



Children at the Hale Moku Community Center enjoy a Playmorning. Navy community centers throughout Oahu host Playmornings weekly for neighborhood children.

# COMMUNITY CENTRAL: FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

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Navy community centers across the island are free for residents of Navy housing areas to use at their leisure. There are eight Navy housing areas on Oahu. Each of them has a community center for its residents to use. Community Central is committed to ensuring residents of Navy housing communities are able to fully utilize their facilities.

"We want input from the residents in the communities so we can serve them better," said Lara A. Askerooth, MWR Special Events and Corporate Sponsorship coordinator. Askerooth also oversees Community Central.

In the past, community boards would charge residents for use of the facilities. New instructions amended that policy. Community Central is now the liaison between the community centers and the residents.

"In the past, the various community centers were worried about MWR consolidating control," said Dawn Julch, president of the Iroquois Point/Pu'uoloa Community Center. "Now that everyone can see that they are not against us, the mood has changed dramatically. Things we used to have to go and find on our own or raise money for, MWR provides for us. It's a lot better now than it was before," explained Julch.

Each center has different levels of availability. The best way for residents to ensure they can use the center for their gathering is to plan ahead. Residents must contact Community Central to schedule their get-together. At least 10 days before their event, they must pay a refundable \$50 cleaning deposit and

sign a contract for use of the facility. Community Central can provide many amenities for special parties such as bounce houses, popcorn poppers, dunk tanks and planning services so residents can make their party even more special. Community Central also schedules leisure classes and events for residents.

"We try to tailor available activities to the needs of the residents of each community," said Askerooth.

Residents can request special leisure classes or activities at their community centers. One special activity offered at most community centers is a Playmorning for children. The Armed Services YMCA hosts the Playmornings for children to five years of age. Generally, there are around 20 children at a Playmorning.

"The program is to provide moms and dads an outlet to get out of the house and give them a chance to get out and interact and play with their children," said Robbie Peyton, Playmorning coordinator for the ASYMCA. "For the children, it's an opportunity to have a good time and interact with other children their own age. In addition to the free play, we do crafts and have a circle time where we gather to sing and tell stories. We also provide parents with information on nutrition for the children and other helpful topics," she said.

Among the many activities afforded residents at their community centers, there are dance classes, instrument classes, various scouting organizations and an array of martial arts classes at the centers. For adults, there are aerobics classes, dance classes, martial arts training and other fitness programs. Special events and pre-planned ac-

tivities from Community Central are not the only uses for the Community Centers.

Residents with special interests can also reserve the community centers for their group's gathering. The "Thunderforge" and "Dogs" groups meet monthly at the Hale Moku community center.

"Thunderforge and Dogs are gaming clubs that meet at the community center," said Jim Hurst, representative for both clubs. "Thunderforge stays mainly with role-playing games and trading card games, like Pokemon. Dogs has an additional aspect - they have miniature gaming. That's where players use 3-D characters on tabletop and re-enact WWII or Civil War-type battle scenes." Each community center provides input to help Community Central fully understand what they would like to have for their residents.

"Every community center is looking for people to get involved with advisory boards or association boards for the community," said Askerooth. "We handle accountability and help align individual centers with current Navy instructions that are in place. The intent is to allow the residents to use the center for their personal use."

Askerooth encourages resident participation with their community centers. For residents who are unsure about where to get information about activities in their community, MWR publishes Liberty Call every other month. There is a Community Central section in that periodical. Residents interested in reserving their community center for a special event or gathering can call 471-8658 and speak with someone in Community Central.



Students in Lynn Kinoshita's "jazzy hip-hop/acro" level two dance class practice at the Catlin-Halsey-Radford-Miller Community Center.



Members of Girl Scouts Troop 282 volunteer their time to sell Girl Scout cookies in front of the Halsey Mini Mart. The troop uses the Catlin-Halsey-Radford-Miller Community Center as its meeting place.

The Easter egg hunt/Spring celebration is the next scheduled event Community Central is providing for the centers. Each celebration will be at the respective community center, except for the Catlin-Halsey-Radford-Miller event. Their celebration will be at Halsey Terrace Park. Residents can attend the next community meeting at their community center. The schedule of meetings and the dates for the celebration follow:

Center	Time	Mar. Mtg	Apr. Mtg	Event date/time
Camp Stover	7 p.m.	4	1	3/30/02 10-11 a.m.
Catlin/Halsey Radford/Miller	7 p.m.	12	9	3/23/02 9-10:30 a.m.
McGrew Point	6:30 p.m.	19	16	3/30/02 3-5 p.m.
Makai	6 p.m.	27	24	3/16/02 10 a.m -2 p.m.
Iroquois Pt/Puuloa	6:30 p.m.	28	25	3/23/02 8-9:30 a.m.
Hale Moku/Hokulani	6:30 p.m.	5	N/A	3/30/02 9-10 a.m.
Pearl City Peninsula	6:30 p.m.	14	N/A	3/23/02 10-11 a.m.
Moanalua Terrace	7 p.m.	11	N/A	3/23/02 8:30-9:30 a.m.