



Seven Sisters Doula Collective Membership Charter

Herstory:

The Seven Sisters Doula Collective was started in 2013 by four doulas, Kathy Conery, Lana Olson, Maureen O'Connor & Mieko Aoki under the mentorship of Barbara Essman, the founder and primary teacher of The Sacred Birthing School here on Kaua'i. The women wanted a way to spread the word about their services as well as educate the community about soft birthing practices and the impactful role that doulas play in reducing unnecessary medical interventions. In order to further their mission, The Collective members created a marketing campaign including rack cards, website, and press releases to local papers to further their mission. In addition, the first 2 Day, Bi-Annual Kaua'i Birth Conference was held in December 2013 featuring a variety of birth workers and activists presenting on their expertise in the field and featuring guest speaker Suzanne Arms. Topics included Maya Abdominal Massage, Birthing Dance Movement Practices, Ayurvedic Postpartum Care, Pelvic Awareness and current social-economic issues.

Logo:

In the river are seven stones, representing the masculine energy, aligned in conjunction with the star cluster Pleiades, the Seven Sisters. The Seven Sisters were companions to Artemis, the Goddess of childbirth, protector of young girls, healer of women's illnesses and of the hunt. They were also nursemaids & teachers to the infant Bacchus. The river flows up as the mother's body embodying the feminine and embracing the masculine. The phases of the moon frames her and her baby against the famous mountains of Kalalea also known as the pregnant goddess. The sacred area is honored for the belief that this is where the souls enter this world.

Mission:

The mission of The Seven Sisters Doula Collective is to empower, educate, and advocate for Kaua'i families to have safe and natural births free from unnecessary interventions.

Membership Benefits:

- Listing on the Seven Sisters Doula Collective Website at www.kauaidoulas.com
- Referrals received via the website contact us form
- Access to post to the Kaua'i Doulas Facebook Page
- Notification of trainings, workshops, and other continuing education classes offered
- Monthly "Meet The Doulas" events
- Periodic opportunities to offer courses and market individual services to birthing families
- Monthly Newsletter
- Seven Sisters Doula Collective Logo T-shirt



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Membership Contributions:

- Annual Membership Fee of \$75
- Adherence to the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics
- Attendance of monthly meetings
- Active participation in The Collective's Mission and Goals which may include representation at local events, posting flyers, preparing and offering presentations
- Active participation in our Bi-Annual Birth Conference

Standards of Practice:

- Certification: Doulas should be certified ,or working toward certification as students, through The Sacred Birthing School, DONA, or another pre-approved Doula training program.
- Services Rendered: The doula accompanies the woman in labor, provides emotional and physical support, suggests comfort measures, and provides support and suggestions for the partner. Whenever possible, the doula provides pre- and post-partum emotional support, including explanation and discussion of practices and procedures, and assistance in acquiring the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about her care. Additionally, as doulas do not “prescribe” treatment, any suggestions or information provided within the role of the doula must be done with the proviso that the doula advises her client to check with her primary care provider before using any application.
- Limits to Practice: Standards and practice apply to emotional and physical support only. The doula does not perform clinical or medical tasks such as taking blood pressure or temperature, fetal heart tone checks, vaginal examinations, or postpartum clinical care. If doulas who are also healthcare professionals choose to provide services for a client that are outside the doula's scope of practice, they should not describe themselves as doulas to their client or to others. In such cases they should describe themselves by a name other than “doula” and provide services according to the scopes of practice and the standards of their healthcare profession. On the other hand, if a healthcare professional chooses to limit her services to those provided by doulas, it is acceptable according to the Standards for her to describe herself as a doula.
- Advocacy: The doula advocates for the client's wishes as expressed in her birth plan, in prenatal conversations, and intrapartum discussion, by encouraging her client to ask questions of her care provider and to express her preferences and concerns. The doula helps the mother incorporate changes in plans if and when the need arises, and enhances the communication between client and care provider. Clients and doulas must recognize that the advocacy role does not include the doula speaking instead of the client or making decisions for the client. The advocacy role is best described as support, information, and mediation or negotiation.



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- Referrals: For client needs beyond the scope of the doula's training, referrals are made to appropriate resources.

Continuity of Care:

The doula should make back-up arrangements with another doula to ensure services to the client if the doula is unable to attend the birth. Should any doula feel a need to discontinue service to an established client, it is the doula's responsibility to notify the client and arrange for a replacement, if the client so desires. This may be accomplished by:

- Introducing the client to the back-up doula.
 - Suggesting that another member of The Collective or other doula may be more appropriate for the situation.
- Contacting other representatives of The Collective for names of other doulas in the area.
 - Following up with the client or back-up doula to make sure the client's needs are being accommodated.

Code of Ethics:

I. Rules of Conduct

- A. Propriety. The doula should maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or identity as a birth doula.
- B. Competence and Professional Development. The doula should strive to become and remain proficient in the professional practice and the performance of professional functions through continuing education, affiliation with related organizations, and associations with other birth doulas.
- C. Integrity. The doula should act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.

II. Ethical Responsibility to Clients

- A. Primacy of Client's Interests. The doula's primary responsibility is to her clients.
- B. Rights and Prerogatives of Clients. The doula should make every effort to foster maximum self-determination on the part of her clients.
- C. Confidentiality and Privacy. The doula should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.
- D. Obligation to Serve. The doula should assist each client seeking birth doula support either by providing services or making appropriate referrals.
- E. Reliability. When the doula agrees to work with a particular client, her obligation is to do so reliably, without fail, for the term of the agreement.
- F. Fees. When setting fees, the doula should ensure that they are fair, reasonable, considerate, and commensurate with services performed and with due regard for the client's ability to pay. The doula must clearly state her fees to the client, and describe the services provided, terms of payment and refund policies.



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G. Communication. When there is a disagreement that cannot be resolved between the doula and the family she is serving, a third party mediator shall be called in for resolution. Mediator fees shall be the responsibility of both parties unless deemed otherwise in mediation.

III. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

- A. Respect, Fairness, and Courtesy. The doula should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith.
- B. Dealing with Colleagues' Clients. The doula has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration.

IV. Ethical Responsibility to the Birth Doula Profession

- A. Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession. The doula should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge and mission of the profession.
- B. Community Service: The doula is encouraged to assist Kaua'i families who want a doula through creative efforts by reducing cost or providing services as part of a barter agreement when possible.

V. Ethical Responsibility to Society

- A. Promoting Maternal and Child Welfare. The doula should promote the general health of women and their babies, and whenever possible, that of their family and friends as well.

***By signing this document, I understand and agree to abide by Seven Sisters Doula Collective Contributions, Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.**

Signature of Doula

Date

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Membership Date:

Received By: