

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

HAWAI'I YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE
EPIC 'OHANA, INC.

2016

Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative

Environmental Scan

Table of Contents

A. Capacity to Plan		1
	Public child welfare agency support	1
	Interagency coordination and collaboration	3
	Capacity of lead agency	4
	Data gathering and analysis	5
B. Demographics		7
	Target area	7
	Characteristics of general population	8
	Characteristics of child welfare population	15
	Child welfare system administration	21
C. Youth Engagement		22
	Involvement of young people	22
	Community support for youth participants	22
	Support for youth involvement in case planning and decisions	23
	Youth access to legal advocacy	24
D. Partnerships and Resources		24
	Community economic conditions	24
	Economy's impact on resources	25
	Key employers	25
	Workforce Investment Board involvement	26
	Employment services	27
	Educational resources	28
	Resources for pregnant and/or parenting youth	30
	Housing resources	31
	Accessibility of physical and mental health resources	32
	Community collaboration efforts	33
	Formal and informal leaders	34
	Key businesses and philanthropic organizations	36
	Casey efforts in Hawai'i	37
	Foundation initiatives	38
	Sources of diversity training and technical assistance	38
	Potential to leverage resources	38
	Organizations serving similar populations	39
E. Research, Evaluation and Communications		40
	National Youth in Transition Database	40

Other data collection efforts	40	
Other self-evaluation partners	41	
Communications partners	41	
F. Public Will and Policy		41
Transitions in political leadership	41	
Needs and priorities identified by young people	42	
Evidence of increased awareness	45	
Recent successes to improve supports	45	
Recent “hot issues”	45	
Public policy advocates for children and family well-being	46	
G. Increased Opportunities		46
Financial institution partnership	46	
Potential to secure IDA match funds	47	
Availability of financial literacy training providers	47	
Partners for asset-specific training	47	
Partners for door openers	48	

A. CAPACITY TO PLAN

1. Public Child Welfare Agency Support: A strong partnership with the public child welfare agency is in place to maximize the impact of the core strategies.

Describe the extent to which:

- A. The public child welfare agency engages in effective partnerships and collaborations with the community and key stakeholders.
- B. Past efforts and future plans by the agency include services and supports to older youth in foster care.
- C. The agency is committed to participate and champion planning activities for implementation of the core strategies.
- D. The agency commits resources, financial and/or in-kind, to support implementation of the core strategies.

A. The State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) engages in effective partnerships and collaborations that result in significant changes in Hawai'i's child welfare system. The changes include reductions in the number of children placed in out-of-home care, increased placement with kin, increased recruitment of Native Hawaiian resource families, increased access to family-strengthening services, increased engagement with Native Hawaiian communities, and the extension of voluntary foster care to the age of 21 (Imua Kākou).

There has been a significant decrease in the number of confirmed abuse or neglect cases since the 2005 implementation of the differential response system. The number of children in foster care has decreased from 5,353 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2004 to 2,180 in SFY 2013. In SFY 2015, 2,386 children were in care. Key factors responsible for the decreased numbers of children in foster care include: 1) implementation of the differential response system; 2) an increased array of community-based family strengthening and child abuse and family poverty prevention services; 3) the increased engagement of the Native Hawaiian community; and 4) an increased collaboration with key stakeholders, including birth families, their relatives/'ohana, current and former foster youth, and resource caregivers.

DHS revised its previous practice of recruiting and licensing a large number of non-related resource families to focus on recruiting and placing children in child-specific homes. This has led to an increase in relative placements from 47% in SFY 2007 to 55% in SFY 2014 and a decline in non-relative placement from 53% in SFY 2007 to 45% in SFY 2014.

Implementation in SFY 2011 of a new intake assessment protocol by DHS in collaboration with the National Resource Center on Child Protection has resulted in significant improvements in key data indicators such as recurrence of maltreatment, rates of placement, and disproportional placement of Native Hawaiian children.

Although the number of children of Native Hawaiian ancestry in foster care has decreased from approximately 54% in SFY 2004 to 48% in SFY 2015, children with Native Hawaiian ancestry still remain the largest group of foster children. DHS works

with the Partners in Development Foundation to target statewide recruitment of Native Hawaiian resource families. At the end of SFY 2012, about 58% of Native Hawaiian foster children were in placement with Native Hawaiian resource families.

Source of data: [Department of Human Services Report on Fiscal Year 2014](#). [Department of Human Services Databook, December 2014 and December 2015](#).

B. In July 2014, the State of Hawai'i began implementation of Imua Kākou ("moving forward together"), which is extended care up to the age of 21. Family Court, DHS, young people with foster care experience, and stakeholders worked hard to develop the voluntary care program. Between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, DHS approved approximately 135 applications as eligible for Imua Kākou.

Currently, DHS's services and supports to older youth in foster care and to youth who have aged out include the following:

- Monthly room and board payments are now \$576/month for children 0-5, \$650/month for children 6-11, and \$676 for those 12 and older.
- Imua Kākou participants who have dependent children living with them receive room and board payments for their children.
- Purchase of service contractors provide Independent Living Services and Imua Kākou programs.
- Youth Circles bring together important people and services to help youth develop transitional plans and learn about resources available to them in the community. In SFY 2016, 129 initial Youth Circles were held and 114 Re-Circles were held.
- DHS contracts with EPIC 'Ohana, Inc. to provide the Hawai'i Youth/Young Adult Advisory Council services to through the HI HOPES youth leadership boards and, through a sub-contract to Family Programs Hawai'i, the YES Hawai'i program and activities.
- Higher Education room and board payments for eligible post-secondary students. In SFY 2015, 369 young people received the Higher Ed board allowance.
- Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV) that provide additional financial support for former foster youth participating in post-secondary education. In SFY 2015, 30 young people received ETV payments.

DHS also worked with its Medicaid division to extend the eligibility of former foster youth who emancipated from foster care or who were adopted or placed into legal guardianship after age 16 and who are under the age 26.

Source of data: [Department of Human Services Report on Fiscal Year 2014 and on Fiscal Year 2015](#).

C. Lynne Kazama, the Assistant Program Administrator, is an active participants in the planning and implementation of the Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative. She is a member of the O'ahu Community Partnership Hui (CP Hui) and also participates as an HYOI site team member. CWS Section Administrators Roselyn Viernes, Wendy Robinson (Acting), Iwalani Kaauwai-Herrod, and Elladine Olevao actively participate as CP Hui members in East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui.

D. The DHS contract with EPIC 'Ohana, Inc. provides financial support for the operation of the HI HOPES boards as the Department's youth advisory council.

To date, DHS has committed in-kind services through the involvement of the administration in the HYOI CP Hui and site team and through the partnerships with the Independent Living Program (ILP) contractors. Staff from Hale Kipa, the ILP contractor for the City & County of Honolulu, recruit and provide support to Opportunity Passport™ participants on O'ahu. EPIC 'Ohana Youth Circle staff, funded by DHS, refers Opportunity Passport™ participants.

On Hawai'i Island, the ILP contractor is the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army and the Child Welfare Services (CWS) social workers actively recruit and refer youth and young adults to the Opportunity Passport™ Program. CWS and the IL contractors on Kaua'i and Maui (Child & Family Service, Maui Youth and Family Services, and Hale 'Opio) similarly participate in the recruitment of HI HOPES members and financial literacy participants, support the financial literacy trainings, and support young people making asset purchases.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

2. Interagency Coordination/Collaboration: Multiple public and private systems, working with the lead agency and key stakeholders, take responsibility and are accountable for achieving good outcomes for young people in, and exiting from, foster care.

Describe the extent to which:

- A. Systems of care (e.g. education, mental health, juvenile justice, adult services, labor) that provide or broker services and supports that affect the well-being of young people in, or exited from, foster care have been identified and engaged.
- B. Systems of care support the core strategies and recognize the importance of implementing all five strategies in combination for maximum effect.

A. and B. HYOI has a Community Partnership Hui (CP Hui) on O'ahu that includes representatives from the University of Hawai'i system, workforce development efforts, CWS, Family Court, Native Hawaiian institutions and housing.

The East Hawai'i Island CP Hui that includes representatives from the UH system, CWS, Family Court, the private sector, the County Housing Office and workforce development. The West Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui CP Hui have comparable memberships drawn from their communities.

Youth engagement and the youth voice are critical in the Initiative. Youth-Adult Partnership training occurred when the community CP Hui and HI HOPES began their work, and media training for HI HOPES members was provided at start-up and on an ongoing basis. An annual youth summit is held to bring together the HI HOPES members from across the state. Young people testify at the legislature and promote public awareness in multiple community forums.

The current CP Hui structure engages community leaders and promotes awareness of the strengths and challenges of transitioning foster youth. HYOI works to increase the

active engagement of partners to improve access to community resources and continue to implement all five strategies on O‘ahu, Hawai‘i Island, Kaua‘i and Maui.

In 2015 and 2016, the Kaua‘i HI HOPES board partnered with Kaua‘i Community College to present College Nights. These evenings were designed to introduce young people with foster care experience to their local college opportunities, including academic programs, support programs and financial aid.

In December 2015, the West Hawai‘i HI HOPES board partnered with Family Court to provide a Teen Day, as did the Maui HI HOPES board and Family Court in January 2016. The purpose was to introduce youth in care to the Family Court judge, encourage participation in their hearings, and provide information about rights while in care, employment (West Hawai‘i) and available community resources.

Source of data: [Hawai‘i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

3. Capacity of Lead Agency for Developing the Implementation Plan: The Lead Agency engages youth and young adults, public and private agencies, and community partners in all planning, implementation and evaluation of the five core strategies.

Describe the extent to which:

- A. The lead agency’s mission statement includes working with youth and families who enter the child welfare system and a history of supporting youth engagement and principles of positive youth development in service delivery.
- B. The lead agency has a proven ability to convene natural partners including the child welfare agency, private placement agencies, and other systems and community partners to actively engage in creating opportunities for young people in, or exiting from, foster care.
- C. The lead agency has the support of private and public funding partners.

A. EPIC ‘Ohana’s mission statement is as follows: “Families are the foundation of our community, and their well-being is inextricably linked to the health and prosperity of the community, state and nation. EPIC works to strengthen ‘ohana and enhance the welfare of children and youth through transformative processes that are respectful, collaborative, and solution-oriented.”

B. DHS, the Family Court and EPIC introduced the practice of ‘Ohana Conferencing to Hawai‘i as a pilot project in 1995. ‘Ohana Conferencing is family group decision making for families involved with the child welfare system and draws from a Maori model, Hawaiian ho‘oponopono, and mediation techniques. Families know their own strengths, concerns and resources best. In an ‘Ohana Conference, extended family members gather with their social worker and service providers to make the best decisions for the future of their children. The process is family-centered, strengths-focused, community-based and culturally relevant.

In 2004, EPIC began to coordinate Youth Circle conferences for youth who are exiting the foster care system. Through this process, young people lead the development of their transition plans and connect with supporters and often members of their extended

family who can offer support and encouragement. The Youth Circle program provides a group process for youth to celebrate their emancipation from foster care and to assist them in planning for their independence.

DHS contracts EPIC to provide 'Ohana Conferences, Family Finding and Youth Circles on a statewide basis and also to implement some federal grants. EPIC has a history of piloting programs for DHS. EPIC also has a history of receiving funding from the Geist Foundation, a major funder for programs to support foster children, caregivers, and transitioning youth. In 2015, DHS contracted with EPIC to serve as the lead collaborator for the Independent Living Collaborative.

EPIC is experienced as a neutral convener and actively participates in community and DHS efforts that change the practice of child welfare in Hawai'i. This provides a strong foundation for efforts that reach more broadly into other systems and partnerships.

EPIC's work as the lead agency for HYOI has quickly established HYOI's effectiveness at convening partners from multiple sectors and working with other service providers to improve outcomes for youth who are transitioning to adulthood from foster care.

C. The Hawai'i Community Foundation and EPIC secured the funding necessary for the first years of operation (2010-2015). In January 2014, DHS began to contract with EPIC and HYOI to serve as the youth advisory council to Child Welfare Services. HYOI is securing the funding for the upcoming years.

Source of data: www.epicohana.org ; Department of Human Services Report on Fiscal Year 2010, State of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

4. Data Gathering and Analysis: Planning to implement the core strategies is based on data gathering and analysis, to inform knowledge of the unique needs, opportunities and challenges in the community and state.

Describe the extent to which:

- A. The lead agency and its partners have a history of gathering data and the capacity to complete the environmental scan; including an identified contact in the child welfare agency to gather data on system indicators.
- B. Challenges and opportunities have been identified based on data, such as economic condition of the community and state, number of young people entering and exiting care each year, dependence on congregate care, over-representation of youth and families of color in the child welfare system, and political climate; and partners have been identified who are willing to address the challenges.

A. The Hawai'i Community Foundation hired the Center on the Family through a grant from the Geist Foundation to produce the original Hawai'i Environmental Scan in 2009. That scan is the basis for this updated scan, and Ivette Stern from the Center on the Family is a member of the HYOI self-evaluation team.

Lynne Kazama from DHS is the child welfare contact for systems data for HYOI. DHS contracts with EPIC 'Ohana so that HYOI staff contact and assist young people at ages 19 and 21 to complete the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey.

The self-evaluation team also includes the HYOI Statewide Initiative Coordinators, two Opportunity Passport™ participants, funder’s representatives, and representatives from the ILP provider and from a Native Hawaiian serving institution, and the state housing and finance agency. The Center on the Family analyzes the Unit Record Data for Hawai’i from the Opportunity Passport™ Participant Survey and participates in the self-evaluation team.

B. Years of experience in child welfare by partners in HYOI, HI HOPES board members’ lived experience, demographic data on youth in foster care and other DHS reporting, and anecdotal information continue to shape the evolution of HYOI.

Efforts in each community across the state are shaped by the varied economic conditions in our island communities, the greater community cohesiveness and social capital in some communities, the more limited provider resources in rural areas, and the greater transportation challenges on the Neighbor Islands. HYOI’s community-based CP Hui and HI HOPES boards are committed to work together to effectively identify local partners to address local issues.

Source of data: [Hawai’i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#).

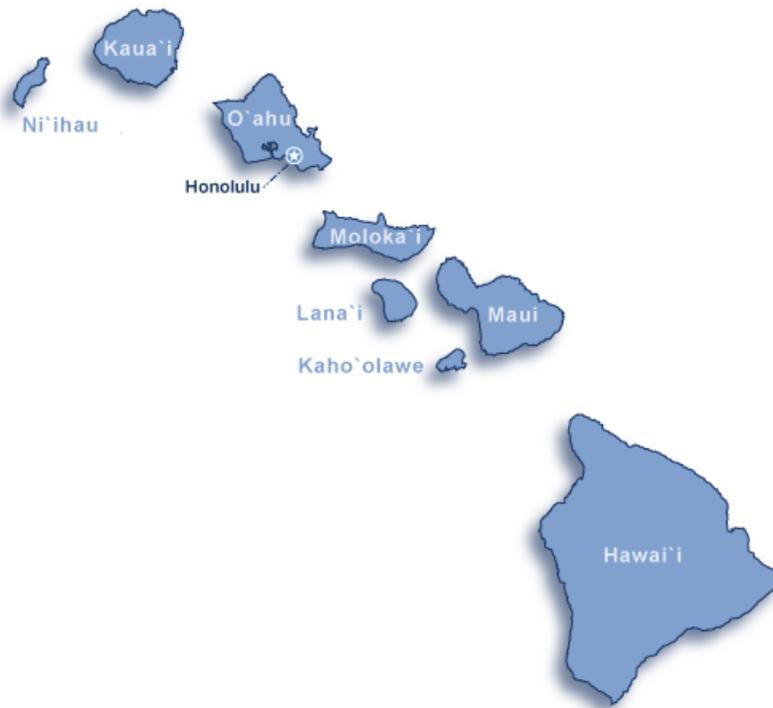
B. DEMOGRAPHICS

5. Define the current target area(s) of the local initiative (geographically and overall population count). Please include a map.

The state of Hawai'i has seven populated islands that are classified into four major counties. The Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative began in the City & County of Honolulu in 2010, and expanded to East Hawai'i in 2011, to West Hawai'i and Kaua'i in 2012, and to Maui in 2013.

Hawai'i Population as of July 1, 2014		
	Number	Percentage
Statewide (All islands)	1,419,561	100%
Hawai'i County (Hawai'i island)	194,190	13.7%
C & C of Honolulu (All O'ahu)	991,788	□69.8%
Maui County (Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe)	163,108	11.5%
Kaua'i County (Kaua'i, Niihau)	70,475	5.0%

Source of data: http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook/2014-individual/_01/



6. Describe the population in the current target area(s) and state in items a-m below. Please feel free to copy and paste published data below, or complete the table below. Additional rows may be inserted in the table.

Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

Characteristics of State’s Population

a. Age breakdown

AGE GROUP	PERCENT
Under 5 years	6.4
5 to 9 years	6.1
10 to 14 years	5.8
15 to 19 years	5.6
20 to 24 years	7.5
25 to 29 years	7.7
30 to 39 years	13.4
40 to 49 years	12.2
50 to 59 years	13.0
60 to 69 years	11.4
70 to 79 years	6.2
80 years and older	4.6

Source of data: http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook/2014-individual/_01/

b. Gender breakdown

Female	49.4%
Male	50.6%

Source of data: http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook/2014-individual/_01/

c. Race/Ethnicity breakdown

People with Asian American ancestry are 57% of Hawai’i’s population, and people with Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ancestry are 26% of the population. Hawai’i has the largest population of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders and the fifth largest population of Asian Americans in the states.

Source of data: <http://www.advancingjustice.org/publication/community-contrasts-demographic-report-asian-americans-native-hawaiians-and-pacific> p. 23

Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

Race	State	Hawai'i County	C & C of Honolulu	Kaua'i County	Maui County
<i>One Race</i>	76.4%	70.5%	77.7%	75.1%	76.5%
White	24.7%	33.7%	20.8%	33.0%	34.4%
Black	1.6%	0.6%	2.0%	0.4%	0.6%
Am Indian & Alaska Native	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Asian	38.6%	22.2%	43.9%	31.3%	28.8%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	10.0%	12.1%	9.5%	9.0%	10.4%
Some other race	1.2%	1.5%	1.1%	1.0%	2.0%
<i>Two or more races</i>	23.6%	29.4%	22.3%	24.9%	23.5%

The following table describes the composition of Hawai'i according to how people reported their race or races. The sum of the percentages by race groups statewide and by county adds up to more than 100% because individuals may report more than one race.

Race Alone or in Combination*	State	Hawai'i County	C & C of Honolulu	Kaua'i County	Maui County
White	41.5%	54.8%	36.8%	50.9%	50.4%
Black	2.9%	1.6%	3.4%	1.2%	1.5%
Am Indian & Alaska Native	2.5%	3.9%	2.1%	2.8%	2.5%
Asian	57.4%	44.8%	62.0%	51.2%	46.7%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	26.2%	33.4%	24.5%	25.9%	27.3%
Some other race	2.5%	2.9%	2.3%	2.3%	3.4%

* "In combination" means in combination with one or more other races. The sum of the five race groups adds to more than the total population because individuals may report more than one race.

Source of data: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau; produced by the Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism. The State of Hawai'i Data Book 2010, Table 1.34. Retrieved 12/30/2011.

The ethnic mix of children under 18 differs from the ethnic mix of the total population. The younger population is 40.7% Two or more races, compared to 23.6% of the entire population. Among the younger population identified as One Race, the percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander is higher (14.7% compared to 10.0%), and the percentages of Asian and White are lower (Asian 26.0% compared to 38.6%, White 15.5% compared to 24.7%).

Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

Characteristics of Children under 18

Race	State (1)	Hawai'i County (2)	C & C of Honolulu (2)	Kaua'i County (2)	Maui County (2)
<i>Est. Number of Children</i>	302,975	41,769	208,968	15,040	35,321
<i>One Race</i>	59.3%	49.2%	61.3%	58.9%	51.1%
White	15.5%	16.1%	14.5%	20.2%	20.5%
Black	2.0%	0.5%	2.2%	0.4%	0.0%
Am Ind & AL Native	0.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Asian	26.0%	12.6%	30.9%	26.8%	16.8%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	14.7%	15.6%	12.8%	11.1%	13.0%
Some other race	1.1%	4.0%	0.8%	0.3%	0.7%
<i>Two or more races</i>	40.7%	50.8%	38.7%	41.1%	48.9%

Sources of data: Please note that different sources are used to compile this data for the state and the counties due to population sizes and data availability.

(1) U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Table S0901 for Hawaii, 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates.

(2) U.S. Census Bureaus, American FactFinder, Table S0901 for Hawaii County, Honolulu County, Kauai County, Maui County 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

In Hawai'i, analyses of racial disproportionality generally focus on the experiences of members of the Native Hawaiian population. The 2010 U.S. Census data analyzed by the Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism reports that 289,970 Hawai'i residents (21.3%) are Native Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian. This number splits out Native Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian from the category of Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islanders. Native Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian includes people who can trace family ancestry to the indigenous people of Hawai'i prior to the first contact with Europeans in 1778. A person who is Native Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian may also have ancestry from Asia, Europe, Other Pacific Islands, and Africa, for example.

Analysis by Kamehameha Schools in 2013 indicates that 35% of the state's children under the age of 5 and 36% of the population between ages of 5-18 are Native Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian.

Sources of data: U.S. Census Bureau, Census Bureau, Census Summary File 1 Hawaii (July 25, 2001) and 2010 Census Summary File 1 (June 16, 2011); calculations by the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, Hawai'i State Data Center. The State of Hawai'i Data Book 2010, Table 1.37 (Revised 12/28/11).

<http://Hawaii.gov/dbedt/info/economic/databook/db2010/section01.pdf> Retrieved 12/29/2011.

<http://www.ksbe.edu/progressandpromise/comment/index.php/post/postform> KS Strategic Planning: Table Talk Sheet Statewide. Retrieved 12/18/2013.

Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

d. Languages spoken at home (2008-2012 data)

Language	State	Hawai'i County	C & C of Honolulu	Kaua'i County	Maui County
English only	74.3%	80.6%	71.9%	78.6%	79.7%
Other Pacific Island Languages	8.7%	8.9%	8.5%	9.9%	9.5%
Tagalog	4.6%	2.4%	5.1%	4.6%	4.1%
Japanese	3.6%	2.2%	4.4%	1.3%	1.4%
Chinese	2.5%	0.3%	3.4%	0.3%	0.5%
Spanish	2.1%	3.0%	1.9%	2.2%	2.1%
Korean	1.4%	0.4%	1.9%	0.4%	0.3%

Source of data: [http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook/db2012/Section 1 pdf](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook/db2012/Section%201.pdf) (December 30, 2014)

e. Poverty rate

Poverty Rate	State	Hawai'i County	C & C of Honolulu	Kaua'i County	Maui County
Individuals	24.9%	32.2%	23.3%	26.7%	23.6%
Children under 18	15.4%	27.8%	13.0%	14.4%	15.6%

Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S1701, Hawaii and counties. Retrieved April 14, 2016.

f. Income level

Median Household Income, 2009-2013	
State	\$68,201
Hawai'i County	\$51,213
C & C of Honolulu	\$73,581
Kaua'i County	\$62,946
Maui County	\$64,567

Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, Community Facts, Hawaii. Retrieved April 14, 2016.

g. Employment and unemployment rate for young people age 18 to age 25¹

¹ Include young people up to their 26th birthday.

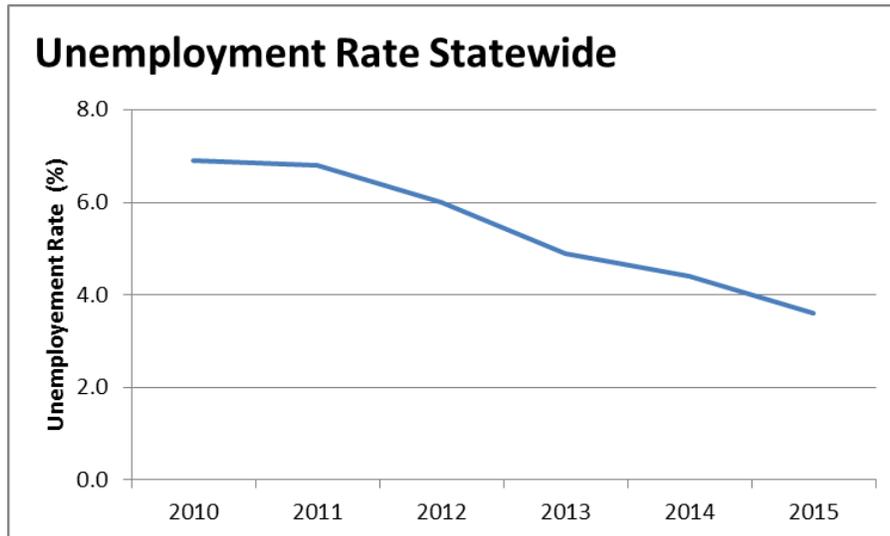
Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

Data is available for the age groups 16-19 and 20-24.

Hawai'i Employment and Unemployment Rates, 2014 Annual Average		
	Employment Rate	Unemployment Rate
Statewide	59.2%	4.4%
Ages 16 - 19	25.2%	15.7%
Ages 20 - 24	62.5%	9.7%

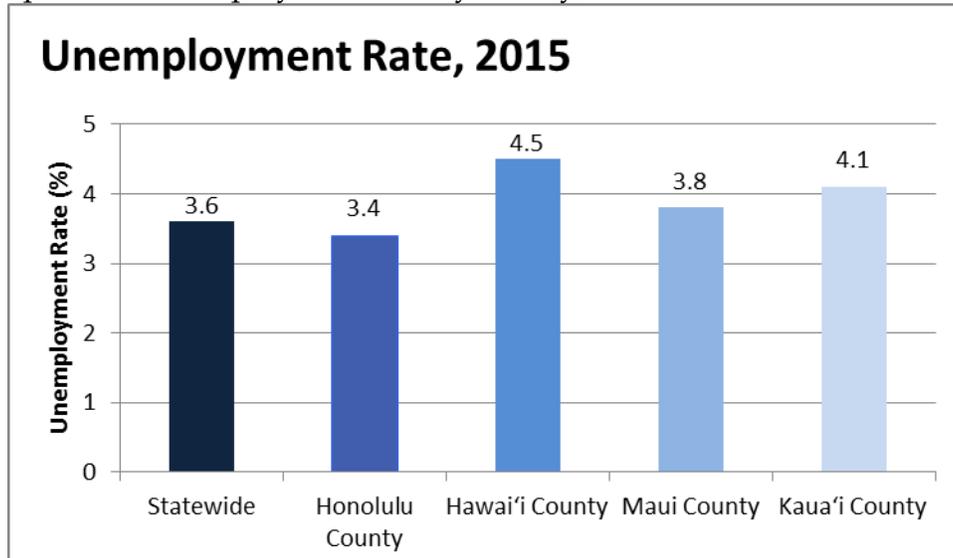
Source of data: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Preliminary 2010 Data on Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age, 2014 annual averages – Hawaii. Retrieved April 14, 2016.

Trends in general population unemployment rate, 2010-2015:



Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

General population unemployment rate by county, 2015:



Source of data: UHERO Data Portal, Unemployment Rate, 2015, (<http://uhero.prognoz.com>), downloaded 6/15/2016.

h. High school graduation rate of young people age 18 to age 25².

The census information is provided for young people ages 18 through 24.

Highest Educational Level for population 18-24	State	Hawai'i County	C & C of Honolulu	Kaua'i County	Maui County
Less than high school graduate	8.9%	14.4%	7.5%	7.7%	13.7%
High school graduate	37.9%	39.5%	36.6%	48.4%	42.5%
Some college or associate's degree	45.1%	38.8%	47.2%	40.1%	38.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	8.1%	7.3%	8.7%	3.9%	5.6%

Sources of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, S1501; 2009-2013. Retrieved February 17, 2015.

² Include young people up to their 26th birthday.

Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

i. Percentage of young people age 18 to age 26³ with any kind of medical insurance

Data is available for the 18 through 24 age group:

Young People with Health Insurance, Ages 18 to 24, 2013

Statewide	87.3%
------------------	-------

Source of data: *Report Source: The Hawaii Health Data Warehouse; Data Source: State of Hawaii, Dept. of Health, dated 01/30/2015.*

j. Housing vacancy rate

Housing Type	Vacancy Rate
Homeowner	1.6%
Rental	8.3%

Source of data: <http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/economic/databook/2014-individual/21/212314.pdf>

k. Average rental rate for a two-bedroom apartment

This data is from the 2011 Hawai'i Housing Planning Study. New information should be available by September 2016.

Average Monthly Rent for a Two-Bedroom Apartment, 2011	
Statewide	\$1,398
Hawai'i County	\$ 986
C & C of Honolulu	\$1,487
Maui County	\$1,303
Kaua'i County	\$1,292

Source of data: *Hawaii Housing Planning Study, 2011, Table A-5. Average Monthly Housing Cost, 1992, 1997, 2003, 2006, and 2011.*

l. Average home price

Median Sales Price, 2012		
	Single Family	Condominium
Statewide	\$575,000	\$351,000
Hawai'i County	\$315,000	\$280,000
C & C of Honolulu	\$675,000	\$350,000
Kaua'i County	\$533,000	\$346,000
Maui County	\$570,000	\$415,000

Source of data: *State of Hawai'i Data Book 2014, Table 21.35*

³ Include young people up to their 26th birthday.

Characteristics of the Overall Population (unless otherwise specified)

m. Percentage of young people age 18 to age 25⁴ that are currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness

The requested information is not available.

Homeless Services Recipients , 18 - 24 Years Old		
Statewide	1,244	8.3%
Hawai'i County	178	9.7%
C & C of Honolulu	826	8.1%
Kaua'i County	58	8.8%
Maui County	182	8.3%

Source of data: [Center on the Family, Homeless Service Utilization Report, FY 2015, p 5.](#)

7. Describe the child welfare population in the current target area(s) and state in items a-k below. Please feel free to copy and paste published data or complete the table below.

Additional rows may be inserted in the table.

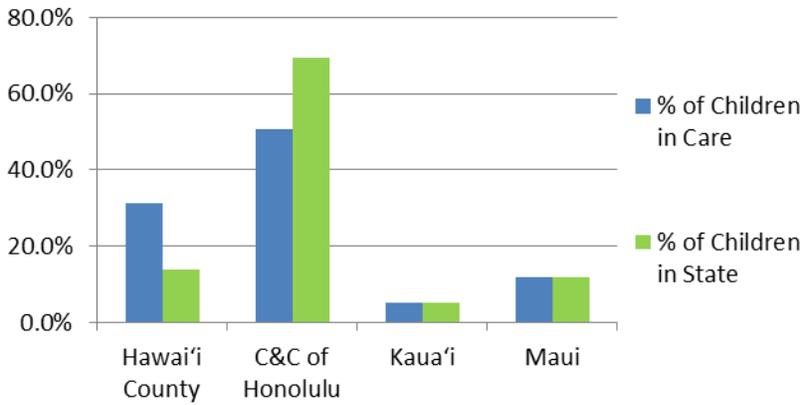
Characteristics of the Child Welfare Population

This information and that in sections 3.b. and 3.f. include only children with a family court legal status of custody to DHS. Youth who have reached their 18th birthday do not have the legal status of custody by DHS and are not included, even if they are still in care.

a. Number of children in foster care on 5/31/2016			County portion of total state population of children under 18
State of Hawai'i	1,452		
Hawai'i County	451	31.1%	13.8%
C & C of Honolulu	717	50.8%	69.4%
Kaua'i County	61	6.1%	5.1%
Maui County	186	12.1%	11.7%

⁴Include young people up to their 26th birthday.

Distribution of Children in Care and of Children in State, May 2016

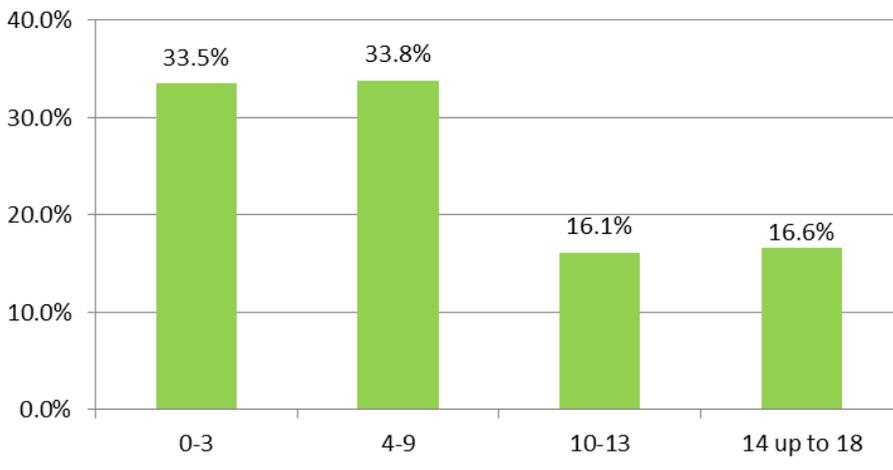


Sources of data: Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i, 2016-05 Children under DHS – All in Care, Point in Time 5/31/2016. U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, Table S0901 for each county, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

b. Number of children in foster care on 5/31/2016 by age

0-3	33.5%
4-9	33.8%
10-13	16.1%
14 up to 18	16.6%

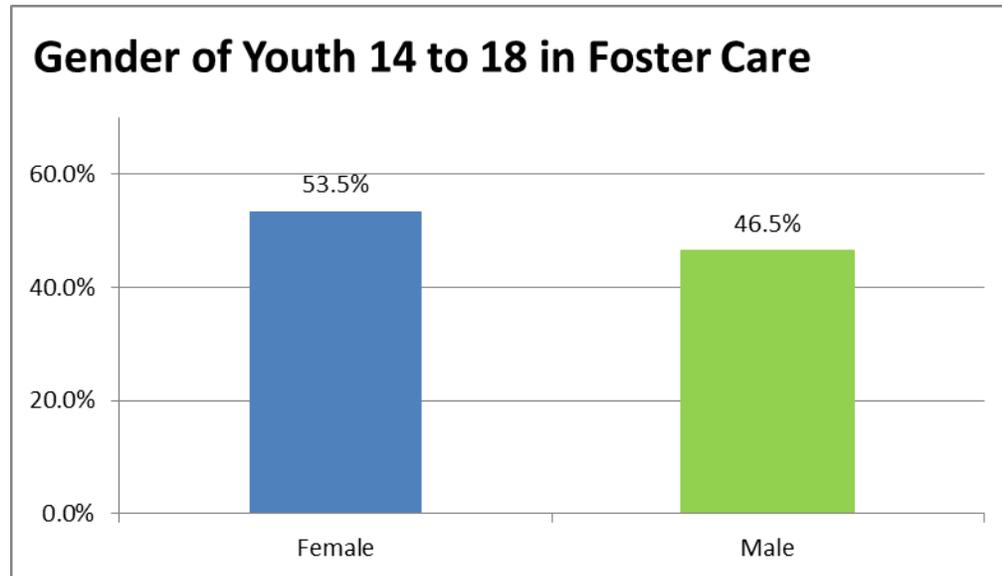
Ages of Children in Foster Care



Source of data: Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i, 2016-05 Children under DHS – All in Care, Point in Time 5/31/2016.

c. Number of young people in foster care ages 14 up to 18, by gender⁵

Female	128
Male	113

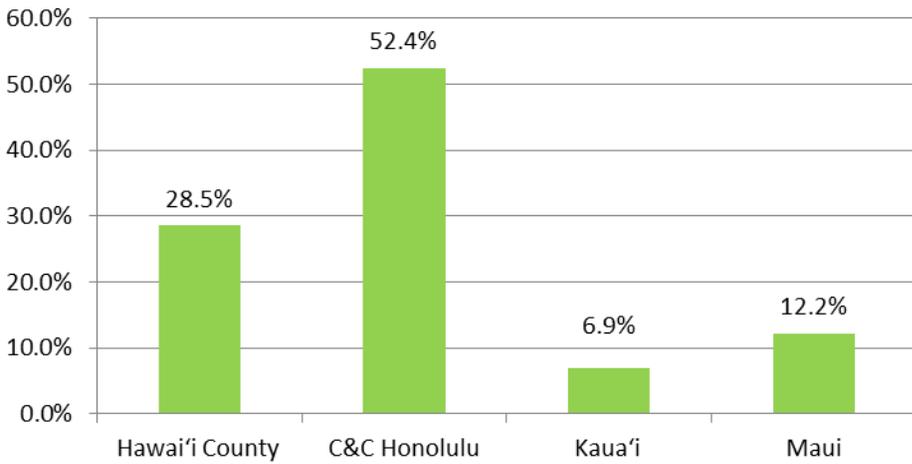


Source of data: Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i, Monthly Averages from 2015-12 to 2016-05 Children under DHS – All in Care, Point in Time

Distribution of Youth ages 14 up to 18 in Foster Care by County, Monthly Average December 2015 -- May 2016		
	Number	Percentage
Hawai'i County	68	28.5%
East Hawai'i	41	17.3%
West Hawai'i	27	11.2%
C & C of Honolulu	124	52.4%
Kaua'i County	16	6.9%
Maui County	29	12.2%

⁵ Include young people up to their 21st birthday or older.

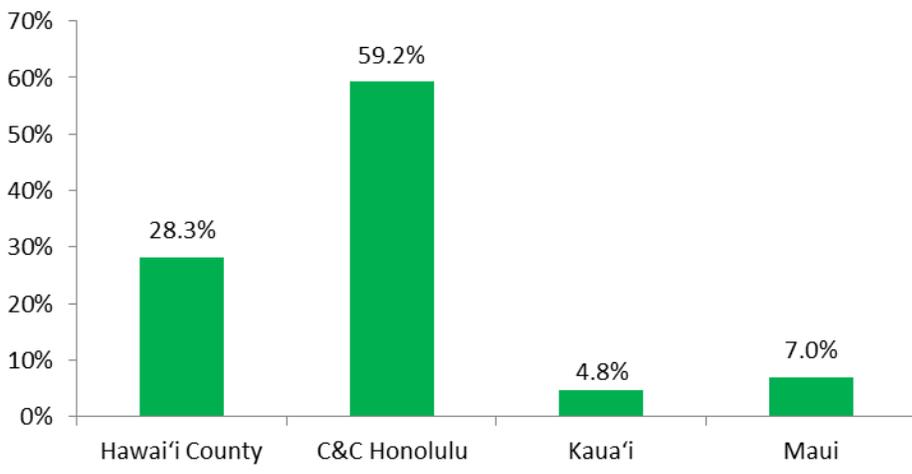
Youth in Care by County



Distribution of Youth ages 18 up to 21 in Imua Kākou by County, Monthly Average December 2015 -- May 2016

	Number	Percentage
Hawai'i County	32	28.3%
East Hawai'i	22	19.9%
West Hawai'i	9	8.3%
C & C of Honolulu	66	59.2%
Kaua'i County	5	4.8%
Maui County	8	7.0%
NA	1	0.7%

Youth in Imua Kākou by County



Source of data: Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i, Monthly Averages from 2015-12 to 2016-02 Children under DHS – All in Care, Point in Time

d.1. Young people in foster care age 14 up to 18 by race/ethnicity⁶

	Number	Percentage
Alaska Native/American Indian	7	2.9%
Black	8	3.3%
COFA	6	2.5%
Filipino	14	6.6%
Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian	105	43.6%
Hispanic/Spanish	6	2.5%
Mixed	43	17.8%
Other Pacific Islander	4	1.7%
Samoan	10	4.1%
Tongan	1	0.4%
Unable to determine/missing	2	0.8%
Vietnamese	1	0.4%
White	34	14.1%

d. 2. Young people in Imua Kākou age 18 up to 21 by race/ethnicity⁷

	Number	Percentage
American Indian	1	0.8%
Black	7	5.9%
COFA	1	0.8%
Filipino	5	4.2%
Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian	68	57.1%
Hispanic/Spanish	2	1.7%
Mixed	16	13.4%
Other Pacific Islander	2	1.7%
Samoan	3	2.5%
Tongan	2	1.7%
White	8	6.7%

Source of data: Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i, 2016-05 Children under DHS – All in Care, Point in Time 5/31/2016.

e. Number of young people in foster care ages 14 to 18, by language spoken. ⁸

There is no available data on this item.

⁶ Include young people up to their 21st birthday or older.

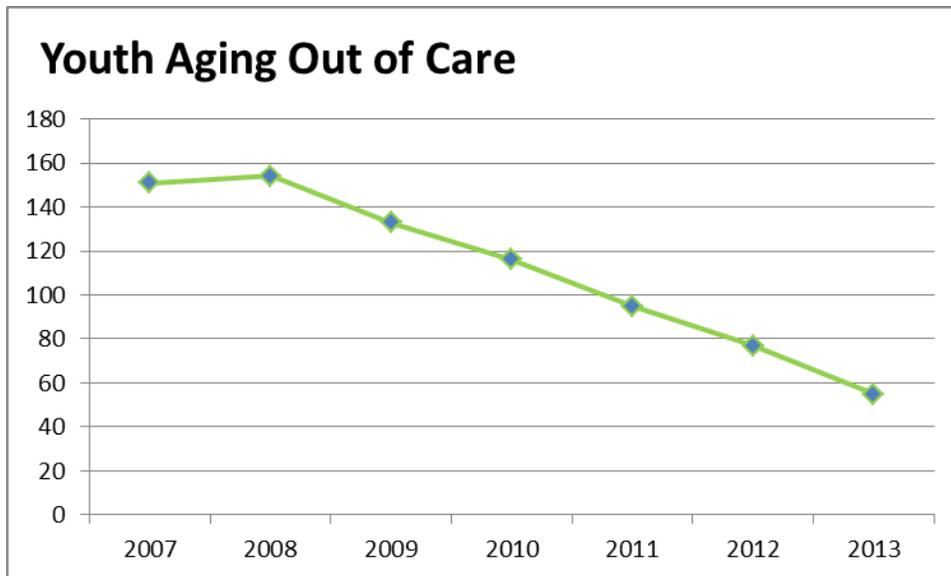
⁷ Include young people up to their 21st birthday or older.

⁸ Include young people up to their 21st birthday or older.

f. Children in foster care by placement type on 5/31/2016	
Relative	45.3%
Non-relative	48.1%
Emergency Shelter	0.6%
Hospital, incarceration, detention home or special treatment facility	2.8%
Runaway	1.6%
Known or sanctioned non-payment setting	1.6%

Sources of data: Department of Human Services, State of Hawai'i, 2016-05 Children under DHS – All in Care, Point in Time 05/31/2016.

g. Number of young people aging out of foster care on an annual basis			
Year	Number	Children age 12 or younger at entry	Children older than 12 at entry
2007	151	17.9%	82.1%
2008	154	23.4%	76.6%
2009	133	30.1%	69.9%
2010	116	32.8%	67.2%
2011	95	26.3%	73.7%
2012	77	28.6%	71.4%
2013	55	30.9%	69.1%



Source of data: AFCARS data. <http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/output/hawaii.html>

h. Unemployment rate for young people age 18 to age 25 formerly in foster care.⁹

There is no data available on this item.

i. High school graduation rate for young people age 18 to age 25 formerly in foster care.¹⁰

There is no data available on this item.

j. Percentage of young people formerly in foster care age 18 to age 25 that are currently experiencing or have experienced homelessness.¹¹

There is no data available on this item.

8. Is the public child welfare system in your state administered by the state or the county, or both?

The State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services administers the child welfare system.

Source of data: State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services

⁹ Include young people up to their 26th birthday or older.

¹⁰ Include young people up to their 26th birthday or older.

¹¹ Include young people up to their 26th birthday or older.

C. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Objective: To prepare young people to be meaningfully involved as decision makers and self-advocates.

9. Describe how young people are involved in designing, implementing and evaluating the child welfare system that serves them.

Beginning in January 2014, DHS contracted with EPIC 'Ohana, Inc. and Family Programs Hawai'i to operate the youth advisory council for Child Welfare Services and provide youth engagement opportunities. The HI HOPES youth leadership boards serve as the youth advisory council.

HI HOPES participated in the development and advocacy for the normalcy legislation and revisions to the higher education and Imua Kākou programs that were included in the Governor's package for the 2016 legislature. The legislature passed these bills. Governor Ige signed House Bill 2350, now Act 133, and Senate Bill 2878, now Act 134, into law on June 29, 2016.

HI HOPES members' insight and work also contributed greatly to the development and implementation of Imua Kākou, the extended voluntary care to 21 program, which began implementation on July 1, 2014. Child Welfare Services and the Family Court recognize the importance of including the voice of youth and young adults with child welfare experience, including HI HOPES members, in the development and implementation of Imua Kākou.

In addition, results from the Opportunity Passport™ participant surveys highlight outcome areas that inform stakeholders about areas of strengths and challenges in Hawai'i.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#).

10. Describe the ways in which the community supports youth participation, both in the local initiative and in other community activities (e.g., childcare, transportation, timing and location of meetings). What are some of the barriers in the community to youth participation?

The O'ahu HI HOPES board generally has 5-7 members, and the HI HOPES boards in East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui have 4-5 members. HYOI provides strategic sharing/media training for new HI HOPES members and refreshers for continuing members. The training and refreshers are integral to youth engagement statewide.

The Court Improvement Project supports the 'Ohana is Forever conference, and they bring in participants from the Neighbor Islands for this daylong event.

Meeting location and transportation can be major barriers to youth participation on the Neighbor Islands, which have no or very limited public transportation, and also on O'ahu. HYOI is based in urban Honolulu. Transportation is a barrier to O'ahu HI HOPES participation for youth living in outlying areas. Monthly board meetings are

held at mid-day on Saturday or in the late afternoon. Some events and meetings, however, occur during the business day or in early evenings on the weekdays or. HI HOPES boards in East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i, Kaua'i and Maui face even greater transportation challenges. HYOI provides mileage reimbursements.

Child care is sometimes a barrier. Other barriers include youths' scheduling conflicts because of demands of school and employment, limited information flow, lack of support from some foster parents/families, and personal issues in an individual's life.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative

11. Describe the policies and practices in place that ensure that young people are actively involved in their own case planning and decision making?

The Hawai'i State Judiciary, Department of Human Services, and providers have taken significant steps to ensure that foster youth are actively involved in their own case planning and decision making. In 2006, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hawai'i formed the Judiciary Standing Committee on Child in Family Court to provide the judiciary leadership needed to meet the needs of children in dependency courts. In 2007, the Committee endorsed a number of projects, one of which was to ensure youth involvement in the development of their service plans. The Hawai'i Court Improvement Project (CIP), a judiciary program aimed at improving the legal system for children under state care, has provided and facilitated a number of training activities for multidisciplinary and community audiences aimed at encouraging youth to come to court and participate in their case planning.

The Family Court of the First Circuit (O'ahu) has already made great strides in ensuring youth involvement in their decision making through both program and policy efforts. For example, the Family Court developed Project Ho'okahua to assist Foster Youth transition and to give judges and participants in the court system a better idea of how to effectively assist these youth. The goal of the project is not merely to ensure that youth attend their court hearings but, more importantly, that their voices be heard at every proceeding. The Court and the Court Improvement Project also initiated "Teen Day," which provides opportunities for transitioning youth to hear success stories from former foster youth, talk with Family Court Judges and learn about available community resources. In October 2014, the West Hawai'i HI HOPES board and Family Court co-sponsored the first West Hawai'i Teen Day. In January 2015, the Maui HI HOPES board and Family Court sponsored the first Maui Teen Day. These events continue to be held on a yearly basis.

The Judiciary is in the process of improving its data collection system to include the tracking and monitoring of youth participation in court proceedings. DHS has also implemented policy and practices to guarantee that its staff understand and execute their role in involving youth in court proceedings. Furthermore, as a result of the Child and Family Services Review, DHS has placed a high priority on the active involvement of every child and family in the development of their case plan.

DHS contracts with EPIC 'Ohana, Inc. to provide Youth Circles. Youth Circles are youth-led planning processes that bring together important people in the young person's life and services to assist the young person to develop a transition plan and learn about community resources and people who will help them. In some instances, EPIC has begun to include foster youth alumni in the initial visit to offer the Youth Circle and in the Youth Circle to provide additional support for the young person.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Department of Human Services Report on Fiscal Year 2012. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

12. Describe access of young people in foster care to legal advocacy services and supports, i.e., a court-appointed representative for youth in foster care, such as an attorney, attorney or non-attorney GAL, or CASA representative?

As described above, the Judiciary has taken significant steps – and continues to take significant steps through CIP's training, and curriculum and resource development activities – to create a youth-focused and youth-welcoming environment in Family Court. In the area of legal advocacy, each youth is appointed a CASA representative who advocates for the best interest of the child. Once appointed, CASAs are required to have frequent contact with the youth. While youth are encouraged to contact their CASAs and CASAs are accessible to youth, most contact is adult-initiated.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, May 2009.

D. PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

Objective: To access the resources of public and private systems and philanthropic organizations, expand and deepen community support, and cultivate community champions for young people transitioning from foster care.

13. What is the general economic condition of your community, including the fiscal condition of both your state and current target area(s)?

According to UHERO, the economic research organization of the University of Hawai'i, "Hawaii's four counties are moving steadily forward, accommodating new visitors, restoring lost jobs, and growing household incomes. Prospects remain good for

the next few years, supported by health in the US economy, local labor markets, and construction. Growth rates will begin to trend lower, as each county converges toward its trend path and as construction moves to, and then beyond, the next cyclical peak.”

Across the state, the area of strongest job growth is in construction. On the Neighbor Islands, the next strongest area is accommodations and food service. On O’ahu, the next strongest area is transportation and utilities.

Each county faces different challenges. O’ahu has the financial problems of rapid rail transit construction. Maui faces the closure of HC&S. Kaua’i has inadequate infrastructure to support tourism and local communities. Hawai’i Island has the opposition to the telescopes on Mauna Kea, which raises concerns about the high tech economy.

Source of data: UHERO County Forecast: Counties Share Positive Outlook, But Face Individual Challenges (May 20, 2016). <http://uhero.hawaii.edu/assets/16Q2CountyForecast-Public.pdf> , downloaded 7/7/2016.

14. To what extent do changing economic conditions affect demand for the types of opportunities you are creating and the availability of resources to support your work?

State funding has stabilized since the previous recession, although the child welfare agency remains understaffed.

The availability of private funding since the recession has stabilized and improved. Local foundations seem to be in a better position to provide funding than they have been since the most recent recession.

15. List key employers, both public and private, in your current target area(s).

Hawai’i’s major pillars of economic support are tourism and U.S. defense activity. Its strategic location in the middle of the Pacific, environmental beauty and historic sites support these sectors. Sugar and pineapple agriculture were strong contributors in the first three-quarters of the 20th century, but the role of agriculture in Hawai’i has declined sharply due to foreign competition.

Key public sector employers include the U. S. Department of Defense, State of Hawai’i and county governments, and the University of Hawai’i system. Of the state departments, the Department of Education employs approximately a third of the state’s employees.

Hawai’i is predominately a small business state. According to Hawai’i Business Magazine, which ranks the top 250 businesses based on gross sales, the top 10 businesses in the state employ nearly 40,000 individuals out of the nearly 588,500 non-farm labor jobs in the state.

TOP TEN BUSINESSES BASED ON GROSS SALES

COMPANY	LINE OF BUSINESS	# OF EMPLOYEES IN 2015
Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc.	Energy services and financial services	3,965
Hawai'i Medical Service Association (HMSA)	Health insurance and employee-benefit services	1,618
Hawaiian Holdings, Inc. (Hawaiian Airlines)	Commercial airline operations	5,379
Matson, Inc.	Ocean transportation and logistics	1,056
University of Hawai'i System	Higher education and research	8,717
Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i	Nonprofit health maintenance organization; health plan and care	4,314
Servco Pacific	Automotive, appliances, home and consumer products, insurance, investments	1,572
Hawai'i Pacific Health	Health services	6,441
Queens Health System	Healthcare	6,942
First Hawaiian Bank	Financial Services.	2,055

Source of data: Enterprise Honolulu: Major Economic Activity. Retrieved on 12/23/2013 from <http://www.enterprisehonolulu.com/index.php/economicoverview/majoreconomicactivity>. Hawai'i Business, The Top 250 Companies - Hawai'i <http://www.hawaiibusiness.com/top-250-inside-the-bottom-line/> Retrieved on 7/7/2016.

16. Describe the local Workforce Investment Board and their support for youth transitioning from foster care.

The Hawai'i Workforce Development Council is a private-sector led body responsible for advising the governor on workforce development to support economic development and employment opportunities. The council serves as the state's Workforce Investment Board for the purposes of the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act, and assists the Governor in developing and updating comprehensive five-year state workforce development plans and aligning public workforce investment activities in the state.

In addition, each county has its local Workforce Investment Board. The City and County of Honolulu operates Work Hawai'i and the Youth Services Center. The Youth Services Center is a one-stop facility that services to at-risk, disadvantaged, and offender youth and young adults through several programs.

The County of Hawai'i operates the Big Island Workplace Connection. The

County's Workforce Development Board has a Youth Council sub-committee which develops comprehensive and integrated strategies to help in-school and out-of-school youth prepare for Hawai'i successful entry into the work force.

The University of Hawai'i Maui College Youth Program Ku'ina offers year-round youth services and training under WIOA for the County of Maui. Kaua'i County operates Work Wise Kaua'i under WIOA.

As Imua Kākou was developed and began implementation in 2014, the Child Welfare Services Branch under the leadership of Kayle Perez reached out to the workforce development entities and strengthened awareness and connections between child welfare and workforce development.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. <http://www1.honolulu.gov/dcs/specialprojects/youthservices.htm>
<http://www.mauhi.hawaii.edu/services/kuina/about>; www.workwisekauai.com. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

17. List any organizations in your current target area(s) that provide job readiness, job development and job retention services.

The EPIC `Ohana Youth Circles program works to maintain current listings of resources by county for transitioning foster youth. These listings are available at <http://www.epicohana.net/resources.aspx>.

The Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Workforce Development Division (WDD) supports 13 One-stop Centers (at least one on each island), which are dedicated to providing free services to job seekers. Services include job search assistance, personal career planning, training, and resource centers. WDD works with county government agencies and selected youth providers throughout the state to deliver the Workforce Investment Act Title I-B Youth Program, aimed at providing youth:

- assistance in the completion of secondary education,
- alternative secondary school services,
- summer employment opportunities, and
- training opportunities.

Through the Employment and Training Fund Program, WDD also works with a number of vendors statewide, including the community college system, to provide industry-specific training in response to critical-skills shortages in high growth occupational or industry area and training services for businesses that need to upgrade the job skills of their employees.

The following are other organizations and programs available throughout the state aimed at providing job readiness, development, and retention services:

- *Hawai'i Job Corps* has centers on O'ahu and Maui, providing no-cost education and vocational training services targeting youth, ages 16-24.
- *Goodwill Industries of Hawai'i* offers free services to at-risk youth, ages 15-21, who are not in school. Services include job skills and readiness training, interviewing skills development, job search assistance, mentoring, and

internships.

- *Alu Like* provides education, employment and training program services for Native Hawaiian youth, ages 14–21.
- *Kupu* is the home organization for the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps, Community U, Rewarding Internships for Sustainable Employment and E2U. Through its various programs, Kupu aims to provide experiential education, as well as job training, leadership, teamwork, and lifeskills development opportunities to help youth and young adults succeed in life and encourage them to serve their communities.
- *Honolulu Community Action Program*, through the Youth Services Employment Program, provides job training and placement services for youth, ages 14–21, who are not in school.
- *Child and Family Services* offers job education training and employment services.
- *Hale 'Opio Kaua'i* provides the First Jobs Academy, which works with employers and with youth to provide foster youth and others with positive first jobs experiences.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

18. List any educational resources in your current target area(s) that are available or could be made available to youth in foster care.

The EPIC `Ohana Youth Circles program works to maintain current listings of resources by county for transitioning foster youth. These listings are available at <http://www.epicohana.net/resources.aspx>.

Education and training during secondary years:

- *GEAR UP* (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) Hawai'i is a federal program whose mission is to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Program activities aim to increase access to higher education for Hawai'i students by providing information and encouragement for students and families, supporting students' academic preparation, and increasing students' access to financial aid.
- *The Career and Technical Education Center of Hawai'i* develops and revises the State Plan for career and technical education, recommends establishment of policies for career and technical education, and assists the Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i Community College System in planning, coordinating, and evaluating career and technical education programs, activities, and services.
- *TRiO and Upward Bound Programs* operate at many of the University of Hawai'i campuses. The TRiO/Upward Bound program is a year-round pre-

college program dedicated to preparing academically under-served and low-income high school students for college. The program aims to increase college enrollment and high school graduation rates by instilling motivation and academic skills in its participants. Services include tutoring, career guidance, summer instruction, personal advising, financial aid counseling, cultural activities, camping, team building, field trips, and other activities.

Other relevant educational resources and programs available, or which can be made available to transitioning youth, include:

- ***The Competency-based High School Diploma*** program provides adults who did not graduate from high school the opportunity to obtain a valid Hawai'i high school diploma through the community schools for adults. The purpose of the program is to enable adults to further develop their communication skills, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking; computation skills; problem-solving skills; and interpersonal skills.
- ***The General Educational Development (GED)*** program provides a means of measuring the educational achievement of adults who did not complete high school. Individuals who successfully complete the test battery receive an official GED transcript and may qualify for a Hawai'i high school diploma.

Post-secondary education support includes:

Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED) at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa administers, coordinates, and provides programs that support students with disabilities (KOKUA), native Hawaiians (Kua`ana and Na Pua No`eau), underrepresented ethnic groups (OMSS), women (Women's Center), students receiving TANF (Bridge to Hope), underprepared disadvantaged students (College Opportunities Program and GEAR UP), and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex students (LGBTI) at UH Manoa.

Many of the other campuses in the UH system also have Native Hawaiian student support centers and additional support programs

Key financial assistance and scholarships programs specifically targeting youth who are aging out of the foster care system include:

- ***Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program***. The ETV program, which DHS administers, provides financial assistance to former foster youth pursuing higher education. Federal guidelines allow up to \$5,000 per year, and the average award in Hawai'i is approximately \$2,000. Awards may be applied toward the cost of tuition, room and board, books, clothing, and transportation. Students must be at least 18 but under 22 years old, and youth participating in the program on their 21st birthday may remain eligible until age 23. In SFY 2015, 30 youth received ETV awards.
- ***Higher Education Board Allowance***. The state also provides a higher

education board allowance of up to \$676 per month to former foster youth who are pursuing higher education (academic or vocational). Former foster youth includes those emancipated from care and those who were adopted or placed into legal guardianship through the Department of Human Services. The maximum age that youth can receive the higher education allowance is 26, and the education benefits can be received for up to 60 months. The number of youth receiving the benefits in SFY15 was 369.

There are a number of other scholarship programs available to youth throughout the state that transitioning youth can access. These include, but are not limited to:

- over 170 scholarship funds provided through the *Hawai'i Community Foundation*,
- vocational and technical education scholarships available to Native Hawaiian youth through *Alu Like*,
- the *Kamehameha Schools* scholarship program for undergraduate and graduate students, with awards preference given to students of Native Hawaiian ancestry, and
- other scholarship programs for Native Hawaiians students provided by organizations such as *Ke Ali'i Pauahi Foundation*, the *Native Hawaiian Health Scholarship Program*, and the *Hawaiian Civic Clubs*.

The above lists are not meant to represent *all* the educational resources in the state that are available or that could be made available to foster youth. Groups such as EPIC 'Ohana, Inc. and the Family Court of the First Circuit have done extensive work in developing and regularly updating resource lists.

Sources of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. <http://www.Hawaii.edu/cte/index.html>; www.Hawaii.edu; <http://www.studentaffairs.manoa.Hawaii.edu/departments/seed.php>. The Geist Foundation. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

19. Describe any programs or services in your current target area(s) that are available or could be made available to youth in foster care who are pregnant and/or parenting.

The EPIC 'Ohana Youth Circles program works to maintain current listings of resources by county for transitioning foster youth, including pregnant and parenting youth. These listings are available at <http://www.epicohana.net/resources.aspx>.

There are a number of state and nonprofit agencies throughout Hawai'i that provide program and services to pregnant and parenting teens. These services could be made available to foster care and transitioning youth, if they are not already. The Department of Education, for example, provides pre- and postnatal parenting

classes for male and female expectant and new parents in each county. The classes tie in career counseling and education. The Department of Health provides the Perinatal Support Program services through various providers on each island, with services also targeting youth. In addition, there are a number of nonprofit organizations providing pregnancy and parenting education and support services, some targeting teens specifically and others targeting broader populations that include youth.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009.

20. List the housing resources that are available or could be made available to youth in foster care in your current target area(s) (e.g., low-income housing, section 8 vouchers, emergency housing or homeless shelters, transitional living housing units). What are some of the barriers to accessing these resources?

The EPIC `Ohana Youth Circles program works to maintain current listings of resources by county for transitioning foster youth. These listings are available at <http://www.epicohana.net/resources.aspx>.

The lack of affordable housing continues to be a chronic problem in Hawai'i for many of its residents. Nearly 40% of households spend more than 30% of their income on housing, compared to 35% in the rest of the nation. For young people who lack financial support, finding adequate housing at an affordable price presents a tremendous challenge.

Nationally, 59.4% of young men and 50.9% of young women ages 18 through 24 live with their parents. In Hawai'i, this rate is likely higher due to cultural norms that support multigenerational households, the high cost of living, and the lack of affordable housing. Family and hanai connections provide a major housing resource for this age group. Ensuring permanency for youth in care and young adults supports housing stability.

Hawai'i has a number of emergency and long-term housing resources available to youth, and some organizations provide transitional and residential programs that specifically target youth who are exiting or were formerly in foster care. The latter include organizations such as Hale Kipa, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, The Salvation Army, and Maui Youth and Family Services.

Independent Living Program providers contracted by DHS provide transitioning youth with information on these housing-related resources, as well as other housing assistance resources, as part of the independent-living planning services. In addition, transitioning youth participating in EPIC Inc.'s Youth Circles or engaged with HFYC are also provided information on housing resources through those programs.

In 2009, the City & County of Honolulu, DHS and Hale Kipa were awarded Family Unification Program (FUP) voucher funding and 100 vouchers through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program is called

Step-Up program and makes housing subsidies available for 18 months to former foster care youth who are at least 18 years old and not more than 21 years and who do not have adequate housing.

The County of Hawai'i provides a Bridge Housing Assistance program. Single, able-bodied people are eligible for this Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA), but not for regular Section 8. TBRA does give a preference for people who have aged out of the foster care system. This provides rent assistance for up to 24 months.

Sources of data: Jonathan Vespa, Jamie M. Lewis, and Rose M. Kreider, 2013, *America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2012, Current Population Reports, P20-570*, p. 10. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. PH News #7 August 15, 2009, U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development Public Housing and HCV NEWSLETTER, Honolulu Field Office. Hawai'i Department of Human Services <https://shaka.dhshawaii.net/>, downloaded 2/20/2015.

21. Describe the accessibility of physical and mental health resources in your current target area(s). What are some of the barriers to accessing these resources?

The EPIC `Ohana Youth Circles program works to maintain current listings of resources by county for transitioning foster youth. These listings are available at <http://www.epicohana.net/resources.aspx>.

In response to advocacy from HI HOPES and the support of the federal Affordable Care Act, the Department of Human Services (DHS) provides categorical eligibility for MedQUEST (Medicaid) coverage for young people who have aged out of foster care in Hawai'i. This categorical coverage began in October, 2013. Young people who aged out of care will be eligible for this up to age 26, and there are no asset or income limits. Under the Affordable Care Act, parents are able to maintain young people on their health insurance plan up to age 26, and this change by the state provides parity for youth transitioning to adulthood from foster care.

This is not yet automatic coverage. DHS has expressed interest in moving forward to automatic enrollment. This requires a waiver. To maintain their coverage until automatic enrollment is available, however, young people will need to verify each year that their insurance circumstances have not changed. This is a challenge, particularly since many young people move frequently. HYOI continues to advocate for automatic re-enrollment.

With health coverage, youth can then access health services that are available throughout the state. Through organizations such as the Independent Living service providers, EPIC's Youth Circles, It Takes an `Ohana, and HFYC, transitioning youth and foster parents are provided information on health services.

Access to medical providers is generally available on O'ahu through providers and community clinics. Shortages of medical personnel on the Neighbor Islands may make access more challenging in these communities. Accessing affordable dental care can be challenging for young adults who are 21 and older.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

22. What is the recent history and status of any community collaboration efforts that are relevant to issues faced by youth transitioning out of foster care? What outcomes have they achieved?

Organizations that serve foster and transitioning youth have formed solid partnerships as they come together in various ways to maximize resources and deliver services. Partnerships include organizations that traditionally serve transitioning youth as well as organizations that serve broader populations. While there are many collaborative activities among the foster youth-serving community, below are a few key examples of recent and ongoing collaboration efforts that are particularly relevant to youth transitioning out of foster care:

- *Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative (HYOI)* brings together community partners to work together to improve opportunities for foster youth and former foster youth to successfully transition to adulthood. EPIC 'Ohana is the lead agency.
- *The Independent Living Collaborative* is funded by DHS. EPIC 'Ohana serves as the master collaborator to work with the Independent Living service providers and partners from all four islands. This collaborative effort is expected to launch in 2016.
- *EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.* partners with other services providers, DHS, and Family Court to provide the Youth Circles program, a group process to assist teens in their preparation for exit from foster care and plan for their independence. In SFY16, EPIC provided 129 initial Youth Circles, 114 Re-Circles, 52 Imua Kākou Circles, and 14 goal-setting Circles. EPIC has partnered with organizations such as Honolulu Community Action Program, Hawai'i Job Corps, Family Programs Hawai'i, and other service providers statewide to deliver Youth Circles. EPIC's 'Ohana Connections program works to connect transitioning youth with family members and other who will provide lifetime supportive connections. EPIC works very closely in a team capacity with DHS case workers, Family Court's volunteer guardians at litem, and other organizations to identify and facilitate those connections.
- *The First Circuit Family Court* continues to collaborate with a number of organizations to develop resources aimed at assisting transitioning youth. The First Circuit Court collaborated with HFYC and DHS on Project Ho'okahua, which developed a resource guide to help foster youth who are aging out of the care system plan for themselves and to give family court judges and participants in the court system a better idea of how to effectively assist youth. The resource guide addresses education, health, employment and housing, and provides judges and other participants in the court system with information to ensure that youth are well aware of resources as they plan for their independent living. The Court hosts "Teen Day" twice a year to give foster youth the opportunity to learn about the importance of attending their court hearings, become comfortable in the presence of Family

Court judges, realize the importance of their participation in planning their future, learn about the available resources, and be inspired by former foster youth who are successfully navigating adulthood.

- *Neighbor Island Teen Days* on Maui and West Hawai'i are held annually through partnerships between the HI HOPES boards, Family Court and HYOI's Community Partnership Hui. Community specific resources participated in the Teen Days.
- *The Court Improvement Program* and *the William S. Richardson School of Law* each collaborate with a number of organizations, including service providers, to develop resource materials on foster youth rights and entitlements and to conduct training to promote and ensure youth participation in their case-planning activities.
- *The 'Ohana Is Forever Conference* is held annually through the collaborative efforts of a number of organizations and programs. The conference is a statewide, youth-focused conference for foster youth, their families, and other stakeholders, including Family Court judges, CASAs, DHS staff, and service providers. One of the major aims of the annual conference is to empower older foster youth with information, support, and resources for successful transitions to adulthood. Collaborators include the First Circuit Family Court, the Court Improvement Program, DHS, the William S. Richardson School of Law, Family Programs Hawai'i, and HYOI and HI HOPES. Organizations collaborating on this effort provide a range of planning services, funding (include travel funds for neighbor island attendees), event staffing, training materials, and other resources in order to deliver the conference.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues: <http://apps.americanbar.org/abanet/child/statesum/state.cfm?state=HI>. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

23. List the formal and informal community leaders in your current target area(s) (both youth and adult).

The following list includes many of the community leaders for transitioning foster youth across the state.

On Hawai'i,

- *Roselyn Viernes*, DHS East Hawai'i CWS Section Administrator
- *Wendy Jo Robinson*, DHS West Hawai'i CWS Acting Section Administrator
- *Judge Aley K. Auna*, Third Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge
- *Judge Henry Nakamura*, Third Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge
- *Judge Lloyd Van De Car*, Third Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge
- *Melissa Harmeling and Jennifer Carter*, Family Programs Hawai'i, Educational

Outreach Worker

- *Charmaine Alameda and Rachelle Agrigado*, East Hawai'i Supervisors, DOH MH Care Coordinators
- *Kamaile Miyasato, Sharla Fujimoto, Joe O'Connell, Jan Osorio*, EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.
- *Jade Perreira*, East Hawai'i HI HOPES President
- *Karen Hagopian*, West Hawai'i HI HOPES President

On Maui,

- *Elladine Olevao*, DHS Maui CPS Section Administrator
- *Judge Keith Tanaka*, Second Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge
- *Kim Bowlin*, Maui Foster Parent Support Group
- *Rick Collins, Eva Rickford, Tanis Biga*, Maui Youth and Family Services
- *Tiffany Darragh*, Maui HI HOPES President

On Kaua'i,

- *LaVerne Bishop, Jamie Kai*, Hale `Opio Kaua'i
- *Kim Acierto*, ILP Case Manager, Child and Family Services
- *Iwalani Kaauwai-Herrod*, Administrator, DHS Kaua'i CWS Section Administrator
- *Judge Edmund Acoba*, Fifth Judicial Circuit Family Court Judge
- *Madeleine Hiraga-Nuccio*, Chief, Kaua'i Family Guidance Center, Department of Health
- *Patricia Duh*, Kaua'i HI HOPES President

On O'ahu,

- *Mona Maehara*, DHS Social Services Division Chief; *Kayle Perez*, DHS Child Welfare services Administrator, and *Lynne Kazama*, DHS CWS Assistant Program Administrator
- *Judge R. Mark Browning*, Senior Judge O'ahu First Circuit Family Court
- *Judge Bode Uale*, O'ahu First Circuit Family Court
- *Judge Catherine Remigio*, O'ahu First Circuit Family Court
- *David Drews, Sarah Rogers*, Catholic Charities
- *Cynthia White*, Kids hurt too and HFYC
- *Dr. Steve Choy*, Argosy University
- *Faye Kimura*, Coordinator, Court Improvement Project
- *Gernani Yutob, Noy Worachit*, HYOI HI HOPES board members
- *Jaque Kelley-Ueoka, Michelle Kinimaka*, Hale Kipa
- *Keith Kuboyama, Judith Wilhoite, Melody Rolnick*, Family Programs Hawai'i
- *Laurie Tochiki, Mitchell Odo, Marilyn Toribio Cocchia, Jeanne Hamilton, Delia Ulima*, EPIC `Ohana Inc.
- *Carol Morimoto and Cindy Shimabukuro*, Partners in Development
- *Judith Clark*, Executive Director, Hawai'i Youth Services Network

Source of data: [Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

24. List the key businesses and philanthropic organizations in your current target area(s).

Hawai'i is predominately a small business state. A listing of the top 10 businesses in the state, which the *Hawai'i Business Magazine* ranked based on annual gross sales, can be found in the response to question 11.

Through discussions with and a survey of service providers, a number of local businesses and foundations received special mention for their philanthropic activities related to foster youth. Though this is not an exhaustive list, businesses and foundations that have provided or continue to provide support in this area include:

- Atherton Family Foundation,
- Edna McConnell Clark Foundation,
- Bank of Hawaii,
- Consuelo Foundation,
- First Hawaiian Bank Foundation,
- Hawai'i Community Foundation,
- Hawai'i Hotel Industry Foundation,
- Hawai'i Self Storage,
- Hawaiian Civic Club,
- Honolulu Rotary Club,
- McInerny Foundation,
- Tesoro Corporation, and
- The Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation.

Native Hawaiian youth are over-represented in foster care. Additional state and philanthropic organizations that may be of relevance to this initiative include Native Hawaiian serving entities such as:

- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands,
- Kamehameha Schools
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and
- Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center.

These organizations aim to improve the general welfare and conditions of Native Hawaiians through their support of educational, economic, political, social, and other programs.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.](#)

25. List the other Casey entities operating in your current target area(s) (e.g., Child Welfare Strategy Group, Casey Strategic Consulting, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, etc.). How are you engaged with those entities?

There are three additional Casey-related efforts operating in Hawai'i:

- DHS works with Chiemi Davis, Senior Director of Strategic Consulting at Casey Family Programs. Efforts focus on (1) continued outreach to the Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Micronesian, Samoan and Tongan communities to support communication and understanding in both directions and outreach to military families, (2) enhancing the use of kinship care and subsidized guardianship, (3) promoting educational stability, (4) implementing a Wrap-Around Process involving the Departments of Human Services, Health (including mental health) and Education, (5) development and support of Men's Circles, and (6) training and implementing the Title IV-E waiver. EPIC 'Ohana, Inc. participates in this work.
- The University of Hawai'i's Center on the Family (COF) has served as the state's Kids Count grantee, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, since 1994. Hawai'i Kids Count aims to improve the wellbeing of Hawai'i's children and their families by increasing public awareness of their conditions and serving as a catalyst for positive actions on their behalf. Through the Hawai'i Kids Count project, COF: (1) maintains a database that tracks the status of children and publishes periodic fact reports; (2) monitors Hawai'i's progress regarding children and families by tracking key indicators over time; (3) develops and disseminates analyses of specific issues relevant to Hawai'i's children and families to the media, legislators, public- and private-sector leaders, and community service providers; (4) strengthens the constituency for children through information and training; and (5) links with the national Kids Count network, which provides access to resources, technical expertise, and knowledge of kids in other states.

Ivette Rodriguez Stern is the lead for Hawai'i Kids Count, and she is actively engaged with the HYOI self-evaluation team.

- In April of 2008, Hawai'i became an official site of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). In Hawai'i, JDAI is addressing conditions of confinement, alternatives to detention, objective admissions criteria and instruments, case processing, and reducing racial and ethnic disparities for Native Hawaiians and other over-represented groups. As of 2013, JDAI in Hawai'i had managed a 43% reduction in its daily population count. EPIC 'Ohana is in communication with many of the people engaged in the JDAI work.

Source of data: Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Hawai'i Star-Advertiser, April 23, 2013.

26. List other existing foundation initiatives in your community that might be interested in supporting work relevant to child welfare and children in foster care.

Other foundation initiatives that might be relevant to and interested in supporting the work related to child welfare and children in foster care include:

- *The Consuelo Foundation* is a private operating foundation that strives to renew hope for those who have lost it and to give hope to those who have never had it and to eliminate abuse, neglect and exploitation of children, women and families in the Philippines and Hawai'i.
- *The Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund* focuses on the prevention of child abuse and neglect through direct service grantmaking as well as public awareness of activities and strategies that strengthen families.

Source of data: Hawai'i Community Foundation.

27. List any organizations that can assist with diversity training and technical assistance, particularly related to race (disproportionality), class, culture and sexual orientation in your current target area(s).

Casey Family Programs and DHS collaborate to hold *Aha*, or gatherings, with culturally distinct communities in the islands. The process began with the Native Hawaiian community and has been extended to include outreach and communication with the Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Micronesian, Samoan and Tongan communities in all counties.

The emphasis on relevant and culturally appropriate community-oriented and community-based services is critical to working with the diverse population involved with the child welfare system in Hawai'i.

The Department of Health, Hawai'i Psychological Association and Mental Health America of Hawai'i are resources for providing training and technical assistance around sexual orientation.

Source of data: Department of Human Services Report on Fiscal Year 2012, State of Hawai'i

28. Describe the potential to leverage resources in your current target area(s) (i.e., public agencies, local businesses, community foundations).

HYOI has secured more than \$2 million for core funding to support its work in 2013 through June, 2016. HYOI is currently pursuing these strategic directions:

- Continue to embed HYOI's work in youth engagement in DHS contracts and services. Maintain the Youth Advisory Council contract and work, provide the youth voice to the Independent Living and Imua Kākou collaborative, represent the youth experience at Child Welfare and Family Court meetings,

and lead communication work with young people.

- Explore the possibility to use Chafee funds to support financial literacy training and matched asset purchases for eligible young people. Also pursue supplemental private funding.
- Build support in the Native Hawaiian community. About 60% of the HYOI youth and young adult participants are Native Hawaiian. Developing partnerships within the Native Hawaiian community will support increased opportunities for the individual young people and also for systems change.
- Engage current funders and develop additional philanthropic resources, including island-specific ones.
- EPIC will develop its capacity to request, secure and steward financing from current funders, additional foundations, and individual donors.
- Increase engagement of community partners and resources. Each island community has institutions, agencies, individuals and funders who can provide improved opportunities for young people who are transitioning from foster care to adulthood. HYOI will develop and strengthen the Community Partnership Hui, HI H.O.P.E.S. youth leadership boards and collaborative partnerships in each island community to facilitate those connections to employment, education, housing and transportation.
- Maintain HYOI's affiliation with the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. The Jim Casey Initiative provides valuable tools, strategies and expertise that support our work in Hawai'i. This in-kind contribution to Hawai'i is valued at \$300,000 annually.

Our experience to date with additional community resources and services is that as we identify needs and effective solutions, many community members, non-profit agencies and governmental agencies are open to responding and partnering.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#).

29. List the organizations in your current target area(s) that serve similar populations.

- a) Are these organizations competitors for funding?**
- b) Are they potential (or current) partners?**
- c) What capacity can these organizations bring to your community and to your collaboration?**

Numerous providers around the state serve broader youth populations through a wide range of programs and many that serve similar at-risk populations. Some of these organizations may potentially compete for funding; however, they also serve as additional resources to transitioning youth and as partners in the delivery of services to this target population.

Many of the nonprofits providing key services to foster youth (e.g., the Independent Living Programs providers Hale Kipa, Salvation Army Family Intervention Services, Maui Youth and Family Services, Child and Family Services,

Hale 'Opio all of which serve as Independent Living Program and Imua Kākou providers) provide a wide range of services to other at-risk populations and participate in networks beyond those focused on foster care. The ILP agencies and Family Programs Hawai'i are key partners in the Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

The Hawai'i Youth Services Network (HYSN) provides a comprehensive list of youth service organizations through its membership listing, which can be viewed on their website, www.hysn.org.

E. RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION

Objective: To involve key stakeholders in using data to drive decision making and communications and in documenting results.

30. Describe your state's National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) data collection efforts.

As of October 1, 2010, DHS began to survey all youth in care within 45 days of the 17th birthday. DHS gives the 19 and 21 year-olds \$50 incentive payments and may make survey completions a requirement for receipt of ETV and higher education room and board payments. DHS has contracted EPIC 'Ohana, Inc. to conduct the follow-up surveys with the young adults out of care. Hawai'i achieved an 83% response rate for the first cohort of 19 year-olds; the average national response rate is 63%.

The rate of participation for the 19-year olds is currently 84%.

Source of data: Lee Dean, DHS, personal communication 12/08/2011; EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.

31. Describe other data collection efforts that may provide comparison data for your own local data collection efforts.

Through its Data Center, the Center on the Family (COF) provides the most comprehensive data on indicators related to child and family wellbeing at the state, county, and sub-county levels. COF is also the state's Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count grantee and, as part of that initiative, collects and monitors indicators specific to the wellbeing of children, youth, and young adults for data-driven advocacy efforts. Examples of data that are regularly tracked by COF on general child and youth populations, and that may serve as comparison data, include indicators related to:

- economic security (e.g. child and teen poverty rates; unemployment rates),
- educational achievement and attainment,

- risky behaviors and safety (e.g., teen drug-related arrest rates; substance use),
- health,
- civic and community engagement (e.g., volunteerism; voting patterns),
- family relationships (e.g., formation; composition; families at risk), and
- homelessness (e.g., demographic data on homeless service clients).

32. List any partners providing technical assistance related to self-evaluation.

Ivette Rodriguez Stern and Dr. Barbara DeBaryshe from the Center on the Family of UH Manoa provide data analysis and interpretation of the Unit Record Data from the Opportunity Passport™ Participants Surveys. The self-evaluation team includes the following members: Stephanie Kim and Keola Limkin (Opportunity Passport™ participants and HI HOPES leadership), Lynne Kazama (Asst. Program Administrator, DHS Child Welfare Services), Lee Katsumoto (University of Hawaii Maui College – Hawaii Child Welfare CQI Project), Pam Funai and Cecelia Fong (Program Officers, Hawai’i Community Foundation), Jeanne Hamilton and Delia Ulima (HYOI Statewide Initiative Coordinators, EPIC), Jacque Kelly-Ueyoka (Deputy CEO, Outreach Services, Hale Kipa), Carrie Shoda-Sutherland (Kamehameha Schools), Ivette Rodriguez Stern (Center on the Family), and Janice Takahashi (Chief Planner, Hawai’i Housing Finance and Development Corporation).

33. List any partners providing technical assistance related to communications.

Neenz Faleafine, CEO and Founder of Pono Media, an internet marketing and strategic consulting company, provides assistance to EPIC ‘Ohana in developing social media tools and methods that will allow EPIC to communicate strategically with stakeholders and the public at large.

F. PUBLIC WILL AND POLICY

Objective: To advance policy and practice that improves outcomes for young people transitioning from foster care.

34. List any major transitions in political leadership about to take place that could have an impact on transitioning youth.

Not applicable

35. What are the current needs and priorities identified by young people transitioning from foster care in the following areas:

a) Permanence

Every young person will have an adult to rely on for a lifetime and a supportive family network.

- Help youth develop and maintain healthy relationships with a support network, including resource caregivers, who could be lifelong connections.
- Connect every foster youth age 14 or older with a mentor or another caring adult.
- Place siblings together in foster care. When that's not possible, help them stay in the same neighborhood or school and support efforts to maintain consistent sibling connections by ensuring frequent visits, phone calls, and other forms of communication.
- When appropriate, give support to adult siblings who choose to act as a legal guardian to their younger siblings.
- Support respectful connections with self-identified kin and biological family.

Source of data: [HI HOPES Youth Advocacy Document 2016](#).

b) Employment

Programs and supports that provide job skills and employment opportunities will be provided to current and transitioning foster youth.

- Mandate that vital documents be provided before exiting foster care (birth certificate, ID, social security card). We need these to obtain employment, education and housing.
- Adults should be supportive in helping us seek and maintain employment. Provide employment opportunities, mentoring, internships, and soft skills training for us while we're still in care. Help us with resumes and take us to job fairs.
- Provide opportunities to build relationships in the community that can provide work experience and long-term employment to young people exiting from foster care.
- Provide and advocate for opportunities for us to obtain a driver's permit and license in care.
- To secure and sustain employment, provide access to internet, email and cell phones.

Source of data: [HI HOPES Youth Advocacy Document 2016](#).

c) Education

Ensure that all current and former foster youth ages 14-26 are aware of their post-

secondary education and training options and resources.

- Start preparing foster youth for post-secondary education and training at age 14.
- Help us access and apply for educational assistance: Higher education payments, scholarships, ETVs (education training vouchers) and financial aid.
- Provide Youth Circles to help with planning for educational pursuits.
- Provide connections for resources in the community and various post-secondary institutions to support us with counseling, tutoring, housing and transportation to promote retention and completing our education.
- Educate high school staff and the community about educational needs of foster youth.
- Establish an education mentor for former foster youth at each community college and university.

Source of data: [HI HOPES Youth Advocacy Document 2016](#).

d) Social Capital

Young people have supportive relationships in the community that help them achieve their personal goals.

- Ensure young people maintain stable relationships regardless of their placements.
- DHS-CWS and resource caregivers should support foster youth to participate in recreational, school, community, faith-based and family activities.
- Support young people to identify and nurture a wide range of relationships with adults as well as to maintain healthy peer and family relationships that can last a lifetime.
- Resource caregivers who serve transition-aged foster youth should receive mandatory annual training and education around trauma, social capital and the need for healthy risk-taking and youth development activities.

Source of data: [HI HOPES Youth Advocacy Document 2016](#).

e) Financial Capability

Young people will be provided opportunities to develop financial capability through education, opening a bank account and receiving matched funds for assets.

- Provide all young people with developmentally appropriate financial literacy training.
- Make matched savings accounts available to all current and former foster youth ages 14 through 26.
- Secure funding for specified matched asset purchases that will assist young

people with their transition into adulthood. Matches should be provided for housing deposits, transportation, medical and educational expenses, investments, business start-up and credit building and credit repair.

Source of data: [HI HOPES Youth Advocacy Document 2016](#).

f) Housing

Provide safe, affordable housing options with access to transportation to work and school.

- Help develop our transition plan at age 16 prior to transitioning from foster care.
- All foster youth aging out of foster care should leave foster care with a stable, safe, affordable place to live and a permanent connection with a caring adult.
- Help us build social capital while we are in foster care so we have relationships and resources that can help us with housing when we become adults.
- Encourage financial capability so young people can build credit and provide access to programs that match for housing deposits, rent and utility deposits.
- An array of housing options, including access to private-sector housing should be identified.
- Housing options should be close to public transportation.
- Ensure that social workers or other supportive adults provide us with packets which include applications and information for affordable housing and Imua Kākou.

Source of data: [HI HOPES Youth Advocacy Document 2016](#).

g) Physical and mental health

Medical and dental services will be provided to all young people who age out of foster care up to age 26.

- Provide automatic enrollment into Medicaid and Dental coverage for foster youth up to age 26.
- Social workers should provide information/enroll foster youth PRIOR to their exiting foster care.
- Provide young people with an INFORMATION CARD which includes the phone numbers and address of Med-Quest offices and a point person's contact information who can help them apply, check on their status, or direct them to someone who can.
- Establish a contact person in the health care community to help young people access services.
- Disseminate free/sliding scale clinic information.
- Educate stakeholders in the community on new Medicaid/Med-Quest policy

changes affecting former foster youth.

Source of data: HI HOPES Youth Advocacy Document 2016.

36. What evidence is there of increased public awareness and public will in support of young people transitioning from foster care, in your current target area(s) and statewide?

Child Welfare Services and the Family Court recognize the importance of including the voice of youth and young adults with child welfare experience, including HI HOPES members, in the development of Imua Kākou (extended care), and including HI HOPES members in the development of legislation and guidelines to implement the normalcy provisions of the Strengthening Families Act of 2014.

In SFY 15, HI HOPES members made presentations to nearly 2,000 adults and 360 current and former foster youth.

Source of data: Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative

37. What are some recent (within the past year) successes of the child welfare system related to improving supports and services to transitioning youth upon which the five core strategies could build?

On June 29, 2016, Governor Ige signed Act 133, which incorporates the normalcy provisions in the federal Strengthening Families Act into state law, and Act 134, which improves and clarifies provisions for Higher Education payments and Imua Kākou.

The department is committed to supporting children's and youths' connections with his/her family, and Hawai'i has one of the highest rates of kinship placement in the nation.

Source of data: EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.

38. What is the recent (within the past year) history of "hot issues" related to child welfare (child deaths, missing children, special panel appointments, etc.)?

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser ran an investigative series "Hawaiians at risk: Keiki locked in cycle of foster care system," about the disproportionality of Native Hawaiians in Hawai'i's child welfare system.

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center has filed state and federal lawsuits against the Department of Human Services alleging that the DHS room and board payments are inadequate to cover the costs of a foster child.

Source of data: Honolulu Star-Advertiser <http://www.staradvertiser.com/hawaii-news/special-report-hawaiians-at-risk-keiki-locked-in-cycle-of-foster-care-system/>. Hawai'i Appleseed Center: <http://hiappleseed.org/foster-care-payments>, downloaded 7/7/2016.

39. List the public policy advocates in your current target area(s) with a track record for addressing child welfare and other children and family well-being issues.

Key public policy advocates – individuals and organizations – identified by service providers include:

- *Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition* (described above);
- *Hawai'i State Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland*;
- *Hawai'i Representative Dee Morikawa*
- *Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative* and the *HI HOPES* youth boards.
- *Hawai'i Youth Service Network*, a coalition of over fifty youth-serving organizations statewide aimed at building collaborations that provide for increased effectiveness and decreased costs of youth services;
- *It Takes an 'Ohana within Family Programs Hawai'i*. It Takes an 'Ohana's mission has been to offer resources and information to those in the community concerned with protecting the interests of children and youth in out-of-home care, while providing responsible advocacy;
- *Keiki Caucus*, a group of state legislators, children and youth advocates and service providers aimed at identifying priority areas and developing policy to improve conditions for children and youth in Hawai'i;
- *Phocused* (Protecting Hawai'i's 'Ohana , Children, Underserved, Elderly, and Disabled), an organization aimed at influencing public policy relative to health and human service programs throughout the state; and
- Volunteers on the *Citizen Review Panels*, who conduct evaluations of the state's child protection systems, as required by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Environmental Scan, Center on the Family, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, May 2009. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.](#)

G. INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES

Objective: To create an array of opportunities and help young people gain access to them.

40. Describe the availability of financial institutions in your current target area(s) that are community-oriented, youth-friendly, and that may be willing to alter policies to benefit young people.

The Bank of Hawaii has hosted matched savings accounts for Opportunity Passport™ Participants since 2010. The Bank of Hawaii is a major statewide bank and has been an outstanding partner with the Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

41. Describe the potential for securing matching funds for matched savings (or IDAs).

HYOI has secured more than \$2 million in financial commitments to support core operations of HYOI for 2013 through June 2016. This includes the support for matching purchases. HYOI is pursuing additional potential resources.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

42. Describe the availability of financial literacy training providers, including financial institutions and other community organizations.

a) Are any of these organizations or institutions current or potential partners?

A number of youth-serving organizations, including EPIC 'Ohana, Family Programs Hawai'i, Hale Kipa, Alu Like, Hawai'i First FCU, and Hawaiian Community Assets have staff trained and experienced in providing financial literacy training to young people. The Bank of Hawaii also has capacity. The challenges to providing financial literacy training include scheduling workable times for the participants and providers and demands on staff time.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

b) What capacity can these organizations or institutions bring to your community and to your collaboration? To what extent can they provide support to customize the financial literacy curriculum?

Existing organizations have the capacity to provide the training.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

43. List possible partners for the provision of asset-specific training in the following areas: vehicles, education/training, housing, investments, microenterprise, credit building and medical/dental care.

a) Are any of these organizations or institutions current or potential partners?

On O'ahu, Servco is providing training around vehicle purchases, and the Bank of Hawaii is providing asset training for investments. On Hawai'i Island, David DeLuz, Jr. from Big Island Toyota will provide training around vehicle purchases.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

b) What capacity can these organizations or institutions bring to your community and to your collaboration? To what extent can they provide support to develop customized asset-specific training curricula?

Source of data:

44. Describe the current availability of opportunities that exist in the community that could be customized or enhanced to create door openers for young people transitioning from care.

On O'ahu, HYOI has worked with Honolulu Community College, Kapiolani Community College, and Leeward Community College (Pearl City and Waianae campuses) to designate a particular counselor on each campus as a point person for young people who were involved with the child welfare system.

Hale 'Opio provides a First Jobs Academy that connects employers and young people who want to work. Hale Kipa and Kupu on O'ahu are working together to provide similar training.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)

45. List possible partners for the provision of door openers in all outcomes areas (permanence, education, employment, housing, physical and mental health, and personal and community engagement).

Permanence: EPIC `Ohana for family connections, DHS and Family Programs Hawai'i Project Visitation for improved sibling connections.

Education: University of Hawai'i system and the state Department of Education (K-12).

Employment: Workforce development programs for youth and young adults. Salvation Army (East Hawai'i). Hale 'Opio (Kaua'i).

Housing: Hale Kipa, Department of Community Services Section 8 Voucher program (renter education), Catholic Charities Hawai'i Horizons Independent Living Program, Salvation Army (East Hawai'i), county housing offices, housing providers within the homeless/transitional/re-housing services.

Physical and mental health: MedQUEST division of DHS, Waikiki Community Health Center and other community health clinics.

Personal and community engagement: Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition, Family Programs Hawai'i, Rotary Clubs, Kanu Hawai'i.

Source of data: [Hawai'i Youth Opportunities Initiative](#)