



The Power of Partnership at the **KUKUI CENTER**

The Kukui Center thrives because of the dedication and collaboration of an extraordinary support team whose efforts keep the facility running smoothly and its mission flourishing. Thanks to them, the seven nonprofit agencies housed in the building can focus on serving their clients. Collectively, they reached over 30,000 people last year.

Behind the scenes, a wide range of staff members, contractors, and volunteers contribute to this success. From property management and maintenance to project support, communications, and community outreach, each person plays a crucial role. Their combined expertise ensures that the building stays safe and welcoming, operations evolve to meet tenant needs, and the broader community stays connected to the Kukui Center's mission.

Our property manager, Leilani Clayton, ensures that building operations are well-maintained. On top of all of that, she is overseeing major projects this fall, including the installation of new HVAC equipment, roof, and PV system. The offices and common areas are clean and well cared for by John Hurd, who has been with the KC for almost 15 years. Just as the building is kept on a strong physical foundation, our financial records are in good shape thanks to Susan Fairbairn's diligence in keeping us on a strong fiscal foundation.

Support through the Community Partners Program brings donations of goods, services, and volunteer time to the KC and its agencies. Marlene Among plays a vital role in coordinating partners, building connections, and garnering resources. We rely on many of our Community Partners: Mike Soldat volunteers his construction expertise and helps wherever he can, Kat and Tim Bradley volunteer their time and talent to revise the KC video, capturing its heart and impact to inspire supporters and partners for years to come. Many other community partners also contribute to this spirit of generosity, including groups like the Association of Legal Administrators (featured on page six) and the Rotary Club of Honolulu for their summer donations.

Together, this circle of dedicated supporters keeps the Kukui Center growing, thriving, and making a lasting impact on thousands of children and families each year.



by Lorraine Gershun
Executive Director

BRINGING CELEBRATION AND CARE TO

Hawai'i Island Families

healthymothers
healthybabies
COALITION OF HAWAII

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies' Hawai'i Island team recently hosted a non-traditional baby shower that paired joyful celebration with essential care. Families received baby supplies and participated in on-site health services in a welcoming, trauma-informed environment.

Leading up to the event, eight prenatal clients connected with HMHB's mobile clinic for prenatal visits, lactation support, and mental health therapy, many of whom had faced gaps in care due to transportation, childcare challenges, or difficulty getting appointments. Some were still without a provider well into their second trimester, highlighting the need for flexible, community-based support.

At the event, families received rapid syphilis testing, prenatal care, and attended a lively "STI Education Speed Dating" session led by the Department of Health's Harm Reduction Branch. Childcare was provided and an HMHB doula offered support throughout the day. All attendees, many with lived experience of domestic violence, substance use, or prior unsheltered living, were offered maternity photo shoots as part of the celebration.

By weaving together screenings, support, and joy, HMHB continues to build access and trust.

FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY

LENTINNE'S JOURNEY WITH FAMILY PROMISE

Thanks to Family Promise of Hawai'i's dedicated supporters, the organization has already served more than 1,900 children, parents, and family members in 2025 - transforming the lives of over 660 families facing homelessness through housing, resources, and support.

One of those families was Lentinne and her daughter, who experienced homelessness after leaving an abusive relationship. They faced months of uncertainty, first couch-surfing and then trying other shelters where they had to leave during the day, without child care. Lentinne couldn't work enough hours to afford housing. At one point, her daughter slept in the back of a coworker's car so Lentinne could work extra shifts.

Everything changed when they entered Family Promise's interim Housing program, which offers families private rooms and 24/7 shelter access. With support from her case manager, Lentinne focused on key steps: securing an apartment, saving money, working more hours, and applying for benefits for her daughter.

In just two months, she reached her goals and moved into stable housing. Today, Lentinne and her daughter are building a future filled with joy and stability. She reflected,

**"EVERYONE IN FPH IS SO KIND. FPH GAVE US A
NEW LIFE - WE FINALLY HAVE OUR OWN SPACE
TO CALL HOME. "**



*Family Promise of Hawai'i helped
Lentinne and her daughter quickly move
from homelessness to stable housing*

 **FamilyPromise**
of Hawaii



REDEFINING inspiration

Michael F. redefines inspiration. A man in his 70s, Michael, refused to let difficult setbacks in his life stop him from enrolling in community college and earning a degree. However, his new degree did not provide him with many of the basic computer skills needed to get a job that would utilize his other skills and education. Michael's optimistic determination to achieve his goals shouts a redefinition of what inspiration actually means.

Michael joined our Digital Literacy class with enthusiasm to get a good job and regaining some of his independence from living on disability. His demeanor and kindness were felt by everyone, inspiring other learners to grasp the material and put it to practical use. Michael literally did what he set out to do and got a job at a local YMCA where he uses his new computer skills in his job description.



Michael (blue t-shirt) exemplifies the reason for everything we do at Hawaii Literacy; he took the tools we had to offer and made his life better. He is an inspiration to us all.



Leadership
in Disabilities &
Achievement of
Hawai'i

A Different Kind of Normal: Our NICU Journey and Beyond

Leilani Kailiawa

Leilani is a parent consultant at Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement of Hawai'i (LDAH), where she supports families navigating the challenges of special education and disability advocacy. Her passion for this work is rooted in her personal journey as a parent.

When doctors discovered complications during her pregnancy, Leilani had to leave her family on Hawai'i Island to receive care at Kapi'olani Medical Center on O'ahu. Her son, Jeremiah, was born at 34 weeks, weighing just 2.5 pounds. After emergency surgery for a life-threatening intestinal condition, he spent months in the NICU.

While her husband cared for their children at home, Leilani stayed with Jeremiah—learning how to feed him through a tube and how to stay strong even when she felt afraid. There were moments of grief and guilt, but over time, she found patience, courage, and trust.

Today, Jeremiah is nine and full of life and love. Leilani is grateful for the strength she found and the chance to grow alongside him. Through her work at LDAH, she now walks beside other families, offering compassion, guidance, and hope—reminding them they are not alone in their journey.





HALE KIPA

Inspiring Lives - One Youth At A Time

TEHANI

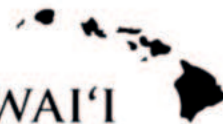
a success story

Tehaine entered foster care at the age of 14 after experiencing sexual trauma in her home. From the ages of 14 to 16, Tehaine ran away often, was in and out of the detention home, and was involved with a juvenile probation officer. Tehaine has faced many obstacles in her life, including trafficking, living in a shelter, and being unhoused. Despite the adversity she has faced, Tehaine has risen above and become a successful and positive member of our community. Tehaine has participated in the interdependent living program with Hale Kipa for the past few years and has successfully transitioned between case managers, continuing to receive services and achieve her goals of stable housing and employment.

Tehaine lives with her boyfriend in independent housing, which she was able to secure on her own. She works a full-time job as a receptionist at a dermatology clinic. Tehaine has gained the necessary skills for independent living and continues to be an outstanding example to other foster youth of the successes that are achievable even in the face of adversity.



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAI'I



Legal Aid Provides DV Survivor with Tools

TO STAND UP FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILY

Before I came to Legal Aid I... was struggling after experiencing domestic violence and felt very lost. I did not understand the legal system and was unsure of the steps to take. It was a very stressful and uncertain time for me and my children.

Legal Aid provided clear guidance on the documents I needed to prepare and gave me supportive advice. Their help gave me the strength and confidence to move forward.

Due to Legal Aid's help, I was able to begin organizing my case and take important steps to protect myself and my children. I now feel more prepared and less alone in this process.

What I want people to know about Legal Aid...Legal Aid is a caring and supportive resource. They help people who feel lost and give them the tools to stand up for themselves.



Coming Together for DV Support



Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i
Healing Young Hearts

Aloha
Kākou



Over the past year, Kids Hurt Too Hawaii (KHTH) has collaborated with Catholic Charities Hawaii to provide safe spaces, support groups, and mentoring programs to families residing at the Maililand Family Assessment Center. Through this partnership, families impacted by housing instability gain access to our services, offering much-needed stability for both youth and their 'ohana. Working closely with area schools, these services continue to support families throughout their housing journey, ensuring that keiki are greeted by familiar faces even after being placed in permanent housing. As a result, youth experience fewer negative impacts of housing instability and benefit from broader social supports.

KHTH partners with the Legacy Foundation for Surf for the Soul. This partnership creates a safe and supportive space for keiki to heal from grief and trauma while experiencing the joy of surfing. With guidance from caring mentors, children are reminded they are not alone as they build confidence, resilience, and connection—riding the waves together.

KHTH has also expanded its mobile services into three of the state's Family Assessment Centers and five additional schools. Through these new partnerships, we are helping to address the intergenerational and historical grief and trauma experienced by the people of Hawai'i, including the Native Hawaiian community.

THE KEIKI AT THE KUKUI CENTER
NEED YOUR KŌKUA

Many of our 'Ohana struggle to provide even the basics to their Keiki. A simple gift can bring joy, hope, and encouragement to a child who might otherwise go without. Your generosity can truly make a difference. We are asking for...

- SPORTS EQUIPMENT
 - soccer ball
 - volleyball
 - baseball with a bat/glove, or
 - tennis ball and racket
 - boogie board
- BACKPACKS with SCHOOL SUPPLIES are STILL NEEDED!
- GIFT CARDS FOR LUNCH - Help a Keiki with a warm meal

*Mahalo nui loa for caring
for our Keiki*



Contact Marlene: 808-343-2700 email: mamong@kukuicenter.org

6 COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Mahalo Palena Ole GRATITUDE WITHOUT MEASURE



Association of Legal Administrators Hawai'i Members & Business Partners

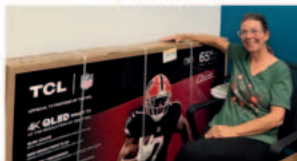
The non-profit agencies at the Kukui Center and the 'Ohana we serve are deeply appreciative and humbled by the generosity of the donations made by the Association of Legal Administrators Hawai'i (ALA) and its Business Partners.

A heartfelt mahalo to Indevtech for the donation of a desktop computer and monitor to Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement of Hawai'i; to Access Corp Hawai'i for the gift of a 65" Smart Television to Hale Kipa; and to ALA for providing iPads to Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i, along with pots and pans sets and rice cookers for Family Promise. Your generosity uplifts our keiki, 'ohana, and agencies in ways that go far beyond the gifts themselves. Truly,

"A'oha hana nui ke alu 'ia"—No task is too big when done together by all.

We will be forever grateful for your kindness, thoughtfulness, and commitment to serving our island community. A very special mahalo nui loa to Katelyn Shelly and Aura-Ann Lee with ALA for their support in organizing the donations.

Hale Kipa



Family Promise



Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawaii



Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies



WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHOSE GENEROUS KŌKUA HAS TOUCHED THE LIVES OF OUR KEIKI AND 'OHANA:

Mahalo I Ka Mea Loa 'a

- **Arcadia Hawaii** – Donated Toiletries & puzzles for Family Promise and Hawaii Literacy
- **Rotary Club of Honolulu** – Donated 100 backpacks with school supplies & volunteer support for Hawaii Literacy
- **Mike Soldat** – Assistance with solar panel recycling and delivery of bookcases to Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
- **Nā Lei Aloha Foundation** – Volunteer support with Kids Hurt Too Hawaii and donated fans to the Kukui Center
- **Hawaii Flower Lei** – Donated lei for Family Promise and Kids Hurt Too Hawaii events
- **Altres** – Staff training for Family Promise and Kids Hurt Too Hawaii
- **Association of Legal Administrators** – Donated file cabinets for LDAH & paper supplies for Hawaii Literacy
- **Aloha Diaper Bank** – Donated Diapers for Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
- **Beautiful Hawaii Gifts** – Donated Toiletries for Family Promise
- **Take2 Productions** – Donated their time and talents in revising the Kukui Center video

YOUR SUPPORT BRINGS HOPE AND JOY TO OUR KEIKI AND 'OHANA.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your continued support

Partnerships for Donations of Services

Ace Security & Locksmith
 Advanced Fencing Solutions
 AESolutions LLC
 Afterschool Art
 American Savings Bank
 Anthology Marketing Group
 Neal Aoki, Attorney at Law
 College Directions Hawaii
 CYT Communications
 Dave and Busters
 Denton US LLP
 Digital Vault Consulting
 Foxbilt Electric Company
 HACBED
 Hawaii Digi Doc
 Hawai'i Flower Lei
 Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union
 HONBLUE
 IPR Hawaii
 Jessica Gong
 Kahala Data Services
 Dennis Kim
 King's Kustom Tinting
 Leonui Communications
 Michael J. O'Malley
 Aaron Ortiz
 Ohana Komputer
 Michael Powell
 Professional Image Hawaii
 Rejuvenate with Arlene
 RSI Roofing & Building Supply
 Simplicity HR by ALTRES
 Take2 Production
 The Bead Gallery
 The CPA Collective
 The Lightman
 YMCA of Honolulu

Partnerships for Donations of Funds

Aloha United Way
 Alapaka Charitable Fund
 Altres Foundation
 American Savings Bank
 Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation
 Davis Levin Livingston Charitable Foundation
 Ekkebus Charitable Foundation

Partnerships for Donations of Funds (cont'd)

Evans Fund
 First Insurance Charitable Foundation
 Friends of Hawaii Charities
 Ili'ili Fund
 Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii
 Jhamandas Watumull Fund
 Na Lei Aloha Foundation
 Women's League of Central Union Church

Partnerships for Donations of Goods

Aloha Diaper Bank
 American T-Shirt Company
 Association of Legal Administrators
 Beautiful Gifts Hawai'i
 Big City Diner
 CS Wo & Sons
 GWIZ Promotions
 Honolulu Sign Company
 Kirk Hovious
 Islander Group
 Market City Shopping Center
 Jordan and Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation
 Pacific Home and Appliance Distribution
 Soderholm Bus and Mobility
 Soldat Construction
 Vim and Vigor
 W. Lau Enterprises

Partnerships with Volunteers, Service Clubs & Non-Profit Organizations

Arcadia Retirement Residence
 Habilitat, Inc.
 Hands in Helping Out
 Harris United Methodist Church
 Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Assn.
 Hawaii Youth Services Network
 Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority
 Deborah Leimomi Kondo
 Luke Center for Public Service
 Bruce McEwan
 Nanakuli Housing Corporation
 Rotary Club of Honolulu
 Mary Shimizu, MBA, RA
 Seymour Kazimirski-Global Consulting Co.
 Waikiki Community Center Seniors
 Winners Camp Foundation



FALL 2025
 Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Kukui Center

A gathering place for those who serve vulnerable children and families

**245 North Kukui Street - #103
 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817**

OUR FAMILY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clyde Namu'o
President

JudyLind
Vice President

Pat Kay
Secretary

Lauren R. Sharkey
Treasurer

Timothy A. Fong
Emily Harper
David Lato

Jim Reinhardt
Victoria Schneider
Suzanne Skjold

BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

Jack Dwyer
Sue Landon
Karen K. White

STAFF

Lorraine Gershun
Executive Director

Marlene Among
*Community Partners
 Program*

FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAI'I

Preventing and ending
 homelessness for families
 with children
 808-300-0560
familypromisehawaii.org

HALE KIPA

Outreach, residential and
 therapeutic services for youth and
 young adults in crisis and those
 transitioning from the foster care
 system into adulthood
 808-589-1829 - info@halekipa.org

HAWAII LITERACY

Literacy & lifelong learning services
 808-537-6706
www.hawaiiliteracy.org

HAWAII IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER AT LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Civil legal services for low income
 families and immigrant victims of
 crime, including domestic violence,
 sexual assault and human trafficking
 808-536-4302
www.legalaidhawaii.org

HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES COALITION OF HAWAII

Advocacy & direct services for
 pregnant & birthing people so that
 babies can be born healthy & raised in
 a safe & nurturing environment
 808-737-5805
info@hmhb-hawaii.org

KIDS HURT TOO HAWAII

Support for grieving & traumatized
 children
 808-545-5683 - www.kidshurttoo.org

LEADERSHIP IN DISABILITIES & ACHIEVEMENT OF HAWAII

Training and screening center for
 parents of children with or at risk of
 disabilities and the professionals
 that serve them.
 808-536-9684 -
www.ldahawaii.org



kcf@kukuicenter.org
www.kukuicenter.org
 If you prefer a digital copy of our
 newsletter email:
mamong@kukuicenter.org