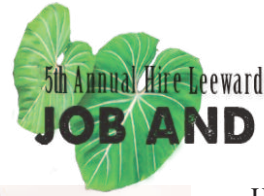




75 Employers Came to Hire Leeward

2,000 Leeward Residents Showed Up



JOB AND CAREER FAIR

For the fifth year in a row, Leeward residents flocked to the Annual Hire Leeward Job & Career Fair on June 24, 2017, looking for jobs closer to home. The prospect of no longer having to spend 90 minutes or more on the road driving into Honolulu, and then repeating it all over again on the way back home, was powerful incentive for the nearly 2,000 people who came to the fair on the University of Hawaii – West O‘ahu campus.

Since it began five years ago, the Hire Leeward Job & Career Fair has changed many lives. The success stories speak for themselves.

Malia Ching

For years, Malia Ching of Nānākuli spent up to four hours a day in traffic, driving to and from Downtown Honolulu for work.

Then about four years ago, looking to spend more time with her family, the medical professional started searching for a job closer to home.

Today, Malia continues to work in healthcare as a Clinic Operations Manager at the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center’s Kapolei Health Care Center. Most importantly, she reclaimed several hours of her life. Her commute, which once took two hours in each direction, now takes only five minutes.

“Working closer to home gives me more time to be with my family and friends,” said Malia. “I’m able to get home in five minutes and cook a sensible dinner that my family can enjoy at 6 o’clock instead of at 8.”



Drew Cabacungan

Drew Cabacungan, Kapolei resident and father, has a similar story. For over a decade, Drew battled rush hour traffic to and from work for up to three hours a day. The commute took a toll on him, and he knew he needed a change.

One early morning, as Drew was getting ready for work, a local morning news story caught his eye.

The Four Seasons Resort O‘ahu at Ko Olina was soon coming to Kapolei, and in anticipation of their grand-opening, they were hosting a job fair for Leeward residents looking to work closer to home. When Drew saw this, he felt he had found a new opportunity.

“When I learned about Hire Leeward and how many residents like myself are making career switches to work closer to home, I told myself: ‘What do I have to lose? Let’s take a chance.’” Drew said, “I went ahead and applied for a new job.”



A year ago, Drew landed the position of Assistant Director of Purchasing at Four Seasons Resort O‘ahu at Ko Olina. Today, his commute to work has decreased from 90 minutes to ten minutes.

“After finding a job closer to home, I have saved up to 20 hours a week — hours which I used to spend sitting in traffic,” Drew reflected. “I have much more time to spend with my three-year-old, I can enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning... I actually started working out again!”

Rose of Ewa Beach

For Rose of Ewa Beach, it was even more exciting. A certified nursing assistant, Rose was looking for a second job closer to home, but was hesitant about attending the recent Hire Leeward job fair. She wasn’t sure she would find anything. To her surprise, she interviewed with Ka Punawai Ola, a nursing home, and was hired on the spot.

“I’m so excited,” said Rose. “I didn’t believe I could find a job.”



KAPOLEI PROPERTIES DIVISION

Kapolei Properties Division is a division of the James Campbell Company LLC focusing on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

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