

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## Committee seeks donations for Fourth of July fireworks in Lahaina

BY MARK VIETH/EDITOR

LAHAINA — LahainaTown Action Committee members plan to approach Lahaina businesses soon, seeking donations for the town's Fourth of July celebration and fireworks.

After taking coordination of the popular event back from the Maui Chamber of Commerce this year, LAC appointed Fran Mitsumura, Connie Sutherland, Becky Lennon, Jill Holley and Joan McKelvey to raise \$46,000 for the 2014 Independence Day fireworks show.

The committee hopes to grow donations from Front Street restaurants and the boating community, which celebrate the Fourth of July and benefit from the event.

"Although Maui County is the primary sponsor of the event, the event still requires merchant assistance to cover the majority of the cost to produce the event," Holley said.

"The nice thing about the event is that it is very popular with an expected attendance of 10,000 to 20,000. I believe the merchants that help make the event possible will have a great economic bump for the event while making sure Maui residents and visitors enjoy a wonderful Fourth of July celebration. All donations will be included in our marketing efforts."

Lahaina's Fourth of July celebration has become one of the island's biggest events.

"Lahaina Town hosts an old town-fashioned Independence Day celebration with family activities all afternoon, a street closing... plus boat special events, concert in the park, prime restaurant seating, community food booths, live music and, of course, fabulous fireworks display over the ocean at 8 p.m.," Holley explained.

"The event drives local traffic to the Lahaina area, along with the visitors who are in search of a patriotic celebration."

SEE DONATIONS ON PAGE 20



**California artist Greg LaRock drew a crowd while painting the Pioneer Inn from Banyan Tree Park during the Pioneer Inn Lahaina Harbor Quick Draw on Friday. The event was part of the ninth annual Maui Plein Air Painting Invitational held in Lahaina last week. See page 7 for results of the artists' competition.**

## Community encouraged to support Alex Muto's dream

BY LOUISE ROCKETT

NAPILI — Last summer, 17-year-old Maui Preparatory Academy student Alex Muto attended the Anthony Robbins Foundation Global Youth Leadership Summit (GLYS).

At the annual conference, participants are encouraged to identify personal goals, pledge a commitment to community service and make a difference.

Alex came home inspired; now, he's on a mission to make a better world for tomorrow starting today.

He's founded the Hawaii Leadership Corps (HLC), a force that will join him in 2014 to experience the five-day life-changing program held at the University of California, San Diego — for free.

Alex is steadfast in his values.

"I personally believe knowledge should be free. I don't think knowledge should be withheld, and I want to make sure

that this opportunity is given to the community as a whole equally, so that everybody has the chance to be able to go," he told the Lahaina News.

He spread the word across the island at sporting events, canoe regattas, through e-mail blasts, school drama groups and word of mouth.

"It's starting now. We already have 37 kids enrolled, committed to going; and we're working on raising funds. We are looking to give this opportunity to learn these life skills that the Anthony Roberts Foundation teaches," he advised.

Students have enlisted in the HLC from Molokai, Maui Prep, Lahainaluna High School, Seabury Hall, Kihei Charter School and Kamehameha Schools. Some are home-schooled, others are Door of Faith, Kahana youth parishioners, and two are from the Mainland.

Kameryn Pupunu attended the summit with Alex last year and will be joining the HLC in 2014.

"I want to say that GYLS was the absolute best experience I've ever had. This program was amazing... and I can't say that enough. I learned so many things about life and myself," Pupunu said.

Alex's vision is worthy: "to give this opportunity for them to



**Muto**

take the power of their life into their hands."

"My mission," he added, "is to be able to give the opportunity and the chance for a lot of students of Maui and also a lot of the other people in Maui to be able to achieve their dreams... and overcome a lot of the mental challenges that would stand in their way — like fears, limiting beliefs and other things that would arise in their life that may cut their dreams short."

The objective is empowerment through sharing, collaboration, innovation, leadership, creativity and networking.

"I've had the opportunity to go to a great school. I've had the opportunity to have tutors and to have things and to meet different people and have different coach-

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