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8th Annual Fundraising Event - in Support of Hawaii's Sexually-Abused Children

(Friday, April 18 2008) Written by Becker Communications

HONOLULU (April 18, 2008) - On Saturday, May 10, 2008, the Children's Alliance of Hawaii will host its 8th annual Mahealani, Night of the Full Moon, fundraiser at the enchanting Moanalua Gardens, home of the famous Hitachi tree. The event raises much-needed funds to support services and programs for Hawaii's sexually-abused children. The evening will feature food by Maui Chef Bev Gannon, silent and live auctions, live entertainment by Na Hoku Hanohano award-winning Maunaloa, specially commissioned hand-blown glass centerpieces by Alan Ness and an awards program honoring Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Thalia Murphy for her exceptional dedication to child sex abuse cases in the state for over 20 years.

Chef Gannon, whose Hali'imaile General Store restaurant celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, will bring her much acclaimed trademark Hawaii Regional Cuisine to the event. Adding to the incredible evening under the stars will be a keynote speech by Chief Justice Ronald T. Moon as well as the hapa-haole song stylings of the Maridian Jazz Band, an all lawyer trio, who will be part of the entertainment. A highlight of the evening will be the special presentation to Murphy, who has devoted the past 24 years of her career to prosecuting sexual abuse cases in Hawaii and providing assistance to victims. She has worked on more sexual abuses cases than anyone in the state and touched the lives of hundreds of women and children. Hawaii Women Lawyers honored Murphy as the 2005 Outstanding Woman of the Year, and in 2006, she was nominated for the Honolulu Police Department Citizenship Award.

Hawaii Attorney General Mark Bennett will be on hand to present the award to Murphy on behalf of the Children's Alliance. The event, which will be emceed by KHON's Kathy Muneno and Kanoa Leahey, will also recognize law enforcement officials who have dedicated their lives to fighting abuse cases.

"The Children's Alliance of Hawaii is able to provide therapeutic services to sexually abused children and help them heal from their trauma in large part due to the support of incredibly dedicated law enforcement officials like Thalia Murphy and the Hawaii Police Department," said President Alfred J. Herrera "Without these caring and courageous people, many children would not get the help and treatment that they need and deserve."

Added Mahealani Event Chair Alice Robinson, "I am honored to be part of an organization that is so instrumental in helping Hawaii's children. Child sex abuse affects so many lives each year, and the Children's Alliance exists to give them a brighter future. Fundraisers like this help show people that, with a little effort, we can help to change lives for the better."

Mahealani will begin at 6 p.m. Table sponsorships are available for \$2,500 to \$10,000 and individual tickets are \$175. For reservations or more information, please call Kim Bartenstein at 599-2955 ext 216 or visit www.cahawaii.org/index.php/site/events/.

Incorporated in 1987, The Children's Alliance of Hawaii is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide care and support for sexually abused children, offering hope for the future. The organization assists the Children's Justice Center and serves sexually abused children from toddlers through teens with a specialized continuum of therapeutic and enhancement programs. For more information, please call (808) 599-2955 or visit www.cahawaii.org.

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