HAWAIIAN ISLANDS GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY SOCIETY

Aloha,

At long last, our community is now able to benefit from regular opportunities for advanced training in group psychotherapy, which before now have rarely been available. We have now established the Hawaiian Islands Group Psychotherapy Society (HIGPS), an affiliate chapter of the American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) www.agpa.org/. 

No-cost membership of our affiliate is available for the first year (through Sept 2015) – PLUS all who join during this time will be a FOUNDING member!!

Locally, we will have gatherings for members (and interested potential members), to network and learn. We continue to work out details, and your ideas/help are welcome! We will be happy to keep you in the loop about future HIGPS meetings and events.

The majority of people involved so far live on Maui and Oahu; each of these islands has a “Co” President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to 4 Members-at-Large. The bylaws are currently being finalized.

We encourage everyone to also become a member of AGPA, if you are not already. AGPA membership, in collaboration with our own independent local society, gives us access to a national group that is dedicated to training, research, and supporting the development of group therapy in many forms, and providing a wide variety of group therapy-related services to our communities that we may not easily get otherwise. AGPA offers invaluable training that enhances our own work and enables us to train and supervise others. The cohesiveness that develops in a local group society cannot be replicated in other professional societies. Our affiliate will provide group therapy, group trainings, board meetings, conferences and conversations that create a bond that endures over time. AGPA is the foundational/organizing structure that helps to make this happen.

AGPA’s Annual Meetings (conferences) are incredibly rich experiences, with the most highly esteemed presenters who, in addition to being among the "best of the best," are also some of the most enjoyable people you will ever meet. (Next is in San Francisco, Feb. 2015.) There is so much to learn about various group processes and facilitation, and we’ll now be making that knowledge more accessible here! We have significant "local talent" (certainly among those reading this email) who could share their breadth and wealth of knowledge and experience at future HIGPS events and conferences.

I am eager to hear back from each of you, so please be in touch. Feel free to pass this information along to others. It's exciting to be part of the HIGPS!

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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