



## WHAT'S NEW IN THE KUKUI CENTER

They say that “necessity is the mother of invention” and nonprofits throughout the country are pivoting and adapting to our new post-covid reality. The demands of Covid will continue, although in different forms, requiring evolution, creativity and growth in how to meet them.

Increasingly, the Kukui Center programs have expanded from the offices inside our building to outdoor spaces. Even before Covid, we have provided an outdoor venue to provide additional services.

Spearheaded on a rotating basis, the Kukui Center agencies have collaboratively set up shop in the parking lot to provide food, health aids, baby supplies, legal and housing information and other services and information connected to the 7 programs within the center.

We have some exciting plans for 2022. As families with children under 5 years old are given the opportunity to have their children vaccinated in the near future, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies has suggested holding a “Kukui Center Health Fair”



organized around providing vaccines for our youngest keiki. Joining them will be other programs which support children and families.

Similarly in May, Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement of Hawaii will be setting up a screening clinic in the parking lot and our other KC programs will participate as well. Their intent is to screen keiki 0-5 years of age in the community for vision, hearing and developmental disabilities.

We want the Kukui Center to be a true family resource, particularly for our neighbors. By creating these opportunities, we recognize that these are demanding and stressful times for parents and the easier and more accessible the help, the more likely it is for them to take advantage of what is being offered for their children. It is a real win/win for everyone.

Stay tuned for information about the Kukui Center Health Fairs.

## WHAT'S NEW AT



healthymothers  
healthybabies  
COALITION OF HAWAII

*A mother wakes up in the middle of the night, sweating with a fever and weak. Unsure what to do or who to call- is it an infection? Do I need to make a trip to the ER right now? Do I really need that second COVID-19 shot? I still don't feel comfortable with...*

healthymothers  
healthybabies  
COALITION OF HAWAII

## 24-hr Mana Mama TELEHEALTH

We can answer questions regarding:

- Breastfeeding Support
- Prenatal & Postpartum Support
- COVID-19 Vaccines & Appointments
- Statewide & Local Resources
- and Much More!

**Message Us Today!**  
[www.hmhb-hawaii.org](http://www.hmhb-hawaii.org)

As parents, there are so many issues that come up randomly and sometimes you just need quick reassurance without making an appointment. Our families have been asking for a 24-hr hotline and Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii (HMHB) answered the call.

We are excited to announce the launch of our Mana Mama 24-Hour Telehealth! The Mana Mama 24-hour Telehealth Platform provides breastfeeding support, prenatal and postnatal support, mental health support, COVID-19 support and more to anyone, anywhere, anytime. This service allows our team to address pregnancy/parenting/lactation related questions immediately and schedule an appointment with a clinical staff-member as soon as the next business day either in our office or in the comfort of their own home. Or we may just do a telehealth call with the client right then in the moment they message in.

Our goal is to support expectant parents and be an extension for healthcare providers, hospitals and our community with this invaluable resource. The line is staffed with our clinical team of Nurses, Midwives, Lactation Consultants, and Nurse Practitioners.

We are committed to ensuring women and families receive easy access to resources and information before, during and after pregnancy. This platform allows us to continue our mission to support Hawaii's families across the island chain and is another way that HMHB is breaking down barriers to care.

WHAT'S NEW AT



EQUITY IN DIGITAL LITERACY. Hawaii Literacy's programs' Adult Literacy, English Language Learner, and Family Literacy Libraries are all beginning to resume in-person learning/tutoring and our Bookmobile team is excited to begin visiting weekly sites again. However, these past two years, the pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital literacy skills and underscored the gulf between people who can leverage technology and those that can't - it's an equity issue. Digital literacy is literacy. Access to technology and the opportunity to read, write, and develop digital skills are critical for academic success for adults and students.



Hawaii Literacy Bookmobile

To address this issue, Hawaii Literacy joined the Workforce Resiliency Initiative (WRI) to reach the goal of connecting 100,000 people to opportunities to develop digital skills.

This partnership with existing programs are to help the 1 in 6 adults in Hawaii who struggle to read and write to reach a basic level of digital and traditional literacy to ensure they can participate in the initiative despite having lower literacy skills than necessary to use the standard curriculum for WRI.

We've created a Digital Literacy program focusing on connectivity, culturally informed digital skills training, and access to technology that can scale to public housing sites and other organizations that serve low literacy adults. We recently completed the first series of ongoing classes that help residents at the public housing communities of Mayor Wright Homes and the Towers at Kuhio Park and will increase outreach to recruit and support more residents. However, any adults from low-income communities are welcome to attend.

WHAT'S NEW AT

Aloha. As we head into Spring, HIJC is bustling with new talent and energy as we welcome new faces both virtually and in person to our office. Here is what's new.

Tiffany Dumas is our most recent hire and her role will be helping clients with their social security application. We are so happy to welcome Tiffany and glad that her strong commitment to public interest law and empathy and compassion have led her to join our Legal Aid team.

We also will soon be welcoming another team member to work on outreach efforts within our COFA community. Her work will be connected to our services in assisting clients who are citizens of COFA countries and would like replacement I-94s and/or an employment authorization



document (EAD). The EAD can be a very useful immigration document because it is federally authorized picture identification and can be used for documentation purposes in many situations including with employers, the Social Security Administration, at the DMV, and to fly domestically.

She also will be helping on education about Medicaid eligibility and applications.

Meanwhile, we have no less than 6 students actively helping on immigration cases for youth and families. While we are still conducting most of our work remotely, you may see them at times in and around the office. We truly appreciate their desire to work and learn with us.



## WHAT'S NEW AT Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai'i

**CYBERBULLYING AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY.** If the word "bullying" makes you think of one child picking on another on the playground, it is time to update your image of how students bully. While face-to-face harassment still exists, new ways of bullying have emerged that can be harmful to children. With easy access to cell phones, instant messaging, mobile devices, social networking websites, and other technologies, bullying has found its way into cyberspace. Because of its high prevalence, it is important that parents learn what cyberbullying is and how to respond.

What is cyberbullying? It is the use of technology to harass, hurt, embarrass, humiliate, and intimidate another person. It can be done anonymously or not. Today's children are the first generation to use technology to bully each other. Today's parents need to learn how to address this issue with their children. These steps are a guide for exploring this topic with your child:

1. Have the "cyberbullying" conversation. What it is, what it will look like for your child while online or if they have a cell phone and using social media.
2. Set cyber safety rules, such as, don't do or say anything online that you wouldn't do or say in person. Don't reveal anything that you wouldn't tell a stranger.
3. Know what your children are doing online. As a parent, you have a responsibility to know what your children are doing online. Establish rules about your access to their cell phones, text history, social networking sites and other computer accounts. Keep your child's computer in an open spot.



Technology offers children many advantages and benefits and, occasionally some risks. The solution is not to remove their access to technology but rather to plan ahead to ensure your child is safe. By being aware of your child's cyber activities, learning about new technologies, and adding to "cyber parenting" to your list of talents.

## WHAT'S NEW AT



**2022: WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON?** Will this pandemic ever end?!? Many of us have asked this question out of frustration as hopes of "returning to normal" get further and further away. The pandemic has brought hardship for many, including families struggling with housing insecurity. For the past two years, we've rapidly increased our availability of services to meet the needs of these families. We saw a 450% increase in individuals served compared to 2018 - 2019. An increase in federal relief dollars has helped us support this increase. Unfortunately, these dollars are set to expire soon and our waitlist for services continues to grow.

Low-income families are likely to face extra economic hardships in 2022 with the surge of COVID in our community alongside a reduction in child care tax credits and a lack of enhanced unemployment benefits that helped them stabilize over the past two years.

Despite this, we will continue to support families. We will continue to try and find new ways to shelter and rehouse those in need. We'll continue to search for a building to call our long-term home - our Ohana Navigation Center. We'll continue to seek new funding to help provide rental assistance and case management services. We'll continue to collaborate with the community to support one another. We know times are tough. We are all feeling it. We will continue to be here.



## WHAT'S NEW AT



Kids Hurt Too Hawaii  
Healing Young Hearts



*Ethan, 12, Current KHTH Participant*

What's new at Kids Hurt Too? We're opening up to in-person services again! We are excited to welcome back in-person group services to children and families, while still resuming online services to those who want it. To ensure the safety of everyone, we have set strict health protocols including a decrease in group size, and adding more groups to safely accommodate the demand for services. Groups will take place during the evenings, and occasionally during the day. One of our child participants, Ethan (pictured), told our staff that he likes in-person services because "you can be around people who have been through what you have been through so they understand."

What else is new at Kids Hurt Too? We are starting a new school-based program! With Nanaikaipono Elementary being the first school, we will hold support services after school to assist children and parents struggling with grief. The program is called Kahua 'O Mali'o, meaning 'Place of Light and Comfort.' It consists of talking story, practicing open communication, crafts and play for expressing grief, calming breathing techniques, and more. Parents will receive informational sessions on topics such as how children grieve, impact of change on behavior, open communication for healthy grief, and more. We hope that by expanding our services to schools, we will reach more children and families that are unable to make the commute to our usual meeting place in the Kukui Center.

## WHAT'S NEW AT



HALE KIPA

Spring is a time of exciting, new beginnings, and Spring has definitely sprung at Hale Kipa. First and foremost, the addition of our new president and CEO, Venus Rosete-Medeiros. Venus comes to Hale Kipa with over 35 years of experience serving youth and families in Hawai'i and is dedicated to family, community, and the Hawaiian culture. We also have a new Program Director, Dr. Dianne Bowen-Coleman, who comes to us from her work with Ho'ola Na Pua and most recently Project Vision Hawai'i.

We are also happy to report that our Independent Living Program was approved to continue our work with foster youth and former foster youth on O'ahu. To this end, we have added some new faces to the team, as well as some new roles. Over the winter, our case management staff increased by 3.

We are joined by, Tennyson "Tj" Tom, III, Jeffrey Aganos, and Frances Harimoto, who in a short time have become vital members of the ILP team. Tj also serves as our brand-new Intake Specialist, working to expedite services for young persons referred to our program. In new roles, Maia Tjarks will transition to our new Housing Navigator, as Brooke Ward grows into Housing Manager, overseeing housing resource development and programming. Soon we hope to add a new Peer Engagement Specialist and Resident Advisor (and Respite RA) to the team as well.

So many exciting things popping up. Please see our website at [halekipa.org](http://halekipa.org) to learn more and maybe join our team!



## WELINA MAI I KA 'OHANA

*Welcome to the Family*



*Judy Lind, Executive Director-Kukui Children's Foundation, Kapiolani Barber, Executive Director-Nanakuli Housing Corporation & Brooke Ward, Housing Manager-Hale Kipa accepting housing donations from Kapiolani Barber*

Nanakuli Housing Corporation (NHC) is a 501c3 and HUD approved housing counseling agency founded in 1989 by the late Paige Kawelo Barber. All that NHC has accomplished flows from the vision of this extraordinary woman. Paige was a woman with the ability to dream to a destination where all Hawai'i's 'ohana could enjoy the security and prosperity that comes with owning a home. Paige was raised on the Nanakuli Homestead and had a heart for her community. Her desire to kokua her people was a powerful motivator and resulted in the creation of programs on financial literacy, homeownership, self help home repair and home replacement. Due to Paige Barber's vision, more than 6,000 native 'ohana have been helped by Nanakuli Housing Corporation.

Today, NHC is being guided by her daughter, Kapiolani Barber-Executive Director. *"Aloha Kakou. NHC appreciates the opportunity to be able to donate much needed household goods to Hale Kipa. Each day I look forward to working in support of our vision, that every 'Ohana in Hawai'i will have their own home. The work has encountered many challenges, but the rewards have been plentiful. I am inspired, each and every day to work on behalf of Hawai'i's 'Ohana."*

*For information on NHC's "Road to Homeownership and Financial Sustainability program, call 808-520-2607 or visit [www.nanakulihousing.org](http://www.nanakulihousing.org).*

## WE NEED YOUR KOKUA

These past couple of years have been challenging for the agencies and 'ohana at the Kukui Center. They need your kokua. Listed below are the needs of the agencies. If you can kokua in any way, please contact, Marlene at 808-343-2700.

### KIDS HURT TOO HAWAI'I

- See thru Plastic Bins
- Air Purifier
- Gift Cards for Lunch
- Kleenex
- Shredder

### HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES

- New GRACO Pack 'n Play Travel Cribs
- Folding Chairs
- Gift Cards for Lunch
- Office Supplies - Ink
- Shredder

### HAWAI'I LITERACY

- Locally Published Books for Keiki (new or gently used)
- Cleaning Supplies
- School Supplies & Back Packs
- KN95 Face Masks for Keiki
- Shredder

### HALE KIPA

- New tablets and laptops (Used are okay, if in working condition)
- Items to benefit newly housed clients: Working Condition Microwaves, Kitchen Items, New Pillows Pillow Cases & Sheets, Furniture

### LEADERSHIP IN DISABILITIES & ACHEIVEMENT IN HAWAI'I

- Biodegradable Paper Goods
- Gift Cards & School Supplies
- Volunteer Graphic Artist
- Volunteer AV Tech to help with virtual conferences.

### HAWAI'I IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER

- Need volunteers to assist the elderly, disabled families move into housing

**In addition to the above, Leadership in Disabilities, Hawaii Literacy, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies need volunteer translators in Chuukese, Marshallese, and Korean.**

*Mahalo Palena 'Ole*

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

With *Aloha*, the Staff at the Kukui Center

**Partnerships for Donations of Services**

Ace Security and Locksmiths  
 Advanced Fencing Solutions  
 AESolutionsLLC  
 Afterschool Art  
 Aloha Diaper Bank  
 Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing  
 ALTRES Global Business Services  
 American Savings Bank  
 Anthology Marketing Group  
 Bodhi Massage Therapy  
 Chef Aaron Ortiz  
 College Directions Hawaii  
 Wendell Elento  
 Dennis Kim  
 Hawaii Digi Doc  
 HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union  
 HONBLUE  
 IPR Hawaii  
 King's Kustom Tinting  
 Law Offices of Neal K.Aoki  
 Leonui Communications  
 Michael J. O'Malley  
 'Ohana Komputer  
 Pacific Data Services  
 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  
 Nanakuli Housing Corporation  
 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'ili 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  
 Aloha Diaper Bank  
 Big City Diner  
 CS Wo & Sons  
 G Wiz! Promotions  
 Honolulu Sign Company  
 Junior League Sustainers  
 Kirk Hovious  
 RSI Roofing & Building Company  
 Servco Pacific  
 Soderholm Bus Sales and Leasing  
 Soldat Construction  
 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](mailto:mamong@kukuicenter.org). *Mahalo nui loa!*



Spring 2022

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
**Kukui Center**

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

245 North Kukui Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

## OUR FAMILY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Program

[kukuichildrensoun@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kukuichildrensoun@hawaii.rr.com)

[www.kukuicenter.org](http://www.kukuicenter.org)

### FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII

Resources for homeless & low income  
families with children

(808) 548-7478

[www.familypromisehawaii.org](http://www.familypromisehawaii.org)

### LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Legal services for immigrant victims of  
crime, including domestic violence,  
sexual assault and human trafficking

(808) 536-4302

[www.hijcenter.org](http://www.hijcenter.org)

### KIDS HURT TOO HAWAII

Support for grieving and traumatized children

(808) 545-5683

[www.kidshurttoo.org](http://www.kidshurttoo.org)

### HAWAII LITERACY

Literacy and lifelong  
learning services

(808) 537-6706

[www.hawaiiliteracy.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.ldahawaii.org)

### HALE KIPA, INC.

Outreach services for child abuse victims in, or  
transitioning out of, foster care to become  
independent

(808)853-4660

[info@halekipa.org](mailto:info@halekipa.org)

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