

## ***"Building Community Is More Than "Housing"***

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**Intended Audience:** All Audiences

### **Session Description:**

What is Community? What do we mean by community? Communities form around an uncustomary social invention, small groups of common citizens coming together to form organizations that solve problems. Hale Na`au Pono formed and governed by the Wai`anae people, and staffed by a vast majority of Wai`anae residents, first decided they had the power to identify what was the problem with the Mental Health System on the Wai`anae Coast and decided that they would themselves become the key actors in planning and implementing the solution. Come meet the community of people who have a special eye for the gift, the potential, the capacity of those who are said to be "in special need." Contrast the transformation of services that lead people out of community and into dependency and those cultural activities that support people in community life. We are seeking nothing less than a life surrounded by the richness and diversity of community. A life filled with luau gatherings, barbecues and hula. A powerful life that creates happy people in an inclusive world.