

EXPLORE THE PACIFIC

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Elderhostel
Adventures in Lifelong Learning®

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ALOHA FROM HAWAI'I...

Dear Pacific Islands Friends,
 Pacific Islands Institute is alive and well! Many of you have been requesting that we bring back the detailed annual update letter. While this was a wonderful tradition of my mother, Diana W. Lockwood, who passed in 2002, we are short on time and unable to continue with that particular format.

Instead, we have decided on a quarterly newsletter to keep you up-to-date with the latest news on Pacific Islands Institute's travel as well as Hawai'i Pacific University's Elderhostel programs. Each newsletter will feature interesting articles, our latest news, travel programs, staff highlights, and helpful travel information.

This newsletter can be sent to you via "snail-mail" (the US Post Office) or by email. If you prefer to save paper, please let us know and request to be added to our electronic newsletter list. Contact our office at 808-732-1999 or email us at info@pac-island.com. We welcome your suggestions, and of course, if you would like to be removed from the newsletter list at any time, just let us know.

Since its inception in 1989, PII continues to develop and offer the highest quality educational travel in the Pacific. Of particular note was our recent honor to have been chosen for three awards in the past year! While satisfaction from those of you that travel with us is the most important



recognition we receive, it was an honor to be recognized by the industry as well. (*Details on page 2.*)

If it has been a while (or even if it has not), we invite you to join us again on one of our travel explorations. Meanwhile, send us your ideas for features in future newsletters, and we hope you enjoy this first issue.

Aloha,

Andrew Lockwood

President

WHAT'S NEW?

Visit our new website at www.ExplorethePacific.com where we have updated our look and provided information on our travel programs.

The new website is constantly being improved and new features are being added. Keep checking back to see

the changes and updated photos from recent trips.

The PII website will be a one-stop place for information about our current travel programs, the company, our destinations, general travel tips and forms. In the future, we hope to

add features that will allow you to submit your photos and comments from your travels with us.

Don't forget our website is open 24/7! You don't need to worry about the time difference...

◆◆◆◆◆ DID YOU KNOW? ◆◆◆◆◆

Pacific Islands Institute (PII) was honored on multiple occasions in 2006 and 2007 for our quality travel programs.

This past April, PII was named the 2007 Ecotour Operator of the Year by the Hawai'i Ecotourism Association (www.hawaiiecotourism.org).

This award aims to recognize Hawai'i ecotourism operations who demonstrate, a commitment to environmental stewardship, cultural sensitivity, community enhancement, educational content, or all of the above. This award is the "Hawai'i Ecotourism Association's highest honor for our members," says Danny Boren, HEA President.

At the 15th annual Keep It Hawai'i Program last year, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority awarded PII with its top award, the Koa Award, for its "long-term and exemplary commitment to helping preserve and perpetuate Hawai'i's host culture for visitors and residents alike." The Koa Award has been awarded only twice ever. In 2005, it went to Hawaiian Airlines. As a small organization among numerous large hotels and companies in Hawai'i's tourism industry, we were surprised and honored to have been so recognized.

Also in 2006, PII earned a Hawai'i's Living Reef Award – Travel/Tourism Business category for our work in



Hawai'i Tourism Authority's 15th Annual Keep it Hawai'i Koa Award

From left: Douglas Chang, HTA Board President; Karen Lockwood, Andrew Lockwood and Leslie Pelton of Pacific Islands Institute

promoting coral reef conservation through educating visitors to Hawai'i in our marine studies travel programs.

◆◆◆◆◆ Meet the PII Family ◆◆◆◆◆

Since joining the family business in 1992, Andrew Lockwood has led and worked with many wonderful and talented people, and today, it is no different.

Since 2005, we have completely changed over. Karen Lockwood, Andrew's wife of 15 years (2nd from right), joined PII as the Director of Business Development to develop our sales and marketing efforts.

Soon after, Michele Tolentino (1st on left) joined us and is our Office Manager, ensuring that the office runs smoothly. Michele is assisted by Sarah Cheung, our part-time administrative assistant.

Leslie Pelton (2nd from left), our Pro-

gram Manager, came aboard in October 2005 and is responsible for the operation of our quality programs. She is assisted by Letitia Dang (center), our part-time Programs Assistant.

Finally, John Mah helps part-time with special projects.



2008 Festival of the Pacific Arts

The Festival of Pacific Arts takes place once every four years in different parts of the Pacific. This next event is scheduled for July 2008 in American Samoa. (www.festival-pacific-arts.org)

Be one of the few visitors attending, and join us as we immerse ourselves into local cultures, music, dance and arts of the Pacific Islanders.

The festival is a bridge for Pacific people to celebrate their differences and similarities. In usual fashion, PII will have expert guest speakers and exclusive access to the host culture as well

as time for you to explore the Festival at your leisure.

"Final" itinerary and cost details are almost complete. This will be PII's 4th Festival program and is a special experience not to be missed!

Please contact our office if you are interested in joining us.