



SUMMER 2021



KUKUI CENTER PROGRAMS GROW IN NEW AND EXCITING WAYS

By Judy Lind, Executive Director

When we opened the Kukui Center we planted a Kukui tree on the property. Along with our programs, it has grown and flourished.

As we emerge from our pandemic cocoons and re-energize ourselves, we celebrate the creativity and flexibility that is giving rise to so many new and expanded services.

Programs like Kids Hurt Too, which had been meeting kids in borrowed space and trucking in program supplies for each meeting, were thrilled to have a home for their programs. Now they are creating exciting new content for media and working on a new place dedicated to children who have suffered a loss.

The predecessor of HIJC at Legal Aid (Na Loio) moved from an office where the termites were holding hands to their beautiful space in the Kukui Center where they have expanded their programs and staff.

Family Promise of Hawaii is in constant movement. With the impact of the pandemic they had to pivot from their past model and look towards the possibilities of acquiring a building to shelter homeless families.

These programs were original members of the Kukui Center 'ohana which enabled them to build strong foundations and increase their visibility and support.

Now they are expanding in new directions while keeping their safe anchor in the Kukui Center community. We are so happy and proud to see them blooming and adding new branches to the Kukui Center tree.



LEARNING TO NEVER GIVE UP



Kids Hurt Too Hawaii
Healing Young Hearts



Surf for the Soul Mentoring Event

At Kids Hurt Too Hawaii, children and teens may go off-site to experience a variety of constructive and healing activities at various locations around the island. We call these outings, 'Mentoring Events.' Some of our most popular events include *Poi for the Soul* (Kalo patches), *Seeds of Love* (gardening) and *Surf for the Soul* (surfing). Notice the nature theme in our most popular off-site events? This is because being in nature can be incredibly healing for youth coping with grief and trauma.

Our signature Mentoring Event titled *Surf for the Soul* began in 2003 when children and teens asked if they could learn how to surf! A child's desire to learn something new is how most of our Mentoring Events begin and develop into monthly, quarterly, or annual off-site activities.

Learning how to surf waves in the ocean can be a healing activity because the challenges of surfing are mirrored in adaptations to loss and in healing trauma. Waves are sometimes small and easy to deal with, or sometimes big and difficult, knocking you off your board and pushing you under. The same is true for grief and trauma. Sometimes the waves of pain are small and manageable, and sometimes they are overwhelmingly big and knocking you off balance.

Surfing teaches youth to **never give up** regardless of the size of the wave. Like with grief or trauma, they may struggle to get back up after being knocked down by a big wave. But they keep practicing and eventually can ride big and small waves with increased ease and confidence.

HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES COMMITTED TO TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY



healthymothers
healthybabies

COALITION OF HAWAII

HMHB has been hard at work serving the mothers, birthing people, babies and families of Oahu. Our various services, advocacy and outreach have been continuous through the pandemic.

With the launch of our Mana Mama Mobile clinic, we have been able to provide care all over Oahu, meeting people's needs and filling in any gaps. Clients have been seen in the mobile clinic for prenatal, postpartum and lactation visits with our multi-talented team of providers. Doulas from our community-based doula program have been providing support and advocacy. At all of Oahu's hospitals. Our midwives and doulas have been making postpartum home visits to make sure no one falls through the cracks.



Kari Wheeling, APRN-BC doing a prenatal visit in the Mana Mama Medical Mobile Van

But the care doesn't stop there. The continuity of care extends into the home as new families need support in those early weeks with a brand new baby. We have been able to offer childbirth education virtually and in person, so expecting parents feel prepared during labor, birth and beyond. Our team is still delivering cribs, meals and diapers to families who express a need. HMHB is committed to taking care of our community in all the ways possible with the intention and goal to reach as many families as possible.

This is the HMHB way!

SLIPPING THROUGH THE SUMMER SLIDE



Have you heard about the summer slide? No, it is certainly not the newest attraction at the water park for thrill seekers and keiki. Summer slide is the regression in reading and academic skills over the summer break months.

All the hard work the keiki have put in during the school year has a big potential to be lost during this time and Hawaii Literacy is making a big splash by defeating the summer slide with our Summer Reading Program.

Headed by Pua'Ena Burgess, our Special Project Manager, and her wonderful staff, she has teamed up with Waianae Library and their Summer Fun program to invite students to participate. Students who are interested and challenged to read at least eight books during the summer are rewarded with a bag full of new school supplies and other goodies.

Through this initiative, the hope is to inspire a keiki's love for reading and to develop a lifelong desire to read and learn. This program is located at five different sites on the West Side, Waianae District Park, Pili'au Community Park, Makaha District Park, Maili Community Park, and Kalaniana'ole Beach Park. For the older keiki, a poetry circle and weekly Leadership group to support skill development in teens is also ongoing during the summer. Hawaii Literacy wants students to slip out of the summer slide and be able to tackle the oncoming school year with confidence. Come check us out for more programs and services available at hawaiiliteracy.org.



Poetry Circle and Weekly Leadership Group



The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i has been busy assisting people facing economic crises stay housed. This includes assisting families facing discrimination.

For Kristen, staying home meant standing up for her family's right to equal opportunity and treatment. Due to an emergency, Kristen took responsibility under a foster care and hanai arrangement for the care of a relative's children. Suddenly, her family of three grew to a family of eight. A challenging situation became more complicated when Kristen's landlord then attempted to terminate her rental agreement.

State and federal fair housing laws prevent discrimination against families. Hawaii laws specifically address situations in which a family grows during their tenancy. A landlord may not evict a tenant because the number of children in the family increases unless it would violate the County's occupancy code. Even if it does, the landlord must work with a family who requests an exemption.

HEALTHY AT HOME

Kristin wanted to move to a bigger apartment, but she could not do so on the landlord's timeline. She engaged advocates including Legal Aid to reach out to the landlord. Facing homelessness, she filed a lawsuit to successfully keep her family from being evicted.

The case settled for a financial sum, and the landlord agreed to change its policies.

During the pandemic, the need for safe and stable housing has been in the spotlight. Landlords may not discriminate against a person because of their age, ancestry, color, disability, HIV status, familial status, marital status, national origin, race, religion, and sex (including gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation). Individuals who believe they have faced housing discrimination can contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Hawaii Civil Rights Coalition. They can also reach out to the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii at 808-536-4302.

FAMILY PROMISE'S KEIKI ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

As things are opening back up and people feel more comfortable going out, we are optimistic about starting up in-person volunteer opportunities as the summer months roll in.

With all the changes in how keiki learned and interacted with each other due to COVID restrictions, many students are behind in their school work, or simply need some extra help with preparing for the upcoming school year. This summer, we will be launching a keiki tutoring and activities program to provide the keiki in our programs with supplemental learning



opportunities to help them master reading fundamentals, improve social skills and encourage creativity through arts & crafts and other fun engagements. These programs will allow the families in our programs along with the community at large to create a fun and supportive environment for children to thrive.

Magic Johnson, the famed basketball player turned philanthropist said, "all children need is a little help, a little hope, and someone who believes in them." Our keiki activities program hopes to be all that and more.



**Leadership
in Disabilities
& Achievement of
Hawai'i**

DISABILITY IS ANOTHER WORD FOR ABILITIES

December of 2014, Dustin Park began as a high school volunteer with Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii. His precise and detail-oriented work ethic was utilized in brochure assembly. It wasn't long before he proved that he was able to take on more responsibilities including maintaining the agency library and data entry. Over the years he stayed diligent, keeping to his bi-weekly appointments and showed himself to be a reliable, efficient and organized member of the team.

After nearly four and a half years, Dustin officially became an LDAH employee in April of 2019. His main responsibility is event data entry which plays a key role in grant reporting for the agency. Dustin has always been open about being on the Autism Spectrum and never let his diagnosis limit his involvement in his community or workplace. His favorite things about working for LDAH are having his own computer and enjoying agency holiday luncheons.

Outside of the office, Dustin can be found playing the tenor saxophone with the University of Hawai'i band at UH sporting events or attending classes at Hawai'i Community College where he is in pursuit of his Liberal Arts degree. In January 2021, Dustin was accepted into UCLA's Pathway Extension Program, a two-year college program for students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, offering a blend of educational, social, and vocational experiences. He will attend as a full-fledged college student where he will dorm and attend classes without support.



Dustin Park



WORKING OFF-SITE WITH CREATIVITY

Hale Kipa's Independent Living Program (ILP), in working with current and former foster youth and young adults, has had to find creative ways to work with our clients and other service providers since the Covid-19 pandemic. Working outside of the office has been standard practice for ILP Case Managers, but the Covid-19 pandemic has made it a bit more complicated. The usual sites, coffee shops, parks, and clients' residences, have been unavailable for safety reasons, and closures. Hale Kipa case managers have become experts at Zoom, Teams, and WebEx presentations and finding out of the way outdoor spaces to meet safely with their clients.

Working off-site has allowed our Case managers to expand their own knowledge base to continue to work with other agencies and connect clients to resources outside of Hale Kipa.

Technology has allowed clients and staff to stay connected during this unusual time in our history, and expanded ways we can serve our clients. Our Case managers are learning they can share their knowledge with their clients to keep them up to date on ways to stay connected and alleviate some of the stress of feeling isolated.

Hale Kipa is currently working towards creating a Hybrid model for working with clients to allow the Case managers to meet the needs of the client as well as allow the Case managers to make the most of their time within the community and take advantage of all the resources available.

OUR KEIKI NEEDS YOUR KOKUA



Aloha,

The Kukui Center's keiki need your help. No child in Hawaii should go without basic learning materials. Please contact mamong@kukuicenter.org to coordinate your donation drop off. All donations must be in its' original packaging. *Mahalo nui loa* for your partnership and generosity.

WISH LIST OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR OUR KEIKI

- Art Supplies
- Colored Markers, Crayons, Highlighters in Pink, Yellow, Green
- Locally Published Books for Keiki (Pre-K to Grade 3)
- Lined Wide Ruled Paper
- 2 inch 3 Ring Binders
- Pencil Cases and #2 Pencils and Black and Red Pens
- Composition Books
- Two Subject Portfolio Folders
- Rulers
- Backpacks

By Sheila Black

My husband and I moved into Arcadia in August of 2010. He was recovering from surgery and spent several months in Arcadia's Health Care Center before passing away in May of the following year.

Shortly after that, I was approached by Karen (Tookie) White and Vonnie Turner, president of the Arcadia Residents' Association. They were looking for a resident to spearhead an Outreach Committee for the Residents' Association.

Tookie was a member of the Board of Directors of the Kukui Children's Foundation and had received the support of Emmet White, Chief Executive Officer of the Arcadia Family of Companies, to see if residents of the Arcadia Retirement Residence would be interested in participating in the Kukui Center Community Partnership Program.

I agreed to see if any of our residents would be interested in being involved in this volunteer activity. It entailed a group working for approximately two hours on a specific day to prepare the Kukui Center's newsletter for mailing. The work would be done here in one of Arcadia's meeting rooms on an "as needed" basis with a sign-up sheet posted at least one week in advance of the activity.

Residents signed up, worked together and the task was soon completed. Everyone had a good time in the process and were eager for the next opportunity to participate. Some of the residents had done volunteer work prior to moving into Arcadia and were glad to be involved again without having to drive somewhere or spend an entire half or full day in the activity.

Volunteering as a participant in the partnership program gave our residents an opportunity to learn more about the Kukui Center's agencies and what they provide our community. Another result is the toiletries donated by several Arcadians.

I was grateful for the opportunity to provide some service for the Kukui Center and offer our residents a way to continue the volunteer work that many of them did prior to moving into Arcadia. We all enjoy the fellowship and chance to become better acquainted with more Arcadia residents in the process.

The volunteers look forward to the end of the COVID-19 restrictions so we can once again get together and do the next Kukui Center mailing preparation!



***The 'Ohana at the Kukui Center Appreciates You Enormously
Mahalo Palena 'Ole for Your Giving Heart and Beautiful Spirit***

Mahalo Palena 'Ole

Gratitude Beyond Measure to our 2021 Community Partners for your continued support of goods and services.

With *Aloha*, the Staff at the Kukui Center

Partnerships for Donations of Services

Ace Security and Locksmiths
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Professional Image Hawaii
Take2 Productions
The Bead Gallery
The CPA Collective
YMCA of Honolulu

Partnerships with Volunteers, Service Clubs, Non-Profit Organizations

Arcadia Retirement Residence
Bruce McEwan
Habilitat, Inc.
Hands in Helping Out
Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Assn.
Hawaii Youth Services Network
Harris United Methodist Church
Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
The Luke Center for Public Service
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

Partnerships for Donations of Goods

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

If you know of any individuals, businesses, or organizations that can offer their support and interested in joining our Community Partners Program, please email mamong@kukuicenter.org. *Mahalo nui loa!*



Summer 2021
**Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Kukui Center**

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

**245 North Kukui Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817**

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kukuichildrensoun@hawaii.rr.com

www.kukuicenter.org

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Resources for homeless & low income
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(808) 548-7478

www.familypromisehawaii.org

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Legal services for immigrant victims of
crime, including domestic violence,
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(808) 536-4302

www.hijcenter.org

KIDS HURT TOO HAWAII

Support for grieving and traumatized children

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www.kidshurttoo.org

HAWAII LITERACY

Literacy and lifelong
learning services

(808) 537-6706

www.hawaiiliteracy.org

HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES COALITION OF HAWAII

Advocacy and direct services for pregnant
and birthing people so that babies can be
born healthy and raised in a safe and
nurturing environment.

(808) 737-5805

info@hmhb-hawaii.org

LEADERSHIP IN DISABILITIES & ACHIEVEMENT OF HAWAII

Training and screening center for
parents of children with disabilities

(808) 536-9684

www.ldahawaii.org

HALE KIPA, INC.

Outreach services for child abuse victims in, or
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(808) 853-4660

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