

House District _____

Senate District _____

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
APPLICATION FOR GRANTS & SUBSIDIES
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES

Log No: _____

For Legislature's Use Only

Type of Grant or Subsidy Request:

GRANT REQUEST – OPERATING

GRANT REQUEST – CAPITAL

SUBSIDY REQUEST

"Grant" means an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a specified recipient, to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities.

"Subsidy" means an award of state funds by the legislature, by an appropriation to a recipient specified in the appropriation, to reduce the costs incurred by the organization or individual in providing a service available to some or all members of the public.

"Recipient" means any organization or person receiving a grant or subsidy.

STATE DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY RELATED TO THIS REQUEST (LEAVE BLANK IF UNKNOWN): _____

STATE PROGRAM I.D. NO. (LEAVE BLANK IF UNKNOWN): _____

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

Legal Name of Requesting Organization or Individual:

Dba: Rescue Tube Foundation Inc.

Street Address: 5-4280 KUHIO HWY

Mailing Address: Priscoville HI 96722

Rescue Tube Foundation Inc.
POB 223308 PMS 147
Priscoville HI

2. CONTACT PERSON FOR MATTERS INVOLVING THIS APPLICATION:

Name John Gillen

Title President

Phone # 808 634 3450

Fax # _____

e-mail Gillen@Gillen.net

3. TYPE OF BUSINESS ENTITY:

- NON PROFIT CORPORATION
- FOR PROFIT CORPORATION
- LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
- SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP/INDIVIDUAL

6. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF APPLICANT'S REQUEST:

4. FEDERAL TAX ID# _____

5. STATE TAX ID# _____

7. AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS REQUESTED:

FISCAL YEAR 2014: \$ 69,200

8. STATUS OF SERVICE DESCRIBED IN THIS REQUEST:

- NEW SERVICE (PRESENTLY DOES NOT EXIST)
- EXISTING SERVICE (PRESENTLY IN OPERATION)

SPECIFY THE AMOUNT BY SOURCES OF FUNDS AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF THIS REQUEST:

STATE \$ 0

FEDERAL \$ 0

COUNTY \$ 0

PRIVATE/OTHER \$ 15100

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

SIGNATURE

NAME & TITLE

DATE SIGNED

John Gillen, President

1/31/13

Application for Grants and Subsidies

If any item is not applicable to the request, the applicant should enter "not applicable".

I. Background and Summary

This section shall clearly and concisely summarize and highlight the contents of the request in such a way as to provide the State Legislature with a broad understanding of the request. Include the following:

1. A brief description of the applicant's background;

Recognizing the tragedy and senseless loss of human life due to preventable drownings on Kauai, The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc. was formed by concerned residents who had worked with the Rotary Club of Hanalei on their Rescue Tube project in 2011 to provide easily accessible, cost effective ocean rescue devices at regular intervals on our shores.

2. The goals and objectives related to the request;
 - a. Elevate The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc. to the next level, turning it into a self-sustaining, national organization through the addition of a Director that will lead the efforts in research and development, marketing and fund development.
 - b. More rapidly increase the installation of Rescue Tubes.

3. The public purpose and need to be served:

The public purpose is to dramatically reduce the loss of life from preventable drowning events.

The Rescue Tube Foundation has proven its ability to work towards this end though the creation and installation of Installing more than 220 Rescue Tubes , saving 57 known lives in the past three years on Kauai alone

4. Describe the target population to be served; and

While everyone who lives in, or visits The State of Hawaii will benefit from having safer shores the benefits to visitors is highlighted as they are especially vulnerable to drowning events. Tourists are the most un familiar with Hawaii's waters, and also have a natural wonder and curiosity that can lead to dangerous and potentially life- threatening situations. The presence of Rescue Tubes at

regular intervals along our shoreline will not only prevent loss of life, but also reduce economic loss and the potential for litigation against the State. There are no down-sides to having safer shorelines, everyone benefits.

5. Describe the geographic coverage.

Shorelines of Hawaii.

II. Service Summary and Outcomes

The Service Summary shall include a detailed discussion of the applicant's approach to the request. The applicant shall clearly and concisely specify the results, outcomes, and measures of effectiveness from this request. The applicant shall:

1. Describe the scope of work, tasks and responsibilities;
The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc. seeks to hire a Director to provide strategic leadership and fund development, enabling the Foundation to achieve its local and national goals, at the same time attaining financial-self-sustainability.

The Rescue Tubes have been extremely well received both on a community level and on a governmental level. With the addition of executive leadership The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc. can exponentially increase the depth and breadth of its mission of first making the Hawaii shorelines as safe as possible, and to make the system available to critical areas of concern on the mainland through partnerships with civic service organizations as is done now.

In 2013-14 The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc. hopes to increase installation of ocean Rescue Tubes specifically designed for Hawaiian ocean conditions utilizing cutting-edge technology and cooperation with the Rotary, Lions, Life Guard and community associations.

2. Provide a projected annual timeline for accomplishing the results or outcomes of the service;

The Rescue Tube Foundation would like to identify and hire a Director as soon as possible to prevent missing out on potential funding opportunities.

The Rescue Tube Foundation intends to replace its 220 installed Rescue Tube Stations with an improved device and increase that installed number to 2,000 while expanding this effort state-wide.

3. Describe its quality assurance and evaluation plans for the request. Specify how the applicant plans to monitor, evaluate, and improve their results; and

The Rescue Tube Foundation Board of Directors will provide administrative supervision and annual evaluation to the identified Director, as well co-create an annual strategic plan incorporating measurable out-comes and objectives.

The Rescue Tube Foundation provides oversight and support to all volunteer organizations that install, monitor, and maintain the Rescue Tubes. At time of maintenance The Rescue Tube station system is examines to evaluate the condition and remaining longevity, identifying what conditions have affected the installation and assess what if any changes would improve the installation. Also addressed is the adequacy of placement.

The Rescue Tube Foundation keeps records on known uses and outcomes of Rescue Tube uses and memorializes each saved life.

The Rescue Tube Foundation would like to examine instances of drowning where no Rescue Tube was used to determine if there is anything the Foundation can do to aid in the avoidance of similar tragedies.

3. List the measure(s) of effectiveness that will be reported to the State agency through which grant funds are appropriated (the expending agency). The measure(s) will provide a standard and objective way for the State to assess the program's achievement or accomplishment. Please note that if the level of appropriation differs from the amount included in this application that the measure(s) of effectiveness will need to be updated and transmitted to the expending agency.

The Rescue Tube Foundation will notify the State when a candidate has been hired to take over the management of the Foundation and will provide a copy of the bi-annual performance review.

The Foundation will advise advise the State on when and how the new tubes Rescue Tubes were placed, the lives that have been saved, and of improvements to the Rescue Tubes. All grant money will be accounted for and a final report will be sent to the expending agency.

III. Financial

Budget

1. The applicant shall submit a budget utilizing the enclosed budget forms as applicable, to detail the cost of the request.

The Budget Form is enclosed.

2. The applicant shall provide its anticipated quarterly funding requests for the fiscal year 2014.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total Grant
\$21,200	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$69,200

3. The applicant shall provide a listing of all other sources of funding that they are seeking for fiscal year 2014.

The Rescue Tube Foundation expects to receive continued financial support from the current, as well as future cooperating entities including Rotary and Lions Clubs, the Kauai Life Guard Association, private, state and federal grants as applicable, corporate sponsorships, and private individual donations. This support will ensure continued organizational growth resulting in lives saved.

4. The applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits it has been granted within the prior three years. Additionally, the applicant shall provide a listing of all state and federal tax credits they have applied for or anticipate applying for pertaining to any capital project, if applicable.

NONE

IV. Experience and Capability

A. Necessary Skills and Experience

The applicant shall demonstrate that it has the necessary skills, abilities, knowledge of, and experience relating to the request. State your experience and appropriateness for providing the service proposed in this application. The applicant shall also provide a listing of verifiable experience of related projects or contracts for the most recent three years that are pertinent to the request.

The Rescue Tube Foundation activities have been widely reported in the Hawaiian press. Attached are samples of that coverage that contribute to the success of Rescue Tubes.

Since 2010 more than 220 Rescue Tube Stations have been installed by Hanalei Bay Rotary Club, Kapaa Rotary Club, Kauai Rotary Club, Poipu Rotary Club and Waimea Rotary Club, Kauai Life Guard Association, U.S. Navy, and by The Rescue Tube Foundation. Presentations and demonstrations have been made to every Rotary Club in the State of Hawaii.

Hanalei Bay received Rotary International's highest recognition, The Rotary Significant Achievement Award, in 2011 for its Rescue Tube project.

The Rescue Tube Foundation has outgrown the ability of the officers of the Rescue Tube Foundation Board to perform all the functions necessary to maintain the viability and expected growth. Funding is needed to respond to the demand for this vital program.

B. Facilities

The applicant shall provide a description of its facilities and demonstrate its adequacy in relation to the request. If facilities are not presently available, describe plans to secure facilities. The applicant shall also describe how the facilities meet ADA requirements, as applicable.

The applicant has been offered an ADA qualified facility sufficient for Rescue Tube Foundation's use.

V. Personnel: Project Organization and Staffing

A. Proposed Staffing, Staff Qualifications, Supervision and Training

The applicant shall describe the proposed staffing pattern and proposed service capacity appropriate for the viability of the request. The applicant shall provide the qualifications and experience of personnel for the request and shall describe its ability to supervise, train and provide administrative direction relative to the request.

The applicant is seeking funds to hire an individual qualified to perform all the requirements above. The Applicant's Board of Directors has been performing these tasks for the past 3 years and is competent to supervise the individual to be hired.

B. Organization Chart

The applicant shall illustrate the position of each staff and line of responsibility/supervision. If the request is part of a large, multi-purpose organization, include an organizational chart that illustrates the placement of this request.

The organization chart is simple, one staff member reporting to the Board.

VI. Other

A. Litigation

The applicant shall disclose any pending litigation to which they are a party, including the disclosure of any outstanding judgement. If applicable, please explain.

NONE

B. Licensure or Accreditation

The applicant shall specify any special qualifications, including but not limited to licensure or accreditation that applicant possesses relevant to this request.

None Required

**DECLARATION STATEMENT OF
APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 42F, HAWAII REVISIED STATUTES**

The undersigned authorized representative of the applicant certifies the following:

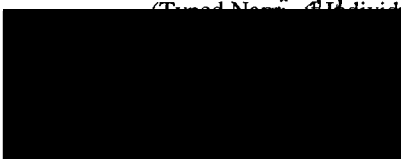
- 1) The applicant meets and will comply with all of the following standards for the award of grants and subsidies pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant or subsidy is awarded;
 - b) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
 - c) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities; and
 - d) Allows the state agency to which funds for the grant or subsidy were appropriated for expenditure, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant or subsidy.
- 2) The applicant meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is incorporated under the laws of the State; and
 - b) Has bylaws or policies that describe the manner in which the activities or services for which a grant or subsidy is awarded shall be conducted or provided.
- 3) If the applicant is a non-profit organization, it meets the following requirements pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes:
 - a) Is determined and designated to be a non-profit organization by the Internal Revenue Service; and
 - b) Has a governing board whose members have no material conflict of interest and serve without compensation.

Pursuant to Section 42F-103, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for grants or subsidies used for the acquisition of land, when the organization discontinues the activities or services on the land acquired for which the grant or subsidy was awarded and disposes of the land in fee simple or by lease, the organization shall negotiate with the expending agency for a lump sum or installment repayment to the State of the amount of the grant or subsidy used for the acquisition of the land.

Further, the undersigned authorized representative certifies that this statement is true and correct to the best of the applicant's knowledge.

The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc.

(Typed Name of Individual or Organization)



1/21/13

(Date)

John Green President
(Typed Name) (Title)

BUDGET REQUEST BY SOURCE OF FUNDS
(Period: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014)

App The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc.

BUDGET CATEGORIES	Total State Funds Requested (a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
A. PERSONNEL COST				
1. Salaries	50,000			
2. Payroll Taxes & Assessments	3,500			
3. Fringe Benefits	7,000			
TOTAL PERSONNEL COST	60,500			
B. OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES				
1. Airfare, Inter-Island				
2. Insurance	2,400			
3. Lease/Rental of Equipment				
4. Lease/Rental of Space				
5. Staff Training				
6. Supplies				
7. Telecommunication	3,000			
8. Utilities	3,000			
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	8,400			
C. EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	40,800			
D. MOTOR VEHICLE PURCHASES				
E. CAPITAL				
TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E)	109,700			
SOURCES OF FUNDING		Budget Prepared By:		
(a) Total State Funds Requested	69,200	Name (Please type or print)		
bank account	15,000	Phone		
donations/reimbursements	25,000	808-634-3450		
(d)		Date		
TOTAL BUDGET	109,200	1/31/13		

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION - EQUIPMENT AND MOTOR VEHICLES

Applicant: _____
The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc.

Period: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

DESCRIPTION EQUIPMENT	NO. OF ITEMS	COST PER ITEM	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
Rescue Tubes Suitable for use on Hawaii	4,000.00	\$10.00	\$ 40,000.00	40000
Computer for the Assistant Direcor	900		\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:	4,900		\$ 40,000.00	40,000

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS This is a shipping container load of Rescue Tubes. This purchase will reduce individual costs by 75% and me

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE	NO. OF VEHICLES	COST PER VEHICLE	TOTAL COST	TOTAL BUDGETED
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
TOTAL:				

JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:

Manage all the everyday activities of Rescue Tube Foundation, initiate and run fund raising activiies

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION CAPITAL PROJECT DETAILS

The Rescue Tube Foundation Inc.

Period: July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED						
TOTAL PROJECT COST	ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS RECEIVED IN PRIOR YEARS		STATE FUNDS REQUESTED	OF FUNDS REQUESTED	FUNDING REQUIRED IN SUCCEEDING YEARS	
	FY: 2011-2012	FY: 2012-2013	FY:2013-2014	FY:2013-2014	FY:2014-2015	FY:2015-2016
PLANS	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND ACQUISITION						
DESIGN						
CONSTRUCTION						
EQUIPMENT						
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0
JUSTIFICATION/COMMENTS:						



Pioneer Hi-Bred joins mission of keeping Kaua'i's waters safe



SEPTEMBER 22, 2012 12:30 AM • DENNIS FUJIMOTO - THE GARDEN ISLAND

PUHI — The Kaua'i Lifeguard Association was pleasantly surprised, Tuesday prior to the start of its meeting at Kilohana.

Judith Rivera, manager of Pioneer Hi-Bred, representing both the Waimea Research Center and the Kekaha Parent Seed plant, was joined by Taryn Dizon, the Pioneer safety coordinator, in presenting KLA with a contribution from Pioneer Hi-Bred.

"This is absolutely fabulous," said Dr. Monty Downs of the KLA. "We are most grateful for this fabulous contribution which will go toward solving one of Kaua'i's problems."

Andy Melamed, a KLA coordinator for the upcoming benefit concert and a longtime supporter of KLA's mission to maximize ocean safety in and around Kaua'i's waters, said in Hawai'i, 65 percent of fatalities are ocean related with 5 percent of that total being residents.

"These funds are already being earmarked for various projects which will continue to maximize water safety around the island," Melamed said.

Topping the list is the creation of a new ocean safety video which will take a three-pronged approach to ocean users, including the awareness of lifeguard tower locations and the need to check with lifeguards before hitting the water, the use and locations of the various Rescue Tube stations highlighted earlier during KLA First Wave, and what to do if caught in an ocean situation and there is no lifeguard or Rescue Tube available.

"We will be taking a more inter-active approach, using Kalani Vierra, the supervisor at the Kaua'i Ocean Safety Bureau, and Dickie Chang of Wala'au Productions as well as the help of the Visitor Channel," Melamed said. "We want this video to be everywhere — on the airplanes, at the airport, in resorts and on television."

He said the second major area where the Pioneer funds will be used for will be in supporting the Rescue Tube network from Po'ipu through Polihale.

"It makes sense to have Pioneer, with offices located in both Waimea and Kekaha, be the major support of these life-saving devices on the Westside," Melamed said. "The support will include installation and maintenance of these Rescue Tubes."

The KLA 2nd Wave Celebration, billed as "Hawai'i Superstar Sunday," is rapidly approaching, the culmination of a program which started back in April and focusing on a variety of features, programs and organizations which support ocean safety for our residents and visitors, states the Kaua'i Lifeguards website.

"Earlier in the day, KLA received funds from the Hawai'i Hotel and Lodging Association, Kaua'i Chapter, through the 2012 Visitor Industry Charity Walk," Melamed said. "When I spoke with Sandi Kato-Klutke, the HHLA, Kaua'i Chapter coordinator, she gets the importance of ocean safety and keeping our visitors (and residents) safe."

Tickets for the Oct. 7 fundraising extravaganza are on sale at the Times and Big Save stores as well as online by visiting www.kauailifeguards.org, Melamed said.

On tap for the benefit concert at Kilohana are the music of John Cruz, Henry Kapono, Kalapana, Willie K and the comedy of Andy Bumatai, punctuated by no host food and spirits, a live silent auction, and donation drawings.

All of this is made possible by the contributions of many community groups and businesses, Melamed said.

When formed together as a KLA 'Ohana, these organizations have a far greater impact than just the sum of their parts, states the website.

It will continue to help save lives.

• *Dennis Fujimoto, photographer and staff writer, can be reached at 245-3681 (ext. 253) or dfujimoto@thegardenisland.com.*

Princeville Mail Center

From: gillen@gillen.net <johngillen10509@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:23 PM
To: Princeville Mail Service Center
Subject: Fw: A new use for Rescue Tubes is discovered!

please make 3 copies

John Gillen
Gillen@Gillen.net

Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2012 9:35 AM
Subject: A new use for Rescue Tubes is discovered!

Léo Azambuja - The Garden Island | Posted: Wednesday, June 6, 2012 1:00 am | (0) Comments



Dustin Timm - Contributed photo

Kaua'i's Na Pali Coast is seen here in this picture taken from a kayak during Memorial Day weekend.

LIHU'E — The Kaua'i Fire Department launched an air search Sunday evening after being notified that two kayakers had been separated from their group and were reported missing, according to county officials. The kayakers were reportedly found safe at Kalalau Beach later.

County spokeswoman Sarah Blane said police dispatch notified Rescue 3 Sunday at approximately 6:30 p.m. The U.S. Coast Guard then requested KFD's assistance to conduct an aerial search of the coastline from Ke'e Beach to Kalalau Valley, where the kayakers were last seen.

Philadelphia visitor Jennifer McClellan said she and her husband, Tommy, were on a Na Pali Coast tour Sunday, when some people on one of the beaches, probably Kalalau, waved yellow emergency floats at the tour boat.

"The captain and crew got the boat close to shore and were told two women in a yellow tandem kayak were missing," McClellan said. "They had left earlier that afternoon and were supposed to have met people camping at the beach."

The tour boat from Kaua'i Sea Tours spent about an hour and a half searching the coastline where the women were last seen, all the way to the beach where those people were camping, but found nothing, according to McClellan.

"At about 7 p.m., Rescue 3 aboard Air 1 proceeded to Kalalau and located the kayakers on land," Blane said. "The kayakers had reportedly swamped their kayaks, abandoned them and swam to shore. Both escaped injury and (were) found safe."

Blane said the kayakers were part of a group that had planned to kayak in and stay overnight in Kalalau Valley.

Kaua'i Sea Tours confirmed Tuesday that Capt. Brian Kfoury searched the waters along the Na Pali Coast for about an hour and a half, and contacted the U.S. Coast Guard.

Check conditions

An experienced waterman who had a similar fate a week prior but was able to turn the tide on his favor had some advice to offer.

“Check the weather first and make sure the conditions are nice,” said Dustin Timm, a lifetime surfer who works as an engineer for the City and County of Honolulu.

Timm and his girlfriend, Adrienne Baldwin, visited Kaua‘i on Memorial Day weekend with a goal in mind: Kayak to Kalalau Valley, spend the night there and another night in Miloli‘i, then proceed to Polihale Beach Monday morning, where he would be picked up by a friend.

Their plans, however, took a different turn soon after leaving.

Their kayak, designed for the ocean and equipped with a rudder, overturned twice in the open ocean on the way to Kalalau due to extremely windy conditions on the morning of May 26.

The first time the kayak overturned, Timm lost two of his three water bottles. The remaining bottle had cracked while they were tightening bags onto the kayak at Ke‘e Beach, where Timm and Baldwin had launched.

Timm also lost his water camera and half the food they had brought with them.

Timm said he was able to quickly flip the kayak back thanks to his experience as an outrigger canoe paddler. He used to paddle competitively on O‘ahu, and has once completed the dreaded Molokai to O‘ahu canoe race.

Baldwin, a dolphin trainer in Honolulu, was also able to stay calm during the incident due to her acquaintance with the water, Timm said.

No food, no spear,

no problem

Besides the trouble in the ocean, Timm’s kayak also had a hard landing in Kalalau Beach due to windy conditions, and Timm lost a spear that would have helped him catch dinner. But thanks to the generosity of other campers in Kalalau, the couple was able to eat.

By using what was left of the cracked plastic water bottle, they collected water at the waterfall in Kalalau. But even that was a dangerous task, as falling rocks near the water source landed inches away from their heads.

On May 27, they were supposed to proceed to Miloli‘i but were not able to make it past the surf in Kalalau, even though people on the beach tried to help them push their kayak out to sea. After several attempts they decided to stay the night and proceed straight to Polihale on Memorial Day, May 28.

Besides securing camping permits and checking conditions, those kayaking to Kalalau should make sure to be accompanied by someone with experience in the water and bring a Global Positioning Satellite device in case the worst happens, Timm said.

Kayakers also should bring enough food in case they become stranded due to big surf, he said.

A Kaua‘i couple who are longtime friends of Timm once planned to spend one night at Miloli‘i, but their dream getaway nearly turned into a nightmare when the surf picked up and they were unable to make it out of the beach onto the ocean.

Timm’s friends had to spend four additional nights in Miloli‘i. They collected water from a nearby stream, and were only able to eat because someone else who was also stranded there defied the huge surf to spear fish for dinner, Timm said.

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Read more: http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/na-pali-kayakers-escape-tragedy/article_6b17c6c0-afb3-11e1-8976-001a4bcf887a.html#ixzz1x2jJeaPg

Branch

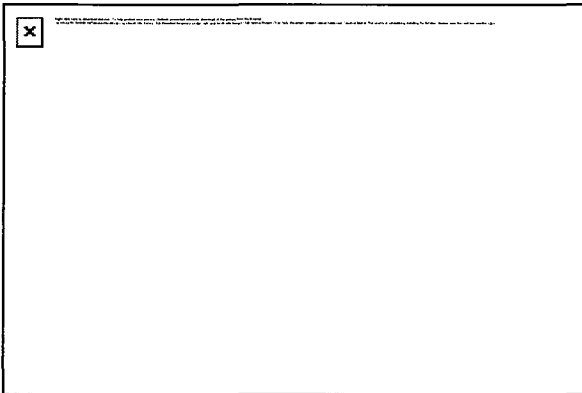
2

Princeville Mail Center

From: gillen@gillen.net <johngillen10509@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 5:29 PM
To: Princeville Mail Service Center
Subject: [ease print 3

12:05 pm - March 31, 2012 - Updated: 12:05 pm - March 31, 2012

Rotary donates rescue tubes



HOLLYN JOHNSON/Tribune-Herald

South Hilo Rotary Club President Rosemary Linden, left, and South Hilo Rotary Club Special Project Chair Jack Stevenson present rescue tubes near Coconut Island. The county is considering installing the flotation devices over the next two months.

1

By TOM CALLIS

Tribune-Herald staff writer

Long cylindrical tubes could soon become as common to see on Big Island beaches as surfboards.

Hawaii County is considering giving the South Hilo Rotary Club the OK to install floatation devices, known as rescue tubes, across the island.

Rotarians say the foam and rubber tubes would reduce drowning deaths by a providing permanently located floatation devices that can be used by anyone to quickly respond to a swimmer in distress.

Rotary member Jack Stevenson said they will go a long way to improving safety along Hawaii's shores.

"If you save one life, that's the whole answer," he said.

"It's just the right thing to be doing."

The Rotary club has ordered a dozen of the 50-inch-long rescue tubes from the Rescue Tube Foundation on Kauai, and wants to install the first one on Hilo Bay's Coconut Island in the next few weeks. The club eventually wants to install about 100, Secretary Jim Wilson said.

That shouldn't be a problem, said Clayton Honma, county Parks and Recreation deputy director, though he stressed the department has not formally approved the tubes, which would be attached to PVC pipe stuck or cemented into the ground.

A decision may come next week.

"Based on what I'm looking at so far, it looks pretty good in getting county approval," he said.

They wouldn't be the first tubes used on beaches in the state, or, for that matter, on the Big Island.

Waimea resident Mike Varney installed three tubes at Kua Bay, Pololu Beach, and Hapuna Beach in January after learning about the approximately 200 that volunteers have installed on Kauai over the last three years.

Varney said he was motivated to bring the tubes to the Big Island after saving a swimmer at Kua Bay about two years ago.

"I watched this guy almost drown," he said.

"After talking with people, I just felt it (installing the tubes) would be a good thing to do," Varney added.

He said he did it without county permission, and is waiting to hear the county's response to the Rotary club before installing another three he purchased from the Rescue Tube Foundation.

Kauai residents Branch Lotspeich and John Gillen, both members of the Hanalei Bay Rotary Club, started the foundation over a year ago to distribute the tubes across the island and provide the pipes to mount them.

Lotspeich said the first tube was placed on a Kauai beach about three years ago after resident hung one on a tree in response to a drowning.

After that, the Hanalei Bay Rotary club got involved by purchasing additional tubes and installing poles to hang them on. That eventually lead to the formation of the nonprofit foundation, which purchases the tubes en mass from a mainland supplier.

Rotary clubs on other islands have also expressed interest. So have groups in Oregon, California and Georgia.

"We're thinking nationally already," he said.

Lotspeich said about 18 lives on Kauai have been saved by rescuers using the tubes.

He said they don't replace lifeguards, but can be crucial to saving lives when they aren't around.

"A rescue tube just sits on a pole as a 24/7 sentinel," said Lotspeich, who described them as a "really big water noodle."

"It's always there. Anybody can use it."

He said tube and pipe costs \$80 for each set.

The tubes have a lifespan of 18 to 24 months, depending on how exposed they are to sunlight, and cost \$56 to replace, Lotspeich said.

Wilson said the South Hilo Rotary Club will raise the money through its annual Hilo-Huli fundraiser, held May 6.

The replacement costs shouldn't be a problem, he said.

Lotspeich said vandalism and theft have not been a significant problem on Kauai.

He estimated up to five have gone missing, either taken or not returned after being used.

Lotspeich said they also help during non-water-related emergencies.

Each pole is numbered, and he is working on developing a mapping system that so that dispatchers know their locations.

If someone is in need of help, they can give almost their exact location by saying which pole they are near, he said.

"We're creating almost like mile markers on roads," Lotspeich said.

"And we haven't had anything like that before."

Email Tom Callis at tcallis@hawaiiitribune-herald.com.

John Gillen
Gillen@Gillen.net

Phone: 808-634-3450
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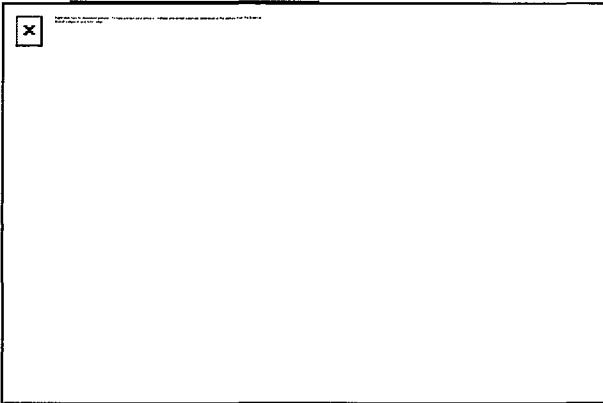
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The Tube Dudes

By Coco Zickos on Mar 14, 2012 in Feature, Kaua'i Coverstory



Branch Lotspeich and John Gillen along with fellow Rotarians have placed nearly 200 rescue tubes around Kaua'i, the drowning capital of Hawaii, and so far they're credited with helping save at least 40 lives

At least 40 lives have been saved thanks to Branch Lotspeich and John Gillen and their rescue tubes

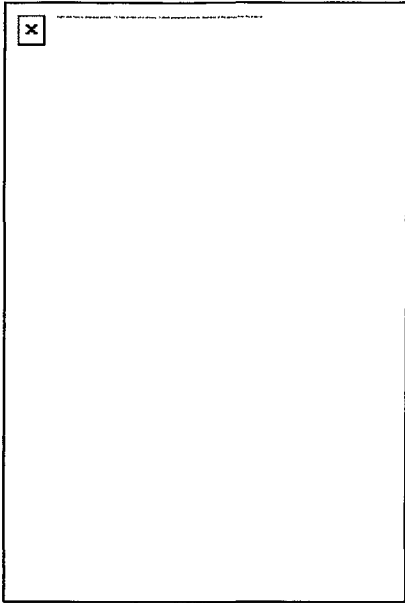
Panic courses through your body when you're caught in a riptide. As Branch Lotspeich knows very well.

A former lifeguard, he experienced a "very real moment" of distress while trying to swim back to shore at Hanalei Bay several years ago.

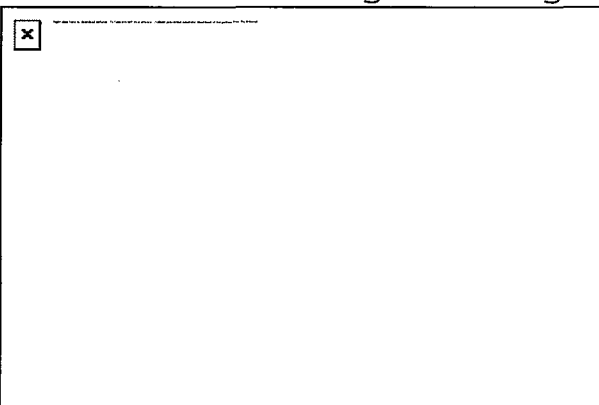
"All of a sudden, it was that sense of 'I could be in real serious trouble right now,'" he says. "And that's what happens to people."

Which ultimately led to him becoming executive director of Kaua'i Rescue Tube Foundation.

Flotation devices created by the foundation now serve as a link between life and death for swimmers struggling against the power and whims of the ocean.



One of the rescue tube stations on Kaua'i
The nonprofit has been responsible for installing nearly 200 rescue tube stations that dot beaches around the island, particularly those where lifeguards are not stationed. More than 40 saves have been reported using these emergency instruments, and nearly 20 drownings have been prevented since the foundation's inception approximately two years ago. The rescue tubes are attached to poles buried deep in the sand at the vegetation line. At the top of every pole is an easy-to-spot yellow or red flag. Each tube can be grabbed quickly and contains simple instructions. "The graphics are such that, even if you don't read English, if you're a visitor without English skills you can still kind of figure it out," says Lotspeich. Bringing the flotation tool to a swimmer in distress allows them to have something to hang on to while they wait to be rescued.



Branch Lotspeich works on the assembly of a pole that will soon house a rescue tube along one of Kaua'i's beaches and could one day save a distressed swimmer's life. Coco Zickos photos "This is the difference between bringing back a body and bringing back a swimmer who's in distress,"

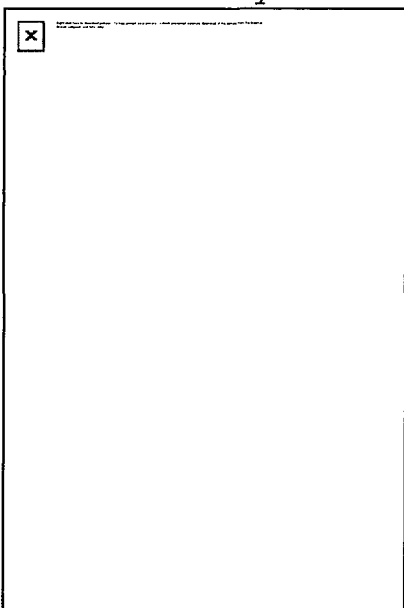
says Kaua'i Rescue Tube Foundation's John Gillen. "You're not rescuing someone who's drowning you're rescuing someone who's in distress and will drown if you don't help them."

"For safety reasons, we also make it clear: If you can't swim, don't use this device, don't go in the water," adds Lotspeich. "We're not asking anyone to go into harm's way unless they feel like they know what they're doing."

And the first thing to do, always, is call 911.

"The idea is your own personal safety first and then, secondly, you have a personal floatation device to rescue the person in distress," says Lotspeich.

The most recent documented save with a rescue tube was at Anini Beach. Some five people were clinging to the device before they were finally rescued.



Branch Lotspeich and John Gillen with the red memento they bring to Rotary meetings each time another life is saved using a rescue tube

"If you're waiting with one of these, you can wait for hours out there," says Gillen.

The most memorable rescue, Lotspeich says, was at Hanakapiai Beach. Two boys were swept out to sea with their dad. The older boy was attempting to rescue his younger brother when he also got caught in the current. The father, a visitor from Oregon a doctor and expert swimmer started screaming on the beach for anyone to give him something that floated. A rescue tube was handed to him and he went flying into the water. After reaching his children, he transported them into a cavelike area, dodging what were described as school bus-sized waves, until they were finally rescued some three hours later.

"He said, 'I knew that if I didn't have something that floated, there was no way I could have supported my two sons and myself,'" says Lotspeich regarding the dad.

Though the discussion of installing rescue tubes has been under way for many years, the first tube was unofficially hung on a tree at Larsen's Beach in 2008 by a man named John Tyler. Since then, the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association grabbed hold of the concept, with its members designing and installing around 110 stations across the island.



Hanalei Bay Rotarian Bill Savage works on creating a new rescue tube station
Coco Zickos photos

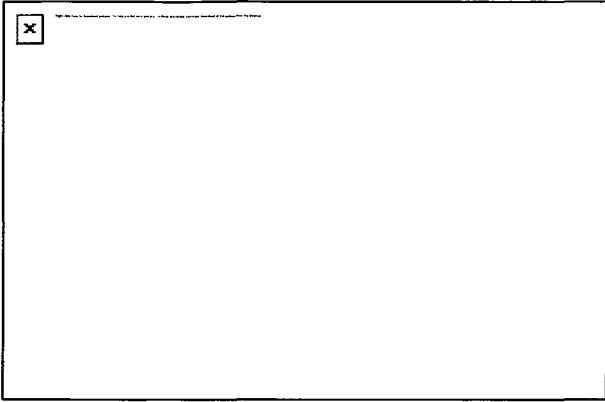
Historically, more people drown on Kaua'i every year than die by motor vehicle accident, notes Dr. Monty Downs, president of the Kaua'i Lifeguard Association.

Hawaii is the drowning capital of the United States, and Kaua'i is the drowning capital of the state, according to Gillen. Since the inception of rescue tubes, however, drownings on-island decreased by half from about 10 per year to five.

Rotarians Lotspeich and Gillen have even taken rescue tubes to another level. The duo latched onto the idea after Kaua'i Lifeguard Association members approached the Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay for funding.

"What Rotary has done is kind of wrap its head around a need. And rather than just throw money at it, we try to muster forces," says Lotspeich.

"They (Lotspeich and Gillen) jumped onto the lifesaving idea and have hugely supported and expanded it," says Downs.



Branch Lotspeich is in the process of creating another rescue tube station at the organization's shop. Together they executed Kaua'i Rescue Tube Foundation and created an overall better design for the stations. And they continue to improve the device and are already prototyping the next generation, which will have handles for more distressed swimmers to grasp.

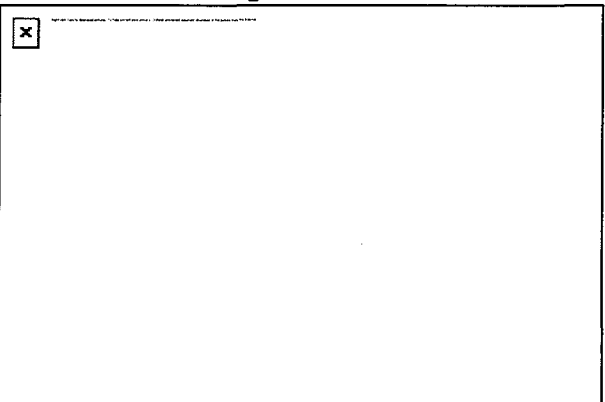
The two-person team is even in the process of installing rescue tube stations on other islands, including Oahu and the Big Island.

"I've never been involved in anything before that directly and measurably saves human lives," says Lotspeich, the foundation's spokesman. "It's been just remarkable."

Gillen is equally gratified to be a part of the success.

"Saving people's lives is the more important thing that I do," says Gillen, whose wife, Catherine, is a University of New England professor.

An entrepreneur who owns Aloha Pack, Copy and Storage Centers, Gillen always finds time to invest in rescue tube installation.

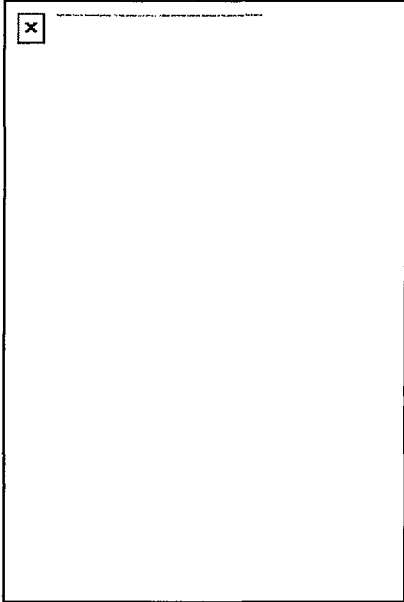


Branch and John work with Rotarians at Hanalei Bay Jan. 28 in preparation for the installation of 22 rescue tubes.

"Being of service and saving lives, it eclipses anything else that I do," says the New York native, who has lived on Kaua'i since 1999.

Lotspeich moved to the island about six years ago and is a retired medical photographer from Ohio. The son of a neurosurgeon and a photography enthusiast, he says, "It was a natural way for me to be involved in medicine."

Lotspeich, who is also gifted in the technological world and has created several advancements, including a medical media center in China, has even been directly involved in the assembly and creation of the rescue tube stations at the foundation's shop in Kilauea. He is married to retired social worker Melody, and still enjoys taking photographs as a hobby.



John Gillen and Branch Lotspeich

"Branch is one of the kindest men I've known," says Downs, "and also one of the most skilled."

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