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*“Still here, still raising
puppies, training teams,
and serving our
community.”*

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Welcome to my first newsletter and the ‘better late than never’ 2020 news from Hawaii FI-DO. I am pleased to introduce myself. I took over for Jim a few months ago and have been hard at it trying to steady our ship, keep her on the course Jim and team set for us many moons, ago.

I am pleased to report that we are doing as well as well can be under the circumstances. We are still training our dogs, supporting our teams, and getting together on Zoom as often as possible. We do miss our community friends and hope they will invite us back into our care homes, hospitals and schools as soon as possible. It is frustrating not to be able to provide compassionate care when our friends need us most.

These are indeed complicated times.

While we will not be able to gather for our annual Dining with Dogs event, we are on track to make budget, keeping our programs and services available. And, like so many, we are taking this time to reflect and get creative so that we can continue to support individuals and communities as we have for over 20 years.



First, we are finalizing a pilot partnership with Child and Family Services to introduce our dogs into their therapy programs. We have been planing for months and are, we think, just weeks away from being the first partnership in the state to systematically introduce dogs into a therapeutuc mileu. Ofcourse, the potential of our first significant ‘fee-for-service’ offering is exciting as well.

Second, we expect to be recipients of a grant from Chive Charities, sponsoring a dog team for a US Vet -- the first investment by this national charity in Hawaii. We love the ‘adopt-a-dog’ model and believe it might help us with other funders. Chive will also be considering a grant to support our service offerings for US Vets, specifically the vocational training. We will know in October.

Third, we are closing in on a partnership with PetVet, a telemedicine vetrinary practice. They have agreed to sponsor us with a percentage of each visit... Work continues on that front. The idea of teaming up dog behavioural experts, us, with clinical experts is intriguing.

Finally, you all have remained as generous as ever and we are deeply grateful. For now, we are OK. Wish these were not quite as exciting times. And we all look forward to coming together again as soon circumstances allow. Thank you for all you do to support us as we do all we can to support our community.


Matt Lorin
Executive Director

BURSTING AT THE SCENES

More eyes on us, maybe even on the mainland

When Susan or Dara or I post fun things on our Website, Face Book or Instagram, we can expect around 200-400 of you wonderful, loyal FI-DOists to set eyeballs on our content. It is always a joy to see the consistent engagement. Sometimes, if we pay a little, we can boost our eyeballs as high as 1,000 views. That is all quite rewarding for such a tiny shop. But, it is not clear it is going to be enough. As the situation evolves and small and mighty community-based institutions like ours need to move online for funding, we will need more people to see our work... to be aware. Probably 100 times as many. Well, to that end, we have partnered with a company called BURST.com to help us find creative ways to build awareness of our work without changing the intimate and trusting culture of who we are. More in our next Newsletter.

Welcome our Newest Board Member

Please join the Board and staff in welcoming JoAnn Yuen to our Board. Dr. Yuen recently retired from UH Manoa where she led the Center of Disability Studies. She is a long-time champion of sustainable health and education; and a tireless advocate for at-risk, low-income, low-literacy communities throughout the Pacific basin. We are thrilled to have her aboard.