

From the

Board President

*T*his past year has been filled with successes and new challenges for **Family Support Services of West Hawaii (FSSWH)**. I'm particularly proud of our successes in partnering with other groups and organizations throughout the Big Island, as well as our ability to expand services to children and families throughout West Hawaii.

FSSWH, under the direction of our Board of Directors, has also taken a lead in organizing community response to the crystal methamphetamine (ICE) epidemic that is creating havoc with our families. Our participation in community efforts to halt Ice addiction adds a new level of commitment to the families on the Big Island, as well as to our very own neighborhoods. We are working hard to have healthy communities where families can raise healthy children.

We have managed to not only improve services to West Hawaii families, but have done so in a fiscally prudent and responsible way. We have depended more heavily on governmental funding this past year due to the effect of September 11th on our economy. We are working hard at developing and expanding our private donor database because we recognize it will take a combination of funding streams to continue the present level of quality services we provide our community.

I also want to mention another important FSSWH endeavor - The Council on Accreditation process we recently experienced. We invited this national group to thoroughly examine all of our practices at FSSWH, including "best practices" in service delivery, overall management and oversight by our Board of Directors. This process was very thorough and we have recently been notified that we have been fully accredited. We count this as a major success by staff and board alike!

I invite all of you to learn more about our agency. Read this annual report and I believe you will agree that FSSWH is a very special organization, doing very good work for, and with, the families of West Hawaii.

I also invite you to partner with us to make sure that our children, families, and communities continue to get the support they need. The spirit of ohana and the spirit of community are strong forces in our mission to provide love and care for our children. We could not do this without you!

Mahalo,



John B. Ray
Board President

