

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valerie Ossipoff joins The Kohala Center's board of directors

KAMUELA, Hawai'i—April 11, 2013—The Kohala Center recently named Valerie Ossipoff of Honolulu to its board of directors.

Ossipoff, the executive director and former president of the O'ahu Choral Society, and past member of the former Honolulu Symphony Society board of directors, joined The Center's board of directors in February.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Ossipoff graduated from Punahou School before earning a bachelor's degree from Wells College, a master's in health and medical sciences from University of California, Berkeley, and a second master's in clinical psychology from the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in Palo Alto, California. She resided in the San Francisco Bay Area for 35 years, raising a family and building a career as a vocational rehabilitation counselor and a psychotherapist, before returning to Hawai'i in 2000. She is the daughter of legendary Honolulu architect Vladimir Ossipoff.

"It is an honor to be invited to join The Kohala Center's board. The organization really excites me," said Ossipoff. "From its unique structure to its projects, philosophy, its *raison d'être*, The Center brings out the best in people by empowering them to be more self-sufficient and to help themselves, and each other. I find that extremely admirable."

Ossipoff's local roots and passionate commitment to supporting cultural and environmental endeavors make her an asset to the organization's board. In addition to her philanthropic work with Honolulu arts organizations, Ossipoff also volunteered for the Nature Conservancy and Sierra Club in California, and sponsored two teenagers in the California Conservation Corps.

"We are very pleased that Valerie has accepted our invitation to join The Center's board," said Roberta Fujimoto Chu, president of The Kohala Center's board of directors. "She brings with her important experience in nonprofit management, and her strong ties to cultural circles in Hawai'i adds an important dimension to the board's and the staff's outreach efforts."

"Valerie has such a creative mind and positive spirit," said Matthews Hamabata, executive director of The Kohala Center. "She will bring the right kind of energy and thinking to our organization, which innovates in order to serve island communities and island environments. We're excited to welcome her to our *'ohana*."

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About The Kohala Center

The Kohala Center (<http://www.kohalacenter.org>) is an independent, community-based center for research, education, and conservation. The Center was established in direct response to the request of island residents to create greater educational and employment opportunities by enhancing—and celebrating—Hawai‘i’s spectacular natural and cultural landscapes.

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