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DST Innovation Lab - Status Update

Dear DST Innovation Lab Participants,

Hope you are all well! Preparations for the second DST Innovation Lab are continuing through the work of each of the four workgroups and pre-lab efforts with partner groups in Hawaii. We hope that you are feeling engaged and looking forward to continuing efforts through to the Lab. This email contains a brief status update on current efforts.

1. **Thematic workgroup status**
2. **Local Hawaii partner groups**
3. **Logistical details**

#### 1. Thematic workgroups:

Members of each of the four groups are continuing to focus their work to prepare pre-Lab briefings (due date June 13) and develop their experiential Lab sessions and strategies for work with our Hawaiian partners.

- o **Mapping and Visualization:** Members are focusing on three areas, qualitative/participatory mapping: concept maps; mixed qualitative/quantitative mapping: geospatial maps; and quantitative: computer generated social network graphs. Each will address purpose, data collection, construction and interpretation/analysis.
- o **Resonance:** The group is exploring the concept of resonance in multiple domains (physics, music, in the limbic system, Chinese thought, literature, in Hawaiian culture, identity based conflict and systemic action research) to address a set of preliminary questions. Questions posed include: Is there relevant empirical research on resonance and related concepts in the physical or social sciences? What are the underlying mechanics or dynamics? Can it be planned and emergent? How might systemic resonance be identified, assessed and tracked?
- o **Institutionalizing a Systems Practice:** This thematic strand is looking at good practice in the area of building organizations that can operate in non-linear and systemic ways. What are the needed attitudinal, structural, and transactional/behavioral qualities of a "systems-enabled" organization and how can we transition more linear organizations into ones that think and act in non-linear/systemic ways?
- o **Learning and Non-linear Impact Assessment:** The group is exploring several lines of inquiry, including: How do we define "impact"? How are boundaries of a "system" determined, and how do analyses differ by scale? What are some "systems-enabled" methods and approaches to assessment? What are appropriate processes for evaluation/assessment? How do we develop indicators that capture the system and its non-linear evolution? What can interventions in systems teach us about the system?

#### 2. Local Partners

Rob Ricigliano is continuing to work with Mike Mohr and Aubrey Yee in Hawaii to identify and prepare for our joint work with local partners at the Lab. This week, Rob met with five diverse and exciting groups to lay the foundations for that work. They include a range of emerging and more established initiatives that impact life in Hawaii. More detailed information on each of the groups will be shared in the near future. But to offer a preview, here is a brief introduction to each:

- o **Freshwater Council:** a group of about 20 local leaders investigating all aspects of the local water system. Goals of the group are to develop policy proposals that individual organizations can back and champion
- o **Vulnerable Families:** A Hawaiian Community Foundation collaborative project to prevent families at risk of transitioning into homelessness. This is a relatively new statewide initiative involving 8-10 organizations across Hawaii.
- o **Early Childhood Initiative:** An ongoing project that is using holistic approach to children considering their health, living situations, and so forth. It is supported by the governor of Hawaii and currently has approximately 120 people involved. They have completed systems mapping.
- o **Hawaii Leadership Forum:** The forum is a catalyst and convener for initiatives to improve leadership throughout the state. The first initiative of the Forum is the Omidyar Fellows program, a year+ training program for emerging Hawaiian leaders.
- o **Waianae Initiative:** The Waianae Learning Alliance is a collaborative effort of multiple organizations focused in Waianae with the aim of improving the health of the children who live there. Their manta is "a healthy child learns." With a very holistic vision of what 'health' means, they believe that healthy children will lead to a healthy society.

**3. Logistics.** We have been collecting travel plans, roommate preferences and special dietary needs from each of you. Thank you to all who have responded to those inquiries. **For those who haven't made flight reservations or alerted us to roommate preferences, food allergies or dietary needs, please forward to Meg** ([mmarkle@uwm.edu](mailto:mmarkle@uwm.edu)) **as soon as available.**

The above information has also been posted on the Lab website at <http://conflictinnovationlab.org>. Under the *Lab 2014* tab, scroll and select *Planning Information*. Copies of emails are posted at the bottom of the page.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions. We're looking forward to seeing you all in Hawaii!

Best and Happy Friday!

Chris & Meg

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