

Hawaii Area 17 Finance Committee

Proposal to Adopt GSO Guidelines on Acceptance of Financial Contributions

Background:

During the first half of 2011 we learned from Dick M., past delegate and current Oahu Central Office Manager, that a member of the Oahu Fellowship had passed away and generously proposed leaving \$25,000 to the Hawaii Fellowship following the guidelines set down by the executor of his estate. Essentially this meant that the Hawaii Area 17 Assembly would be eligible for a one time contribution of \$3000 from the estate of this member.

Currently the Area has no specific policy in our Structures and Guidelines on the acceptance of contributions from individuals. The GSO Guidelines on Finance (MG-15) and the pamphlet Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix (F-3) instruct us that current policy limits individual contributions to GSO to a maximum of \$3000 per year from living A.A. members and a onetime bequest of \$3000 from the estate of members who have passed on. While this limit is not binding on any other A.A. entity, we feel it is a wise policy to adopt in light of our Seventh Tradition. As stated in the Long form of Tradition Seven:

“We view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”

Proposal:

We, the Hawaii Area 17 Panel 61 Finance Committee, move that the following language be adopted by this panel and inserted in Finance Section of the Area 17 Structures and Guidelines:

The Hawaii Area 17 Assembly recognizes that contributions are made in a spirit of sacrifice, and they honor A.A.'s code of “love and service.” In keeping with our Seventh Tradition we will accept personal financial contributions only from members of Alcoholics Anonymous. We will accept a maximum per year contribution from living individuals not to exceed the amount accepted by GSO at the time of the contribution. Bequests in wills are acceptable only from A.A. members, limited to the maximum accepted by GSO at the time of the bequest from any one person, and only on a onetime basis—not in perpetuity.