



## North Shore Chamber of Commerce News

### CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT –

#### Camp Erdman: A Different Kind of Classroom

If you've ever wanted to find out what YMCA Camp Erdman is all about, there has never been a better time than now. The facility located at 69-385 Farrington Highway in Mokuleia is hosting YMCA Healthy Kids Day this Saturday, April 14th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free family event includes more than 20 games, crafts, education booths, adventure activities, and prizes. You can pre-register online at [www.CampErdman.org](http://www.CampErdman.org), or call (808) 637-4615.

In the past, marketing has primarily been through "word of mouth." Now, Executive Director Ron Okimoto, who's been at Camp Erdman for two years and with the YMCA since 1991, is placing more emphasis on community outreach. Undoubtedly, the site is more than a place some folks remember going to during "small kid time."

"It's one of the best kept secrets on the North Shore," he says.

Camp Erdman began in 1926 with a few tents on 20 acres of land owned by the Dillinghams. Six years later the family donated the parcel to the YMCA in memory of a nephew, Harold Randolph Erdman, who died in a polo accident. Over the years, the ideal camp setting has gained in donor support and participant popularity.

Permanent structures came in the 1950s and 1960s. Currently, these include six ocean-side cabins which each sleep eight people and 15 mountain-side cabins which each sleep 16 people. All cabins have electricity and indoor restrooms with a sink, toilet and shower. In addition, there are two community washrooms on the mountainside and a full-service dining hall for up to 250 people on the ocean-side. There are several enclosed and covered meeting spaces that accommodate groups as small as 10 and as large as 300 people.

Camp Erdman conducts three major programs: a Monday through Friday school program with outdoor activities and environmental education; week-end retreats and conferences; and community outreach programs including family camps and summer camps for kids and teens. Its ROPES program, or Reality Oriented Physical Experiential Services, began in the 1990s with a federal grant from Senator Daniel Inouye. It provides physical challenges to improve health, leadership skills and team collaboration.

Equipment and courses visible from Farrington Highway involve participants in the Odyssey Ad-

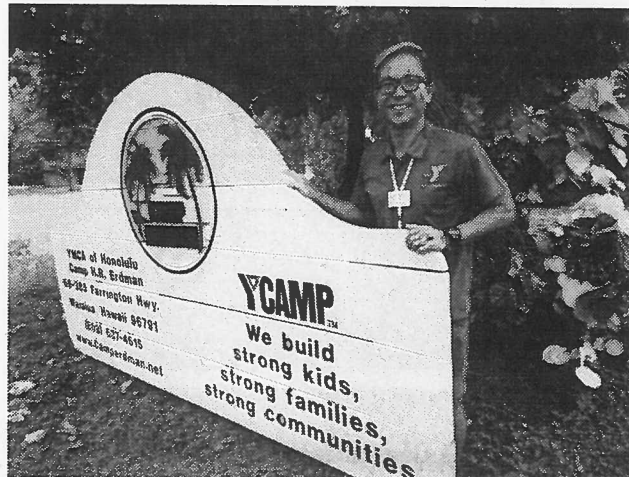
venture, Alpine Tower, Team Development Course, Group Challenge, the Giant Swing, and Ka'ena Point Hike. There is also a pool for coordinated swim training and activities.

"We like to say that individuals come with unique talents and skills and leave with collaborative capacity," Okimoto says.

In the past, television viewers may have recognized Camp Erdman scenes in the "Lost" as well as "Hawaii 5-0" series. Indeed, the entertainment industry has discovered what camp staff and visitors from near and far have enjoyed since 1926.

"The YMCA camp here is bordered with mountains on one side, and ocean on the other," says Okimoto. "Where else can you go from a dry forest hike in the mountains to a reef walk all in the same day. It's unique!"

If you're interested in the Camp Erdman one-week overnight summer programs, it's important to sign up as soon as possible and no later than before the first session starts. These camps are becoming more popular than ever and some sessions have already started a waiting list.



Camp Erdman Executive Director Ron Okimoto by the entrance to Camp Erdman, Mokuleia.

### Come Join the North Shore Chamber of Commerce!

We welcome individuals (\$85.00 per year), businesses (\$175.00 per year) and non-profits (\$115.00 per year) to join. You'll receive publicity on our website, chamber discounts, and support from the community.

We are the only organization on the North Shore with the resources to represent the North Shore!

Come to our next Annual Membership meeting on Thursday, April 26th, 8 a.m., at Haleiwa Joe's and feel free to call us at 637-4558.