

News from NFB - Kauai Chapter

by Tomiko Asah, Kauai Chapteri

Nani Fife, NFB Hawaii president, was a guest speaker at our August 4, 2011, monthly meeting. Nani came to help us celebrate our fifth year anniversary. In addition, she informed us of the upcoming State Convention – events, activities, program, etc. – and encouraged us to attend. The national President, Dr. Marc Maurer, an outstanding speaker will be the honored guest and main speaker.

Mr. Glen Goldsmith, a horticulturist and specialist in plant breeding, was our guest speaker. Mr. Goldsmith shared his rich childhood and college background and career experiences with seed production and growing of new varieties of flowers, expanding to even other parts of the world. He eventually turned his 100 acres with 3,000 employees to his sons, who eventually sold the company to the company on Kauai that grows corn.

Bob Pebble, introduced a new magnifier that might be useful, using a credit card as a demonstration, Gladys Okada said she has a magnifier, too, with 3 different magnifications.

Betty has brochures she will share with us that she picked up at the NFB National Convention. She also has stamps that say “Blind Material” that you can send with out postage. She will also share the NFB catalogue when she receives it.

Gladys Okada, fund-raising chairperson, urged members to sell their share of their chili tickets. The money will be used to finance the transportation to the State Convention in October for those attending. Two days will be scheduled for ticket selling at the entrance of the mall.

The program and activities for the rest of the 2011 year were discussed and finalized. October 6, 2011, our annual White Cane Awareness Day will be held at the Me Kukui Grove Mall from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM with the East Kauai Lions Club members assisting us once again.

The annual Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons were on November 3, 2011, and December 1, 2011 at the Wailae Marina Restaurant and were enjoyed by all.

Honolulu Chapter

Finia's Story

by Finia Kachita, Honolulu Chapter

I was born in the Pacific island Chuuk Micronesia, the fourth child of five. At the age of two, I became ill, lost my site. Out of the five children, I was the only one who left home to further my education.

At age six, my family moved to Guam for a new start. After high school, I decided to apply for college and was accepted to the University of Guam. One month later, I had to resign from college because I did not have the necessary

skills nor confidence to get the accommodations, and tools to fulfill my studies.

Making a visit to my VR Counselor trying to figure out a plan, I told her my reasons for resigning college, and then she told me an option, There are schools for the blind that teach mobility, Braille, technology, personal home management and wood shop". I didn't have to think twice, I said, "put my name on the waiting list". Of the centers listed I chose to pursue Hawaii, my parents did not support my decision to pursue my goals because they felt my role was to stay at home. I made up my mind and I was ready to go to Hawaii. The Ho'oponono center teaches blind students independence skills. Throughout my life, my parents kept me at home and never took me out in public to socialize except for school.

July 27, 2007, I arrived in Hawaii, excited, scared and nervous, after all this would be my first time away from home, on my own in a new city with no one familiar.

On June 26, 2008, I graduated from Ho'oponono with a Certificate of Completion. Two days later, Ho'oponono students, members of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii, got on a plane traveling to the NFB National Convention in Dallas to learn what it means to be blind. 3 days after my return, got on another plane to the Grand Canyon, which was also funded through Ho'oponono and NFB of Hawaii. The purpose for this trip was to build confidence and self-esteem as a blind person. We experienced river rafting, hiking, rock and rope climbing.

The next year and a half, I was an inactive member of NFBH, on my own experiencing the world.

In July 2010, I had the opportunity again through NFBH, to experience a trip to Alaska. The purpose of this trip was to experience nature and change a person's attitude toward blindness, "From I can't do anything as a blind person to blindness is not a barrier to success." While there in the wilderness I stood beside a river and made a vow that once I get back home I will clean up my life and start from scratch. At that time I had landed for a year in a homeless shelter and had lost track of my mission in life.

Two weeks after returning I was accepted to Hawaii Job-Corps and enrolled in Business and Finance. I chose Business because my dream is to work as a Rehabilitation Counselor.

Since I started Job Corps, I really began to work with the NFB Honolulu Chapter, helped delegate NFB events; fundraise; serve as a director, and became involved in Legislative hearings that deal with NFB issues.

Recently, I was chosen by Hawaii NFB as our Youth Coordinator, elected chapter secretary and in July I attended Youth Slam as a mentor. I plan to complete Job-Corps and then attend the University of Hawaii.

I am 25 years of age, I've been blind since 2 years old, I use a long cane and I read with Braille and speak two

languages. I believe in my heart that blindness is not a barrier because if given the proper training and tools, we can live a normal productive life. I also believe that each of us are all pioneers, because, we are being watched all the time by society. We are teaching about what it's like to be blind through our actions and words.

In the past I didn't think blind people could do anything, but the NFB has changed my beliefs, to yes, blind people can be successful.

Honolulu Chapter

by Brenda Lucas

The Honolulu Chapter had a guest speaker at it's December meeting. Shana Okada came to discuss her business. She explained it as service accounts for small businesses (business with a revenue of at least a \$1,000,000) to promote their services and products on a mobile platform. Self-employment or finder's fee of \$100per each account referral.

For more information please contact Shana at info@competext.com

You can also look at her website at www.competext.com

2012 Honolulu Chapter

The Honolulu Chapter will be holding a Car Wash fund raiser on Saturday, January 21, 2012 from 9:00

AM to 3:00 PM at the 76 McCully Union Service Station located at 2105 S, King Street across from St. Mary's Church. Tickets can be bought from Honolulu Chapter members for \$8 or just go to the Car Wash on Saturday