



# Mānoa Green Days

The facade of George Hall, located in the Quadrangle of University of Hawai'i, Manoa Campus

## Noel Kent, Building Coordinator of George Hall

When Noel Kent, professor of Ethnic Studies was asked why he stepped up to the plate and became the building coordinator of George Hall for the Mānoa Green Days initiative, Kent responded, "To make a hit." Inspired by efforts made by Sustainable Saunders, Kent initiated efforts to make George Hall more sustainable too. He approached the new Sea Grant sustainability specialist, Eileen Ellis, at a Saunders event in February and asked how he could start making an energy assessment of George Hall. Ellis was just starting to train new student workers of the Mānoa Energy Performance Assessment (MEPA) team and agreed to team up with student workers in George Hall to conduct a lighting assessment.

Kent's interest in sustainability efforts stretches beyond the UH Mānoa campus. He has been working with an 11<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teacher, Soozie Kawakami, at Roosevelt High School. The format is a civic education project funded by a Learn and Serve grant in which UH Mānoa students

mentor the high school students in analyzing issues of concern for them and formulating alternatives and strategies for change. The current focus is on environmental education and greening Roosevelt by reducing energy consumption, eliminating Styrofoam containers, etc. In the course of this project, Ellis and Shanah Trevenna (of UH Mānoa's Sustainable Saunders initiative) gave talks on energy reduction strategies for Kawakami's class. The hope is that Roosevelt can be a model of "going green" for the entire Hawai'i school system.

As building coordinator for George Hall, Kent acts as a liaison between building occupants and Facilities managers, ensuring the Mānoa Green Days energy saving strategy doesn't interrupt the work of the faculty and staff. He knows he needs to learn a lot more about sustainability and how to help the occupants of George Hall reduce energy consumption, one step at a time.

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Noel Kent and his faithful dog, Chase