



Family Court of the First Circuit — THE JUDICIARY • STATE OF HAWAII
POST OFFICE BOX 3498 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96811-3498

FRANCES Q. F. WONG
SENIOR JUDGE

PATRICK W. BORDER
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

RHONDA A. NISHIMURA
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

District Family Judges
MICHAEL F. BRODERICK
R. MARK BROWNING
JENNIFER L. CHING
KENNETH E. ENRIGHT
CHRISTINE E. KURIYAMA
LINDA K. C. LUKE
PAUL T. MURAKAMI
KAREN M. RADIUS
BODE A. UALE

August 18, 2008

Ms. Cynthia Derosier
Executive Director
HE'E NALU Learning Center
P.O. box 1677
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Dear Cynthia:

It was a pleasure to meet once again with you and Manning Tate and Donna Wong regarding your work and wonderful progress in establishing NALU studies and HE'E NALU Learning Center.

The commitment and leadership that you have each shown in developing and implementing the Surfriider Spirit Sessions supported by community mentors and surf instructors, combining life lessons and environmental science lessons, has been impressive.

Spirit Sessions has enhanced many of the youths' trust and communication and improved their self-esteem. Initially many of the girls in Girls Court could not believe that they could ever learn to surf, but by the end of the very first session each of the girls and staff members were catching waves, surfing with big smiles and feeling a sense of accomplishment. The life lessons of the Spirit Sessions became a springboard for discussions about facing life's challenges and setting and meeting goals, and has sparked their interest in and appreciation of our natural environment.

As we have discussed, many of the youth that are in Family Court are not traditional learners and also have numerous family and environmental challenges that have stood in the way of their education and maturation. The idea of continuing a positive experience like the Spirit Sessions and linking it further to science learning will, we believe, be invaluable for our youth. Manning's passion for teaching and for creating an exciting and relevant curriculum is certainly evident. Learning hands on can open many doors for our youth. Reconnecting them to our community and creating positive relationships with healthy role models will be vital to sparking

an interest in learning. Obtaining a high school or college credit can jump start a renewed interest in education and expanding their horizons beyond to worlds they never thought possible.

We want to thank you, your partners at Windward Community College, the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, the Surfrider Foundation and the individuals and corporations that have helped to make this innovative and much needed program a reality. We look forward to referring our youth to the NALU Studies pilot in 2008.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen M. Radius".

Karen M. Radius
Family Court Judge