



*Happy Holidays 2023*

**CHANGE BRINGS OPPORTUNITIES**

The book of Ecclesiastes and Pete Seeger tell us that “To everything, there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven”. And so it is in the nonprofit world. And for the Kukui Center, the time is now!



*Jack Dwyer*

We are experiencing two major changes. Our Board of Directors’ president Jack Dwyer decided to retire after more than 20 years of guiding the organization from its birth. His dedication and commitment to our mission and the community have been our good fortune.

He is being succeeded by another dedicated and experienced community volunteer, Clyde Namuo, a former CEO of OHA and the Polynesian Voyaging Society, who has also served on our board from its inception. Jack leaves the leadership in great hands.



*Clyde Namuo*

Also retiring is Judy Lind the founding Executive Director of the Kukui Children's Foundation.



*Judy Lind*

“It’s been my dream job and a real labor of love, and now it is time for someone with a new vision and energy to lead the Kukui Center into the future. It has been my great pleasure and honor to have worked with a wonderful board of directors, Marlene Among,

our Community Partners Coordinator and tenant programs, who collectively served over 18,000 clients statewide in 2022. As the only nonprofit center in Hawaii dedicated to collaboratively providing human services, we have a lot to be proud of.”

Succeeding Judy will be Lorraine Gershun, who worked with the Kukui Center for seven years as the founder of the Community Partners Program. It will be a joyous homecoming and an exciting new beginning. Our ‘ohana has gained two exciting new leaders.



*Lorraine Gershun*

## TRANSITIONS FOR



healthymothers  
healthybabies  
COALITION OF HAWAII



Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies (HMHB) has recently experienced several transitions as we expanded our services to reach families state-wide. In the beginning of 2023, we launched our new office and mobile clinic in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island. We are excited to build our staff and network out in the Big Island and serve families in this rural community. When our team was getting settled on the Big Island, we were called to help families in Maui due to the fires that impacted historic Lahaina town. That very weekend the fires happened, our HMHB team was on the ground providing medical support to families impacted by this horrific tragedy. HMHB deployed most of our clinical staff and our O'ahu mobile clinic to provide medical support in this emergency crisis. Now, months later, we are still on the ground in Maui as part of the medical team helping with reentry as families are returning to their homes in the burn zone. Since early August, HMHB has consistently had a presence in Lahaina, providing support wherever is needed, and hopes to continue to serve the greater Maui community with our new office and mobile clinic launching in early 2024!



## TRANSITIONS ARE THE HEART OF FAMILY PROMISE



Jason Tannahill  
Manager  
Emergency Shelter.

Transitions are at the heart of Family Promise of Hawaii. We serve families with children during some of their most challenging life transitions, as they navigate the trauma and uncertainty of homelessness and housing instability. We walk alongside these families during their transition back to permanent housing, providing direct services like temporary shelter and emergency rental assistance, and helping families holistically identify and overcome any other obstacles in their path.

Several times each week at Family Promise, another family successfully transitions from homelessness to stable housing. Thanks to our dedicated team and generous community of volunteers, donors, and supporters, hundreds of families annually transition to a brighter future.

Family Promise has also been undergoing its own transition — back to in-person volunteer opportunities, after a three-year pandemic hiatus. Now, three times a week, volunteers are invited to bring a meal and eat together with the families in our shelter program. These dinners are now being hosted right in the Kukui Center, and anyone interested can sign up on our website ([familypromisehawaii.org/volunteer](http://familypromisehawaii.org/volunteer)), making it easier than ever to get involved.

We also want to congratulate Judy Lind on her own transition as she retires from her position at the Kukui Children's Foundation. She is a tireless force for Hawaii's most vulnerable children and their families — including as a previous board member of Family Promise of Hawaii — and her passionate leadership has touched countless lives. Thank you, Judy, for all you've done and will continue to do for our community.



## TOOLS FOR SURVIVAL

The English Language Learner (ELL) and the Digital Literacy (DL) programs at Hawaii Literacy are designed to break down barriers for overlooked residents of the islands. The students in these programs are given the opportunity to succeed by learning basic skills that most people take for granted.

For example, DL empowers individuals with a general knowledge of operating a computer. Although it's hard to imagine in the digital age that we live in, many people do not know the basics of a computer like how to communicate through email, online banking, or even applying for a job. Once students learn how to operate a computer confidently, it accredits them to move forward and contribute to the community because they are no longer reliant on others to function in everyday life. Being able to use a computer with ease is vital since digital literacy is now a necessity in every aspect of the modern world. The ELL program is a powerful tool for survival. For example, students are taught how to communicate in an emergency situation like calling 911 and asking for help. Students are also given practical lessons such as how to conduct themselves at a job interview. Learning English for employment is especially crucial for the students that have an education and training that could benefit Hawaii if only they could be given a chance to bestow their skills and knowledge to the community.



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

## TRANSITIONING SUPERPOWERS

Lately, LDAH has succumbed to many changes with families dealing with COVID and returning to work or working from home. Do we take a COVID test if we have the flu or can I assume it is COVID? Do we help out our neighbor or do we keep to ourselves? Being part of those shifts in change is clearly causing us to re-think every step we take with families.

At LDAH, we know our families are transitioning from school in homes, to school in school. The signs and symptoms of transitioning their superpowers from dedicating every moment of their day with their child at home, to sending their child to school is usually welcomed with “whew, it’s about time.” For others, they have yet to see the measure of success by returning their school-aged child back to school.

Three years later, those transitions have been measured by the number of children who are receiving mental health services, increased issues with bullying in schools, children receiving additional special education support, improving educational accessibility for children with disabilities and filling vacant teacher positions in our schools today.

Questions about who will fill current teacher vacancies are met with teachers and administrators doubling up their time in a day to meet the needs of their students.

Our role with families begins with keeping them informed, teaching skills they need to advocate for their children, and knowing when to speak up to voice their concerns to reach super power status.





## A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH PA'IA ELEMENTARY



Kids Hurt Too Hawaii is expanding its school-based program through a new partnership with Paia Elementary, a collaboration born out of necessity following a devastating Maui Wildfire incident. Paia Elementary recognized the urgent need for support in the wake of the fires and approached KHTH. Their request for assistance in helping the young students affected by the disaster was met with open arms. As part of this initiative, KHTH is working closely with the school to establish a secure and comforting space within its premises. This safe haven will provide a nurturing environment for students, helping them cope with the trauma and challenges they face after the deadly fires, ensuring that they find solace and support in their educational journey.



## 'IHI PROGRAM GETS NEW LEADERSHIP

Recognizing that not everyone reaches the same milestones at the same time is also very important, and allowing the young people to scaffold their skills and have an unconditional support person in their lives while they are learning is a very important piece of that journey. Not everyone gets that support, and especially for the foster youth in our state it can be the one missing piece of their journey to adulthood. The `IHI program is dedicated to working with the former foster youth on O`ahu and continue to support their transition to adulthood in whatever ways they need.



Hale Kipa has experienced many changes over the last few years. This year that change is new leadership within the `IHI program. Brooke Ward has been the Assistant Program Coordinator for the last 6 years and will now be taking over as the new Program Manager. Brooke has worked with current and former foster youth for the last 10 years. She began her career working with foster youth at an emergency shelter on the North Shore and realized that this was the population she wanted to work with. Brooke has always felt that being of service in the transition to adulthood is a great honor and should be treated as such when working with former foster youth.



## TRANSITIONS AT THE HAWAI'I IMMIGRANT JUSTICE CENTER (HIJC) OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAI'I

The HIJC Immigration and Public Benefits teams have been very busy representing clients and conducting workshops in Honolulu and in Maui. We have held several events in Lahaina to assist survivors of the wildfires and are part of a statewide effort to expand legal services for immigrant families across the state.



Jenn Jung

Amidst this busy schedule, we recently saw changes in our Public Benefits department. Paralegal Tiffany Dumas moved departments to take on an attorney position with Legal Aid's Elder Law unit. Her title is now Staff Attorney, and she will be helping our kupuna on many civil legal issues.



Shaunte Pompey

Shaunte Pompey joined HIJC as a Paralegal to fill Tiffany's old position. Shaunte has experience working with Legal Aid in Delaware, and she jumped in very quickly to help clients with their social security claims.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Jung, a Staff Attorney at HIJC for over 12 years, celebrated a major accomplishment of obtaining her Masters of Social Work. Jennifer also took on a Senior Attorney position within HIJC.

We also expect more future transitions as Attorney Adriana Aranda Delgado leaves the HIJC team for the mainland with her family. Adriana has been a strong advocate for her clients for the past few years, and she will be very missed.



Adriana Aranda-Delgado

## 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 MEAL

\*TRANSLATORS in Korean, Chuukese, and Marshallese

\* Commercial Shredder

*Mahalo*

*Mahalo Palena 'Ole*

**ASSOCIATION  
OF LEGAL  
ADMINISTRATORS**

*For the Gift of Learning*

*Hawaii Literacy*

*Kids Hurt Too Hawaii*

*Family Promise*

*Leadership in Disabilities  
& Achievement in Hawaii*

*Healthy Mothers  
Healthy Babies*

**A SPECIAL MAHALO  
TO**

**Katelyn Shelly, President; Aura-Ann Lee, Community Connection Chair; and the volunteers and sponsors from the Hawaii Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators ("ALA Hawaii") for organizing the donation of 57 school backpacks packed with school supplies and 10 baby backpacks filled with baby supplies for our learners and keiki at the KUKUI CENTER.**



## *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  
 Foxbilt  
 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  
 The Lightman  
 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  
 American T-shirt Company  
 Big City Diner  
 Beautiful Hawai'i Gifts  
 CS Wo & Sons  
 Association of Legal Administrators  
 GWIZ Promotions  
 Honolulu Sign Company  
 Kirk Hovious  
 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**

*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

kukuchildrensfoun@hawaii.rr.com  
www.kukuicenter.org

*From Our 'Ohana to Yours, Hau'oli Mau Lānui, Happy Holidays*

### 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

### 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

### 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