



Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
**Kukui Center**

*A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families*

**Winter 2020**



## **Hau'oli lā Ho'omaha**

### **Happy Holidays**

This year has truly shown what can be accomplished when people of good will work collaboratively for the benefit of others. With a lot of dedication, creativity and energy, the Kukui Center has remained open to safely provide services to our community's most vulnerable members.

We want to thank everyone who is part of the Kukui Center 'ohana. Each one of you has made an important difference and contribution to the well being of our community. A special Mahalo Nui Loa to our community partners for their generous support of our programs and their clients in these difficult times. We look forward to a new year filled with hope, health and reimagining.

With aloha,

Judy and Marlene

and the

The Board of Directors of the Kukui Children's Foundation



## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Hawaii Literacy increased efforts to connect communities that have been hit disproportionately hard by COVID-19 to accessible information and community resources through our Family Literacy Libraries, Bookmobile, Adult Literacy, English Language Learner (ELL) and Keiki Tutoring Programs. We did this through Parent Corners, check-in calls with learners, and online English and health classes. We distributed Keiki Wellness Bags featuring locally published health and wellness related new books, family literacy activities, school supplies, healthy snacks, PPE and COVID-19 information at our Family Libraries, Bookmobile partner sites, and other sites in partnership with schools and community organizations including Kukui Center's Family Promise and Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies. Our Keiki Tutoring and Leadership team invited families to use an online tutoring platform and surveyed families about tutoring, distance learning and other needs during this time.

In 2021, Hawaii Literacy will continue initiatives like these while growing strategic relationships and collaborating with more community partners to maintain other core services so that more adults will have a second chance to learn to read and write. There will be more support for children who struggle with reading and writing, and more training to equip volunteers for our communities are planned. We also plan to expand our Parents Achieving Literacy and Reading is Fun programs to help parents support their own children in becoming readers, even if they are not confident readers themselves.



## WE REMAIN STEADFAST

2020 confronted us with many challenges. The year ahead will continue to be tough. We are still in a health and economic crisis. Jobs have been disproportionately lost for low-income workers. Evictions threaten to send thousands of households in our community into homelessness. At Family Promise of Hawai'i, we remain steadfast in our mission to help homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. We are increasing programs to prevent homelessness, divert families from shelter, and ensure long-term stabilization. We have adapted our shelter model to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 while serving more families. We are advocating for more resources and better policies to support vulnerable families.

The work is hard, but we remain committed to providing equitable access to housing for Hawai'i's vulnerable families because every child deserves a home.



**Kids Hurt Too Hawaii**  
Healing Young Hearts

## HOPE IS ALIVE

With 2020 struggles, Kids Hurt Too Hawaii had to be creative in finding a path forward. Services went online, space was released, and remaining space restructured to accommodate the required physical distance for in person services. The safety of children, volunteers, and staff is our top priority. Amidst the changes, miracles happened. First, with the online education programs reaching over 50,000 in a few short months, Kids Hurt Too was inspired to create a television show that teaches children about grief, trauma, and healing naturally while showcasing the beauty of the islands. Work began on the pilot with many delays that gave us time to create the best possible pilot. The show is called HI Rising honoring the boutique that was created by youth but had to be closed. We anticipate the show will air in 2021.

Second, Kids Hurt Too was donated land on which to build a dedicated center for healing young hearts. Three construction companies volunteered the labor. The major task of raising funds for materials has already begun.

As 2021 looms, we expect to increase our annual reach to 500 grieving and traumatized children at both the Kukui Center and the new center, expanding services statewide with the television show, in online groups, and in family retreats at the dedicated center. The lengthy process of building a center may take longer than we hope but hope is alive. And hope is needed to carry us through into our next 20 years of providing services in Hawaii.



## OUR YOUNG ADULTS ARE STRONG IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED

The pandemic has affected everyone, some more than others. For example, consider youth who are in or have been in the foster care system. Many have precarious housing, lower-paying jobs, are attending school and working part-time, and struggle on a daily basis to keep it all together. It does not take much to have that all fall apart. Due to the pandemic, our Independent Living Program (ILP) has had over 40 young adults furloughed from their jobs and 17 with significantly reduced hours, with many of them not eligible for unemployment. Thirty five young parents report increased financial struggles, over 30 struggling to pay their rent or utilities, 21 needing additional assistance with food, 16 needing assistance to purchase electronics for communications or school, and 7 continued working but employers did not provide masks. In addition, over 120 students were displaced from their on-campus classes and forced to switch to online only learning.

Each young person is facing these hardships and challenges with much support on the part of the ILP worker and much resilience on their part. ILP workers are providing youth with alternative virtual activities assisting them to sign up for online free courses, cultural activities, and independent living skills videos, and forums. They are providing information and support in utilizing new COVID-19 related resources, including applications for relief funds, enhancement grants, food pantries, and drive up community resources and we have obtained funding for required technology, such as phones, or tablets. The community has responded recognizing this is a vulnerable population worth ensuring they have some stability so they will not fall through the cracks. There has been some money to assist with some of their needs. The young adults have expressed much appreciation and vow to be strong in their determination to succeed.



Leadership in  
Disabilities & Achievement  
of Hawai'i

## CHANGE TO POSSIBILITIES & INNOVATION

One of the best parts of being an Executive Director is watching your organization and staff grow, adjust, and evolve into a well-oiled machine. Since March, LDAH experienced major adjustments to our programs, however the experience has built a team of well-defined professionals who are confident, ready and willing to develop new ways of leading our community into the future, by looking ahead into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, supporting families who need us to meet them where they are. There are blended families, same gender families, traditional families, hānai families who care for individuals with various disabilities who need resources, information and a way for us to lead them.

Since establishing our new name, Leadership in

Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai'i (LDAH), we continue to align ourselves with our mission, vision and core values serving all children and their families with ANY disability. Although we are no longer affiliated with Learning Disabilities of America, we continue to share their high-quality resources and our National and Regional Technical Assistance Centers for Parent Centers.

LDAH will continue to provide services in early identification, intervention, resources, and workshops heading into 2021 both online and in person during these unprecedented times while staying vigilant against COVID-19 and taking care of each other. We are working to improve your experience with us by creating new innovative pathways to communicate with you.



## PLANS FOR 2021

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii (HMHB) has responded to the needs of our community by delivering meals to the most vulnerable pregnant/parenting people since April through our Māna 'ai program. Providing food access during this great time of need allowed us to have a deeper connection with families and connect the dots between maternal wellbeing, health equity, social determinants of health and helped us understand ways to reweave these cultures of care in our society today. In 2021, we anticipate our food distribution program to grow and transition into phase 2, pairing a meal with every visit that we may do. Food will be interwoven into all of our services as we add a clinical arm to provide mobile in-home health services to mothers and infants in addition to the social service programs we currently have.

We also anticipate huge needs in the maternal/women's mental health space and will be ready to answer the call. Another exciting addition is our Community-Based Doula Program that recently launched! Our doula program provides important access and care for vulnerable mothers in need so that they can also thrive in their journey through pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum. The transition of adding another human into your family is an important one. It is a time that needs to be honored and cherished. This means slowing down a bit and letting others help you out. Please do not hesitate to reach out to HMHB if you or a loved one are in need of support.

As HMHB evolves in 2021, we will continue to host virtual Hawaii Cribs for Kids classes, Piko Pals groups, breastfeeding support, childbirth education classes, mental health support and prenatal and postpartum care by a Nurse Practitioner or Midwife. If you are in need of any resources or services, please contact us at [info@hmhb-hawaii.org](mailto:info@hmhb-hawaii.org) or call us at (808)737-5805.



## LEGAL SERVICES TO HAWAII'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY IN 2021

The Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid Society of Hawaii ("HIJC at Legal Aid") endeavors to provide holistic legal services to Hawaii's immigrant community in 2021. We will continue to focus on helping immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other forms of violence escape abusive situations and find safety and security in the United States of America. We are working with the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence to revamp legal training for a broad range of advocates and staff new to the field of domestic violence. We are expanding our presence in removal proceedings to represent immigrant survivors and prevent their deportation.

Fortunately, HIJC at Legal Aid has added new staff during the pandemic – Samantha Plewa, Makoto Messersmith, and Beverlyn Simina, which means new opportunities. For example, Ms. Simina will expand our outreach into the Micronesian community and provide targeted legal trainings to help families relocating to the United States navigate a new legal, social, and economic system. Holistic legal assistance means that while we practice immigration law, HIJC at Legal Aid also defends the civil rights of immigrants in Hawaii. We will increase our efforts in 2021 to fight against national origin discrimination and ensure persons with limited English proficiency have equal access to federal and state funded programs and assistance, like unemployment insurance, financial and food stamp assistance, schools, and medical insurance.

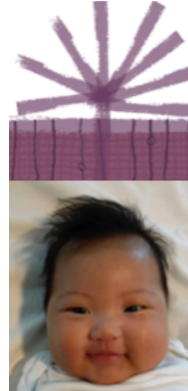




*Ahuwale ka po'okela i kau hana ia ha'i.*

**It is through the way you serve others that your greatness will be felt.**

A special mahalo nui loa to the following 2020 Community Partners for the support and generosity they have given to our 'Ohana at the Kukui Center.



- Aloha Diaper Bank
- Arcadia
- The Bead Gallery
- Ekkebus Charitable Foundation
- Michael O'Malley
- Aloha United Way
- Izumo Taishakyo Mission
- Professional Image
- Hawaii Youth Services Network
- Seymour Kazimirski
- Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Assn.
- Ace Security & Locksmiths
- American Savings Bank
- HI USA Federal Credit Union
- Bodhi Massage Therapy
- RSI Roofing & Building Supply
- Take2 Productions
- Soderholm Bus Sales & Leasing
- Soldat Construction Inc.
- GWiz
- Friends of Hawaii Charities
- Watumull
- Women's League
- Evans Fund





Like the fragrant blossoms strung together to offer a warm embrace, the Community Partners have draped their lei of enthusiastic support over the Kukui Center.

Every partner, like a beautiful flower woven in a lei, is an indispensable contributor to the success of the Kukui Center. With our deepest gratitude, we extend our heartfelt MAHALO and ALOHA.

*Mahalo Palena 'Ole*

Gratitude Beyond Measure



## Partnerships for Donations of Services

Ace Security and Locksmiths  
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 The Bead Gallery  
 The CPA Collective  
 YMCA of Honolulu

## Partnerships for Donations of Goods

Assn. of Legal Administrators  
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 G Wiz! Promotions  
 Honolulu Sign Company  
 Kirk Hovious  
 Islander Group  
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 Pepsi Beverages Company  
 RSI Roofing & Building  
 Company  
 Servco Pacific  
 Soderholm Bus Sales and  
 Leasing  
 Soldat Construction  
 Trade West  
 Vim and Vigor

## Partnerships with Volunteers, Service Clubs, Non-Profit Organizations

Arcadia Retirement Residence  
 Bruce McEwan  
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 Hands in Helping Out  
 Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Assn.  
 Hawaii Youth Services Network  
 Harris United Methodist Church  
 Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority  
 Luke Center for Public Services at  
 Punahou School  
 Seymour Kazimirski  
 Waikiki Community Center Seniors  
 Winners Camp Foundation

## Partnerships for Donations of Funds

Aloha United Way  
 Ekkebus Charitable Foundation  
 Evans Fund  
 Ili'iili Fund  
 Jhamandas Watumull Fund  
 Friends of Hawaii Charities  
 Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii  
 Na Lei Aloha Foundation  
 Women's League of Central Union Church

*Aloha, If you know of an individual, non-profit or organization that can offer their support and interested in joining our Community Partners Program, please email [mamong@kukuicenter.org](mailto:mamong@kukuicenter.org). Mahalo.*







*A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families*

245 North Kukui Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

## WINTER 2020

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kukuchildrensfoun@hawaii.rr.com  
www.kukuicenter.org

## OUR FAMILY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII

Resources for homeless & low income  
families with children  
(808) 548-7478  
www.familypromisehawaii

### LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Legal services for immigrant  
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(808) 536-4302  
www.hijcenter.org

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Support for grieving children  
who have lost a parent  
(808) 545-5683 or (808) 256-3176  
www.kidshurttoo.org

### HAWAII LITERACY

Literacy and lifelong  
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(808) 537-6706  
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### HALE KIPA

Outreach services for child  
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(808) 853-4660  
info@halekipa.org

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Training center for parents  
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www.ldahawaii.org

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Advocacy for a child's right to be  
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