

AGE OUT LOUD! | SATURDAY, OCT. 28, 2017



MEO photo

Maui County Independent Living Specialists: JulieAnn, Lani and Kathleen serving Molokai, Lanai and Maui. Missing from photo: Brian Hauser, Advocacy Coordinator.

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii: Ready to Help You 'Age Out Loud'

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Maui Independent Living Specialist

Aloha Independent Living Hawaii is a grassroots non-profit agency with a mission to provide independent living programs and services to persons with disabilities throughout the state of Hawaii. AILH is currently the only statewide Center for Independent Living, which by definition is a consumer-controlled, cross-disability, nonresidential agency that provides independent living services in the community with a majority of staff and board members who have disabilities.

In Maui County AILH has three Independent Living Specialists covering Maui, Lanai, and Molokai. Each strives to help those with any type of disability obtain appropriate information and referrals as well as achieve his/her independent living goals. Goals may include locating accessible housing, advocating for access to appropriate services and benefits, learning to complete a task of daily living more independently, using public transportation, or making social connections through peer support. The IL Specialist also can help with transition, either a young adult transitioning from school to living on his/her own, or someone transitioning from a nursing home to community living. In addition, an Advocacy Coordinator based on Maui

works on systems advocacy projects including legislation that ensures inclusiveness and accessibility statewide.

Peer support groups are an important component of AILH services. A Mixed Group comprised of men and women of all ages with various disabilities meets monthly on both Maui and Molokai for social recreation and discussion of important topics. The Vision Impairment and Blindness Education and Peer Support Group meets the last Wednesday of the month in Kahului, Maui. Anyone experiencing visual impairment is welcome to attend and learn more about the group. Low vision and legal blindness increases significantly with age, particularly those over age 65, but it should not mean a loss of independence. Group members benefit from learning about resources, strategies, and personal experiences to help with adjustment to vision loss and to continue living an active life.

If you or someone you care about is living with a disability, give AILH a call. One of the IL Specialists would love to help you "Age Out Loud" and achieve your independent living goals. Services are free and the only eligibility requirement is that the person must have a permanent disability. For more information visit Aloha Independent Living Hawaii online at www.alohaihawaii.org or call 800-385-2454.