



SUMMER 2025

Spirit OF COLLABORATION

At the Kukui Center, the spirit of collaboration continues to fuel innovation and progress. As a shared home for nonprofits serving Hawaii's most vulnerable children and families, the Center stands as a crucial hub where agencies come together to multiply their impact.

This spring, our nonprofits have found new ways to expand their reach, from launching statewide initiatives and securing new housing opportunities to piloting digital learning programs and expanding community-based services. Even amid staffing changes and funding challenges, services have continued across O'ahu and the neighbor islands.

Efforts to support long-term stability are growing stronger, with several agencies launching independent living programs and expanding mobile and satellite services to better connect clients with care. Others are strengthening partnerships with schools, health plans, and public agencies to ensure essential resources such as early childhood support, literacy, and mental health remain accessible.

While the needs are great, the commitment is greater. It is clear that the collaborative model at the Kukui Center is making a lasting difference. Take a look inside this newsletter to learn more about the incredible work each agency is doing and how, together, they are creating a stronger, more resilient community.



*by Lorraine Gershun
Executive Director*

Our Vision Remains Clear

The first quarter of 2025 has been a powerful one for the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i (HMHB) team, marked by deepened community engagement across the islands.

In February, our team hosted our very first Mana 'Ohana Baby Shower on Moloka'i, bringing vital resources, prenatal education, and maternal health screenings to the rural community. This gathering provided a warm, supportive environment for pregnant and postpartum families, and featured our ongoing collaboration with the CDC's Hear Her campaign.

Nationally, we were proud to represent Hawai'i at the AMCHP Conference in Washington, D.C., this past March where we joined public health leaders from across the country to advocate for maternal health equity and share our best practices from Hawai'i.

In April, HMHB participated in a major health fair on Kaua'i, connecting local families with reproductive care services, safe sleep education, and community-based doula support. Events like these help us reach historically underserved communities and strengthen our partnerships with grassroots organizations.

As we reflect on 2025 thus far our vision remains clear: to ensure all birthing people in Hawai'i have access to compassionate, culturally responsive care no matter where they live.



healthymothers
healthybabies

COALITION OF HAWAII



RIISING TO MEET THE *challenge*

Recently released data shows that homelessness among Hawai'i public school students increased by a shocking 66% between the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Although much of the increase was on Maui post-wildfire, there was an uptick in nearly every area across the state.

Family Promise of Hawai'i is rising to meet this growing challenge as it celebrates its milestone 20th anniversary in 2025. In just the first three months of this year, FPH has already touched the lives of over 2,000 children, parents, and family members on O'ahu and Maui. It's a record start to the year, made possible by the commitment and generosity of our community, which believes every child should have a home, and it comes at a critical time.

Each month, hundreds of new families call FPH, seeking its assistance for the first time. Some have just received an eviction notice and are desperately looking for help before their family experiences homelessness; others have already lost their housing and are looking for a roof over their heads.

As one mom recently said, "FPH gave us a new life – we finally have our own space to call home. There were some very rough times; I never imagined my life could be this good." Thanks to its community of supporters, FPH is able to make a difference for these families. It's the difference between the stress and uncertainty of not knowing where your kids will sleep tonight, and the hope for stable housing and a brighter future. Mahalo for making a difference and changing lives, one family at a time.



At FPH's second annual Brighter Futures Gala in February, FPH honored Mayor Rick Blangiardi with its Luminary Award. Pictured left to right: Executive Director Ryan Catalani, Board President Jennifer Diesman, Mayor Blangiardi, and Governor and First Lady Green, honorary Gala Co-Chairs.



HAWAI'I LITERACY'S FAMILY LIBRARIES: *more than a library*

Nestled in Kalihi's Towers of Kuhio Park and Mayor Wright Homes, Hawaii Literacy's Family Libraries are vibrant community hubs—not your typical quiet libraries. Yes, there are books, but also laughter, conversation, hands-on learning, and snacks, always snacks. As the Hawaiian saying goes, "Ma ka hana ka 'ike"—one learns by doing.

Each week, community volunteers offer Saturday Story Hour, cooking and financial literacy classes, and access to resources on legal aid, job development, and basic needs.

On March 15, 2025, a coalition—including Hawaii Literacy, HUD, WorkHawaii, Better Tomorrows, PACT, and the Building Industry Association of Hawaii—helped residents attend the City's free WorkHawaii Hiring Event at Neal S. Blaisdell Center. Resume and interview workshops were held on-site at both libraries, leading up to the day, with transportation provided to the event for anyone needing it.

While parents attended the event, children enjoyed storytelling by beatbox artist Mr. Kneel and building kits provided by BIA. One resident was hired on the spot; others await follow-up. A participant continues digital literacy classes at MWH to improve her typing skills.

The collaboration continues—referrals were made to BIA's April workshops, and the American Job Center will soon host sessions at both Family Libraries.

We are more than a library—we are a community shaping futures.



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

ASSISTANCE TECHNOLOGY

Imagine a world where everyone is able to learn, play, communicate, and access information equally. It's not that hard to picture this world; for the majority of the population, the world is accessible. Driving to school, taking notes, talking with friends, or watching a movie is not a challenge for most, but for the 19,000 children in Hawai'i

who are identified as having a disability, seemingly everyday activities can be a challenge.

Thankfully, the world can be made accessible through Assistive Technology. Assistive Technology, or AT, is any device that is used to help a person accomplish daily activities. AT can be a simple, low-tech device, such as a pencil grip, or a high-tech device, like a speech-to-text app. AT enables people to accomplish tasks that were previously thought impossible or too difficult. For example, Jake, a 12th grader, is told by his counselor he can't take physics because the course requires a lot of note-taking. With an AT device, he can use a digital recorder to record the lecture and then later listen to the teacher at his own pace. Although AT can level the playing field, it must be tailored to an individual's strengths and needs, as well as their personal preferences. The tasks that are accomplishable with the use of AT are only limited by our imagination.

This year, LDAH is hosting its 18th Annual Traveling Mini-Conference, titled "Access Unlocked," connecting all learners to innovative technology.

SAVE THE DATE

ACCESS UNLOCKED

18TH ANNUAL TRAVELING MINI CONFERENCE

TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL LEARNERS

COMING SOON TO:
KONA - MAUI - HILO - MOLOKAI
LANAI - KAUAI - OAHU
IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2025

LEARNING - NETWORKING - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS
INTERACTIVE PANELS WITH STATE AND COUNTY LEGISLATORS, VALUABLE
RESOURCES TO EMPOWER SELF ADVOCATES, PARENTS AND FAMILIES

HAWAII AND PACIFIC ISLANDS PARENT TRAINING & INFORMATION CENTER

HALE KIPA PARTNERS WITH HAWAI'I LITERACY TO EXPAND ACCESS TO BOOKS

Hale Kipa is excited to announce a new partnership with Hawai'i Literacy that supports reading, education, and access to free books for youth and families across our communities. Through this partnership, Hale Kipa has received two Little Free Libraries – one installed at our Ewa Beach office campus and one to be shipped to our Hilo office on Hawai'i Island. These libraries provide 24/7 access to books and will be replenished regularly by free books from Hawai'i Literacy.

In addition to the libraries, Hawai'i Literacy generously provided book bags, bookmarks, and a selection of books to help inspire a love for reading among the youth and families we serve. This partnership also includes informational materials and resources about Hawai'i Literacy's ELL programs, which will be shared with all of Hale Kipa's programs to further support literacy and educational equity.

This collaboration reflects Hale Kipa's ongoing commitment to empowering youth through access to resources that support learning and development. Literacy is a critical building block for success, and these libraries create a welcoming space for youth to explore stories, expand their imagination, and build reading skills.

We extend our deep gratitude to Hawai'i Literacy and Jill Takasaki Canfield (Hawai'i Literacy Executive Director) for their generosity and shared commitment to community empowerment. We look forward to seeing how these libraries become vibrant hubs of reading and connection across our campuses.



TAKE A BOOK, LEAVE A BOOK, AND PASS IT ON!



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS Immigration

The Hawaii Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association has created a hotline line for loved ones concerned about a family member detained by immigration in Hawai'i. A team of pro-bono attorneys has organized visits to the Federal Detention Center in Honolulu to meet with detained individuals. The number to call is 808 204 5951. Family members or detained individuals can contact the hotline. There is no promise of legal representation for those who call, but attorneys in the community are trying to provide assistance when possible for those in need.

Legal Aid provides legal services for qualifying immigrants, including those who are victims of domestic violence and other serious crimes. Legal Aid can be reached at 808-436-4302 and online at www.legalaidhawaii.org. Other agencies that provide legal assistance include the Legal Clinic of Hawaii, which can be reached at 808-777-7071 and www.tlchawaii.org, and the University of Hawai'i's Refugee and Immigration Law Clinic at 808-956-4092, <https://immigrationclinic.law.hawaii.edu/>

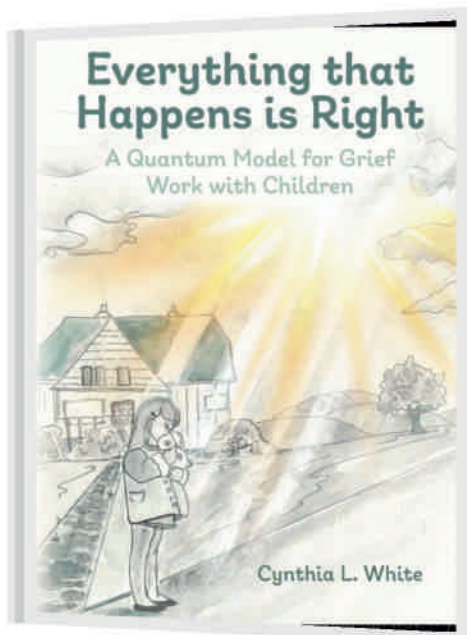


Kids Hurt Too Hawai'i
Healing Young Hearts

CYNTHIA *White*



A LEGACY OF
COMPASSION AND VISION



After co-founding Kids Hurt Too Hawaii (KHTH), I never imagined I'd retire. I've loved this work deeply. But after more than 43 years supporting children and families through grief and trauma, I knew it was time to slow down and focus on my own healing and well-being.

Recently, I published a long-awaited book, *Everything That Happens is Right: A Quantum Model for Grief Work* – that shares the approach I've taught for nearly 30 years and explains the theory behind why it's been so effective. With that milestone behind me, my attention has shifted inward. These days, I'm devoted to self-healing through yoga, energy and breath work, and writing. I also plan to continue offering trainings and lectures—meaningful work, but now at a pace that honors where I am in life.

My journey with KHTH has blessed me beyond measure. Watching a compassionate community rise up to surround grieving and traumatized children with safety and restoration has been nothing short of a dream fulfilled.

Now, I'm dreaming again—a new vision that carries this knowledge farther. A dream of a world where the power of unconditional love for children is known, practiced, and shared across the globe. A future where children grow up happy, healthy, resilient—loved, understood, and honored.

What amazes me most is how naturally children offer unconditional love. I've learned so much from them. And now, in this next chapter, my purpose is to reclaim that same capacity within myself—to unconditionally love myself. From that place of wholeness, I hope to shine as a beacon of hope for others.

Cynthia White - June 2025

Hō'omaika'i i kou ho'omaha loa'ana, a e minamina'ia'oe. A hui hou.

Congratulations on your retirement and you will be missed. Until we meet again --
your 'Ohana at the Kukui Center.

mahalo nui loa

TO THE Rotary



Club of Honolulu



for their Generous Donation of School Supplies

The Kukui Center and our partner agencies extend heartfelt mahalo to Nancy Youngren and the members of the Rotary Club of Honolulu for their generous donation of 100 backpacks filled with school supplies. These much-needed items will be distributed to keiki served by our in-house nonprofits: Kids Hurt Too Hawaii, Hawaii Literacy, Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement of Hawaii, Hale Kipa, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii, and Family Promise.

Chartered on July 1, 1915, the Rotary Club of Honolulu is the oldest and largest Rotary Club in Hawai'i. For over a century, they have exemplified the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self," bringing together community-minded business, civic, and nonprofit leaders to support those in need.

Since becoming a Community Partner of the Kukui Center in 2024, the Rotary Club has tirelessly supported our mission—reading to keiki, renovating a community bus, and donating computers to help keiki on Maui continue their learning.

The Rotary Club of Honolulu continues to make a lasting impact on the lives of our keiki and 'ohana, and we are honored to be among those they serve with aloha. The staff and 'ohana at the Kukui Center are truly grateful to the Rotary Club of Honolulu for their ongoing compassion.



HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU



*Officer Pratt-Maiava and Officer Marcos -HPD-District 1
- Community Policing Team, with staff from the
Kukui Center*

SAFETY & ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING

We extend our deepest gratitude to Officer Marcos and Officer Pratt-Maiava of the Honolulu Police Department's District 1 Community Policing Team for taking the time to provide valuable safety awareness training for the nonprofit agencies at the Kukui Center. Their presentation on workplace safety and active threat situations was informative, empowering, and timely.

District 1 serves the heart of Honolulu, and we are fortunate to have officers who not only protect our streets but also take the time to build strong, trusting relationships within the community. The District 1 Community Policing and Weed and Seed Team is deeply rooted in community engagement. Their caring approach is grounded in respect and aloha.

As a token of our appreciation, we share this Hawaiian 'ōlelo no'ēau: "Mālama i ka pono o ka 'āina, a mālama ka 'āina iā 'oe." Take care of the land (community), and the land will take care of you. To Officer Marcos, Officer Pratt-Maiava, and the entire District 1 Community Policing Team—mahalo nui loa for your dedication to keeping our community safe and connected.

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
 Denton US LLP
 Digital Vault Consulting
 Foxbilt Electric Company
 HACBED
 Hawaii Digi Doc
 Hawai'i Flower Lei
 Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union
 HONBLUE
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 Leonui Communications
 Michael J. O'Malley
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 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'i 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

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



BACKPACKS NEEDED!
 please kōkua our keiki to start the school year strong.
 Donate new backpacks with school supplies.
 Contact Marlene: 808-343-2700
mamong@kukuicenter.org



SUMMER 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

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FAMILY PROMISE OF HAWAII

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



kef@kukuicenter.org
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