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**SAKAGUCHI NAMED GENERAL MANAGER TO HEAD
PUEO GROUP CONTRACTING**

Honolulu, HI -- The Native Hawaiian Economic Alliance (NHEA) announced the hiring of Derek Sakaguchi to head its enterprise operation, Pueo Group Contracting (PGC). NHEA is a nonprofit that promotes locally-owned and Native Hawaiian-owned firms in federal contracting throughout the state of Hawaii.

Sakaguchi, born and raised in Hawaii brings expertise in management of telecommunication and construction firms. Hired as General Manager, Sakaguchi will oversee the Pueo Group Executive Offices located in Queens Court at 800 Bethel Street in Honolulu.

"We are pleased to take this step forward by having Derek take the helm of our Pueo Group Contracting enterprise," said Robin Danner, Advisory Board member of NHEA and CEO of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. "Derek brings a wealth of talent that we know will serve NHEA's mission of providing quality service to local military agencies and increasing contracting opportunities for local firms."

NHEA was incorporated in 2002 by a handful of Native Hawaiian small business firms and nonprofits. Over the last three years, NHEA has grown to a coalition of more than 60 firms and in 2004, created Pueo Group Marketing to support the marketing needs of local clients and Native Hawaiian owned firms. In 2005, NHEA incorporated Pueo Group Contracting to pursue federal contracts in partnership with a variety of NHEA firms, with a focus on using the Small Business Administration 8(a) contracting vehicles to promote its mission.

For more information about NHEA or becoming a member, please contact NHEA via telephone at 808.792.7700, via e-mail at info@nativealliance.com or visit our website at www.nativealliance.com.

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