

## How Supportive Housing Can Change Lives

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It is easy to imagine, then, that when Ikaika experienced a paralyzing injury he became distraught, angry and depressed. He went through a number of years being angry before he found the strength to accept his injury and to focus on the fact that he had friends and family that cared about him and wanted him to succeed in life. He now advocates for persons with disabilities every chance he gets. He wants to educate people so they feel comfortable around persons with disabilities.



*Hale Kuha'o*



*Ikaika*

Hale Kuha'o helped Ikaika take his first steps to regaining independence, and has allowed him to be in control of certain aspects of his life again. His unit (as are all units in Hale Kuha'o) is equipped with an Environmental Control Unit (ECU) that provides a number of innovative features. The ECU is a voice activated computer system that recognizes Ikaika's voice and follows his commands to open and close the windows and draw and open the drapery, operate the lights, television and stereo, answer the telephone, adjust his electric bed, and open the door to his unit and the secured project door for guests, which he is able to see on his computer monitor. Ikaika is also able to open the door to his apartment and the secured doors to the project from the outside with an electronic key card instead of a key. He generously volunteers to demonstrate the ECU to all those interested. Every year he welcomes students visiting from Japan to his apartment. He wants to heighten their awareness and to demonstrate the innovative technology and approaches to daily living that can be used to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

In 2004, Ikaika graduated from the University of Hawaii with a degree in Computer Science. His next goal is to return to the University of Hawaii to obtain a master's degree in teaching or counseling. Before I concluded my visit, he presented me with a DVD of his life and reflections. I was able to experience his performances as a dancer, to see how his life evolved to being an advocate for the disabled and to see his joy when he is with family and friends.

When a child is born, it is a tradition that kupuna, or family elder, give the child a Hawaiian name. Ikaika was given the name Kekeikikoikaikaokalani by his grandfather. The name translates to "a strong child." When Ikaika was younger, he thought the name represented the physical strength he was able demonstrate through his weight training and dance. He now realizes his grandfather gave him the name because of the strength he has in his heart and mind, which is allowing him to accept his disability and do something productive with his life. The name truly suits him, and Hale kuha'o is proud to be a part of Ikaika's story.

### Fraud Prevention

In September 2005, HUD's Office of the Inspector General published a brochure entitled "Fraud Prevention—Guidance for Managers of HUD Assisted Rental Housing Programs." The brochure outlines what can be done to combat fraud, how to report suspected fraud, and how to establish a fraud policy.

Copies of the brochure can be obtained at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/oig/index.dfm>, then click on Fraud Awareness Documents.

### Fair Housing

In January 2006 the Department issued a new brochure, "Fair Housing Equal Opportunity for All", which outlines the provisions of the Fair Housing Act and provides useful information to residents and management about their rights under the law.

Copies of the brochure can be obtained at [www.Hudclips.org](http://www.Hudclips.org). The Form Number is HUD-1686-FHEO.