



**SUMMER 2023**

## KUKUI CENTER

### TAKES COLLABORATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

During Covid, from October 2021 to March 2022 our parking lot was the site of twice monthly drive through service fairs that provided resources to over 500 households. Persons in need received food, fresh produce, diapers, books, and other household items to help get them through the pandemic.

Recognizing that these basic needs are still there, Family Promise and Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies organized the recent and greatly expanded Keiki Community Fair held in A'ala Park. Sponsored by American Savings Bank, DOH, Aloha Care and Shriners Children's Hawaii, five KC programs (Family Promise, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Kids Hurt Too, Hawaii Literacy and HI. Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid) were joined by Aloha Harvest, DOE, DV Action Center, Foodbank, HPD, IHS, Pacific Gateway Center, PACT, Piko Provisions, Project Vision, Trust for Public Land and the UH Cancer Center, Attendees were offered an array of activities and services ranging from vaccines, lead testing of household materials and vision screening to yoga. Keiki participated in face painting, (play) tattoos, story hour, art projects, carnival games and movement activities led by Lauren Teruya, Miss Hawaii. Free bentos were provided as well as other treats.

Ryan Catalani, ED of Family Promise, reports “ We were really grateful to our community partners and sponsors for coming together to serve families in need. The fair made a big impact for the 300 who attended and received food, books, clothes and other essentials. We hope to replicate this in other communities in the future.”

We at the Kukui Center are proud of the many ways our programs demonstrate the value of collaboration on many levels: for individuals, programs, staff and our community. Please visit our website at [www.kukuicenter.org](http://www.kukuicenter.org) to learn more about us.



## THE MANY PROGRAMS OFFERED BY



healthymothers  
healthybabies  
COALITION OF HAWAII

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies offers many programs for pregnant and new families. We offer a lot of parent support and education classes. Some of these programs include:

- **Piko Pals New Parent Support Program:** Piko Pals connects and empowers new parents of babies age 0-4 months to build their own village through facilitated discussions in an emotionally and intellectually safe environment. (Cost: \$120, scholarships available)
- **Lactation Lounge:** Families are welcome to join on select Tuesdays each month from 10am-12pm to get support for breastfeeding, pumping, and any feeding questions in general. It is an inclusive meeting for all. (Cost: FREE)
- **Babywearing:** Meetings start on 7/27/23 and will continue on every 4th Friday of the month. Members can borrow a new baby carrier each month. (Cost: \$30)
- **Prenatal and Postpartum Yoga:** Join every Wednesday in our office. 1PM for prenatal yoga and 2PM for postpartum yoga. (Cost: FREE)
- **Childbirth Education:** Helps women learn up-to-date information about childbirth and make informed decisions about their care. (Cost: Sliding scale fee)

For more information, email [courtneyc@hmhb-hawaii.org](mailto:courtneyc@hmhb-hawaii.org) or call us at 808-737-5805.



## A'OHE HANA NUI KE ALU 'IA.

*No task is too big when done together by all. ('Ōlelo No'eau #142.)*



At Family Promise of Hawai'i, our work to end family homelessness is only possible because of the many hands that come together in service of our mission. It requires a team effort from our tireless staff, our passionate Board of Directors, and our many generous community partners, funders, and volunteers.



We are excited to share that, in the past few months, these collaborations have allowed us to triple our emergency shelter capacity. We now have space for up to 12 families, or 48 individual children, parents, and family members. Our emergency shelter program provides each family with a separate room — a trauma-informed model that affords greater dignity, privacy, hospitality, and empowerment for families during their time of transition. This expanded capacity is helping to fill an urgent need for family shelter beds on O'ahu. Mahalo to the many staff members, volunteers, and community partners who came together to make this possible.

The need for Family Promise's services is significant. Young children, from birth to age five, are more likely to experience homelessness than people of any other age. And in Hawai'i, an estimated 1 in 30 young children experience homelessness annually.

To continue growing to serve this need, we are looking forward to hosting our inaugural Brighter Futures Gala on November 7. This event at the beautiful Ho'okupu Center will raise funds to end homelessness for families with children. We will also honor Governor Josh Green, MD, for his commitment to ending family homelessness. Sponsorships are available on our website, [www.familypromisehawaii.org/gala](http://www.familypromisehawaii.org/gala).



## ADULT LITERACY PRISON PROJECT

It is a fact that low literacy rates contribute to recidivism rates across the country. In Hawaii, 49% of inmates released will be re-arrested and be back in prison within a year of their release however the 43% of inmates who have participated in an educational program are less likely to recidivate.



Educational programs in prisons are important but how do we help those inmates who are the 1 in 6 and are functionally illiterate? In May, Hawaii Literacy’s Adult Literacy Program trained six women to facilitate learning with 10 inmates with low literacy skills at Waiawa Correctional Center. The goal is to have these volunteers help these 10 inmates to gain the skills necessary in order to participate in the mainstream educational programs that they offer at the facility. They have been trained to work one on one and utilize small group learning so that the inmates can take their required GED courses or post secondary classes. The women will also be able to train other inmates to participate in peer tutoring where the inmates will have the opportunity to tutor other inmates.

The Adult Literacy program is hopeful after a trial run, to be able to open this opportunity up to the public at a later date to be determined.

## BULLYING PREVENTION AND AWARENESS THIS SUMMER



**Leadership  
in Disabilities &  
Achievement of  
Hawaii**

Meet Melissa Harper-Osai. Her story and many others like hers started off in April as tragic, heartbreaking, terrible and sad. But, this summer she shifted her thoughts into action. Her son, a freshman at James Campbell High School fell victim to a senior who walked into the restroom, took a picture using his cell phone of her son using the urinal with his pants down to his ankles and posted it on social media. Angry and frustrated she reached out to the community through her social media page to tell her story. Her son has multiple disabilities including a genetic anomaly and autism. He has limited communication skills and depends on alternative ways to communicate like ASL and gestures. She has since turned this tragedy into action by organizing other parents this summer to join her in speaking out against bullying. Melissa has parents telling her their story and wanting to help. In May, she organized a parent support group called #StrongerTogether which met twice to organize activities building awareness and momentum around bullying in our schools. LDAH assisted with developing a Bullying Response Kit for parents to take action when bullying occurs with their kids in their schools. Melissa says, she will not stop taking action until bullying stops. See our website for your copy of the Bullying Response Kit or for activities in the community for July, August and September. [www.LDAHawaii.org](http://www.LDAHawaii.org)





**A Beacon of Light for Grieving Children and Families**  
Healing Young Hearts



It is with both gratitude and a touch of sadness that we must announce Cynthia White, Executive Director and Co-founder of our beloved organization, will be stepping down as Executive Director and taking on the role of Training Director.

For many years, Cynthia has been the driving force behind the success and growth of Kids Hurt Too Hawaii. Her unwavering dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to supporting grieving children and families have left an indelible impact on our organization and the community we serve.

Under Cynthia's exceptional leadership, Kids Hurt Too Hawaii has flourished into a sanctuary of healing and hope. Her tireless efforts have helped transform the lives of countless children, providing them with the necessary tools to navigate their grief and emerge stronger. Through her vision, compassion, and unwavering belief in the power of resilience, Cynthia has created a safe space where children can find solace, understanding, and the support they need.

Cynthia's influence extends beyond the boundaries of our organization. She has been an advocate for raising awareness about the unique needs of grieving children, tirelessly working to foster a more compassionate and empathetic community. Her efforts have inspired others to join the cause, igniting a ripple effect of support and understanding.

As Cynthia shifts to her new role as Training Director, we express our deepest gratitude for her selflessness, dedication, and unyielding spirit. Her legacy will forever be etched in the fabric of Kids Hurt Too Hawaii, guiding our future endeavors and inspiring us to continue making a difference in the lives of those who are hurting.

On behalf of the entire Kids Hurt Too Hawaii community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Cynthia White. Her vision, compassion, and unwavering commitment have been a beacon of light for grieving children and families, and her impact will endure for generations to come. While we bid adieu to Cynthia, we are excited to embrace the next chapter of Kids Hurt Too Hawaii's journey, buoyed by her incredible legacy and armed with the determination to continue our mission of healing and hope.



HALE KIPA

**POSITIVE CHANGES  
FOR HAWAII'S YOUTH**

This legislative session held several positive changes for youth interests. Although, some real gems can be found in those issues that are voiced, but not addressed. Among recommendations for bills that did not pass or received no legislative action were, financial literacy and programming addressing substance use, hands-on, flexible coaching on functional and independent living skills, and education and awareness of safety, diversity, and equity issues in our community. The `IHI program (Interdependent Living, Higher Education, Imua Kākou) provides coaching, educational, and community resources to youth and young adults whose lives have been impacted by the foster care system. Our work is to support program participants to grow in resilience, advocacy for self and others, and sustain self-sufficiency. This summer, `IHI is working to establish in-person and virtual activities to strengthen the relationship that our participants have with their community. We will host opportunities for participants to gather together, learn, grow, and importantly, laugh. Another key resource for `IHI participants is through our partnership with Epic Ohana. Perhaps best known for their Ohana Conferencing, Epic also offers financial literacy training to current and formerly fostered youth. This includes the establishment of a matched savings account to support their future endeavors.



## NEW INITIATIVES AT THE HAWAII IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER (HIJC) OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII (LASH)

HIJC is a part of a network of organizations recently funded by the State of Hawaii to work together to assist underserved immigrant populations in Hawaii. Through this effort, HIJC along with partner organizations began in March to hold events focused on assistance with citizenship applications and immigration related issues.



In March HIJC held a citizenship clinic in partnership with the Pacific Gateway Center in Hauula and in June HIJC and the Pacific Gateway Center held a clinic in Wailuku, Maui along with Maui Economic Opportunities Inc. At these clinics attendees have gotten help filling out the paperwork for citizenship and fee waiver applications. Also, adults who were already US citizens learned about applying for certificates of citizenship for their children. Advocates provided information about the citizenship interview and exam. "Putting on these events is truly a team effort. It takes many hands and minds to make them possible. Sitting side by side with people and helping them with their citizenship applications is so rewarding. The attendees in Maui were very appreciative, and we are looking forward to the next clinic!" -Mary Yanagihara – Law Student at Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii and law clerk with the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii.

Future clinics are being planned for Oahu and Kauai. The next event will be held on Saturday, July 22 in Ewa Beach. Individuals interested in attending can call 808-380-5235.

## WISH LIST

The agencies at the Kukui Center need the following goods and services for the vulnerable children and families that they serve. If you can help in anyway, please contact at [mamong@kukuicenter.org](mailto:mamong@kukuicenter.org)

### HAWAII IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER

- Volunteers to assist the elderly & disabled families move into housing

### HAWAII LITERACY

- Locally Published Books for Keiki (new or gently used)
- School Supplies & Back Packs
- See thru Plastic Bins

### HALE KIPA

- New tablets & laptops
- Working Condition Microwaves
- New Pillow Cases, Sheets, Furniture

### HEALTHY MOTHERS HEALTHY BABIES

- New GRACO Pack 'n Play Travel Cribs
- Folding Chairs

### KIDS HURT TOO HAWAII

- See thru Plastic Bins
- Air Purifier
- Volunteer to digitize/scan documents

### LEADERSHIP IN DISABILITIES & ACHIEVEMENT IN HAWAII

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

The agencies at the Kukui Center need the following:

**\*GIFT CARDS FOR KEIKI MEALS**

**\*TRANSLATORS in Korean, Chuukese, and Marshallese**

**\* Commercial Shredder**

*Mahalo*



HAWAIIAN

# Pā'ina Potluck



A CELEBRATION WITH  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

After three years, the staff at the Kukui Center celebrated their first Pā'ina-Potluck since Covid. The theme for the celebration was "May Day is Lei Day in Hawai'i". It was a time for all the staff to celebrate and express gratitude and appreciation for one another

with the spirit of Aloha and lei making. The quarterly gatherings are a long standing tradition at the Kukui Center to build a stronger workplace connection, share resources and to celebrate our diverse and dynamic workforce.

Mahalo Palena 'Ole to Family Promise, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, and Kids Hurt Too Hawaii for organizing the Pā'ina/Potluck and to the board of the Kukui Children's Foundation for providing the "onolicious" Hawaiian food.

## *Mahalo*

*to our 2023 Community Partners for their continued support of goods and services.*

### *Partnerships for Donations of Services*

Ace Security & Locksmith  
Advanced Fencing Solutions  
AESolutions LLC  
Afterschool Art  
ALTRES Global Business Services Inc.  
American Savings Bank  
Anthology Marketing Group  
Bodhi Massage Therapy  
College Directions Hawaii  
Denton US LLP  
Wendell Elento  
HACBED  
Hawaii Digi Doc  
Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union  
HONBLUE  
IPR Hawaii  
Dennis Kim  
King's Kustom Tinting  
Law Offices of Neal K. Aoki  
Leonui Communications  
Michael J. O'Malley  
Ohana Komputer  
Pacific Data Services  
Professional Image Hawaii  
RSI Roofing & Building Supply  
Take2 Production  
The Bead Gallery  
The CPA Collective  
YMCA of Honolulu

### *Partnerships for Donations of Funds*

Aloha United Way  
Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation  
Evans Fund  
Friends of Hawaii Charities  
Ili'ili Fund  
Izumo Taishakyo Mission of Hawaii  
Watumull Fund  
Na Lei Aloha Foundation  
Women's League of Central Union Church  
Ekkebus Charitable Foundation

### *Partnerships for Donations of Goods*

Aloha Diaper Bank  
Big City Diner  
CS Wo & Sons  
Association of Legal Administrators  
GWIZ Promotions  
Honolulu Sign Company  
Kirk Hovious  
Islander Group  
Junior League Sustainers  
Jordan and Cara Odo Scholarship Foundation  
Servco Pacific  
Soderholm Bus and Mobility  
Soldat Construction  
Vim and Vigor

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

Arcadia Retirement Residence  
Bruce McEwan  
Habilitat, Inc.  
Hands in Helping Out  
Harris United Methodist Church  
Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Assn.  
Hawaii Youth Services Network  
Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority  
Luke Center for Public Service  
Nanakuli Housing Corporation  
Seymour Kazimirski  
Waikiki Community Center Seniors  
Winners Camp Foundation





Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
**Kukui Center**  
Spring 2023

*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

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Executive Director

[kukuichildrensoun@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kukuichildrensoun@hawaii.rr.com)  
[www.kukuicenter.org](http://www.kukuicenter.org)

### FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII

Preventing and ending  
homelessness for families  
with children

808-300-0560 [familypromisehawaii.org](http://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](mailto:info@halekipa.org)

### HAWAII LITERACY

Literacy & lifelong learning services  
808-537-6706  
[www.hawaiiliteracy.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@hmhb-hawaii.org)

### KIDS HURT TOO HAWAII

Support for grieving & traumatized children  
808-545-5683  
[www.kidshurttoo.org](http://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](http://www.ldahawaii.org)