

sion statewide. It might be possible to assemble a publishable volume of the conference proceedings.

But such a venture is best pursued by a broad community coalition. Under the present circumstance, where there is a common need for a common education, nothing could better further our community's interest in carrying out responsible and effective deliberation on the choices that PAD may soon force upon us.

Special Commentary

Documentary on the Work of Dr Mitsuo Aoki Looking for Families to Share Their Experiences

A Healing Journey to Show How the Hawaii Counselors Provide Comfort to the Catastrophically Ill and Their Families

When serious illness strikes it can be one of the most painful, stressful and confusing times. But it doesn't have to be that way, according to Dr Mitsuo Aoki, who for more than 30 years has acted as counselor and facilitator to more than 300 Hawaii patients and their families and friends. He has taught them to learn from the illness by providing a framework to a better understanding of life and the healing process.

As a Professor of Religion Emeritus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, he has devoted his life to counseling families who are facing catastrophic illnesses. Dr Aoki, or "Mits" as he is known to many, uses cultural and spiritual traditions from Asia, Polynesia and Europe in helping the ill through their journey. His approach combines humanism and gentle humor with deep compassion.

Didi Leong is the Executive Producer of A Healing Journey, an hour-long documentary that will show the results of Dr Aoki's professional techniques as he works with patient and their families.

The program will show how Dr Aoki works with a few families who are dealing with this difficult time. "We want the film to bring out that even in our darkest hours, it can be a time of enlightenment, love and compassion," said Aoki. "When people come together to face these difficult situations, it presents opportunities for sharing, honesty, and growth and truly connecting with loved ones...connections that will succeed our mortal lives."

This documentary will be the first multicultural contribution to the audiovisual literature on dealing with the serious illness of loved ones.

The production team is nearly finished raising funds for the unique project and is now looking for families who will let the film crew document how Dr Aoki helps the patient, family and friends during the process.

Instead of being created by a scriptwriter's imagination, the intimate interaction between families and Dr Aoki will be captured directly on videotape.

"We have an unusual request; that a person who is seriously ill allow us to record the interaction between Mits Aoki and that person, his/her family and friends during the months-long process," said documentary producer Melanie Kosaka. "The sharing of that

personal process could be one of the most valuable gifts a person could ever give to others," she continued.

When complete, the documentary will air on Hawaii Public Television. It will be offered to national and regional television stations throughout the Public Broadcasting System.

The dedicated production team includes Executive Producer Didi Leong, Producers Melanie Kosaka and Bob Bates, Director Joy Chong-Stannard, Project Producer Muffy Gushi and Associate Producer Cindy Powell.

If you have a patient who would like to be included in the documentary, A Healing Journey, call Melanie Kosaka at 808-537-3537 or Muffy Gushi at 808-242-4507 (Maui).

A Healing Journey is a co-production of Lotus Films, KHET Hawaii Public Television and Community Development Pacific with support from the Alexander & Baldwin Foundation, Atherton Family Foundation, Chung Kun & David Ai Trusts, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Ayabe, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bakken, Fred Berry, Sumiko Biller, Robert E. Black Foundation, Borthwick Group, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cassidy, Dr & Mrs Robert Fujimoto, Gannet Foundation, Mr & Mrs James Grownney, Hawaii Biodyne Inc., Hawaii Planing Mill Co., HMSA, Julia Ing, Island Insurance Companies, Mr & Mrs Peter Lee, The Sun Leong Family, Mr and Mrs Herb Lotman, K. J. Luke Foundation, Bev Lum, Louis and Y. T. Lum Foundation, Manoa Shopping Center, Inc., McInerney Foundation, Bill Mills, James Napier, L. Q. Pang Foundation, Dr M. Pierre Pang, Servco Pacific, Colleen Sullivan, The Sullivan family, C. S. Wo Foundation, Mr & Mrs Francis Wong, and Pundy and Shirley Yokouchi.



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