

## **Social Services Division (SSD) 2010-2014 Accomplishments**

### **Protecting Vulnerable Adults**

- The DHS introduced and championed legislation that requires financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse of elders to county police and the DHS Adult Protective and Community Services Branch (APCSB).
- Since 2010 there has been a 5% reduction in the re-abuse rate of vulnerable adults.

### **Maintaining the Independence of Seniors and Vulnerable Adults**

- The APCS B supports community-based services so seniors can remain in their homes and communities. Since 2012, more than 400 senior companions provided companionship and support services to over 1,000 individual homebound seniors statewide. An additional 500 foster grandparents have served as mentors and tutors for more than 1,000 special and exceptional children in school settings.
- The APCS B certified more 1,128 Community Care Foster Family Homes (CCFFH) since 2012, making available more than 2,600 beds for low-income individuals who may otherwise require more costly care in long-term care settings. The number of licensed CCFFH has increased 8.5% since 2010, with a corresponding increase of 17% in the number of available CCFFH beds.
- To build capacity for the 'Silver Wave' there is a shift away from long-term institutional care settings to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). In addition to improving the overall well being of individuals, this shift presents a substantial savings to the state by reducing the cost of long-term care, and keeping people in their communities. The average Med-QUEST rate for an individual living in an institutional setting is \$10,287 per month. In comparison, the average Med-QUEST rate in a HCBS setting is \$4,334 per month.

### **Child Safety and Well-Being**

- Hawaii ranked first in the nation in 2012 and 2013 for having the highest percentage of children/youth in foster care placed with relatives.
- Since 2010 there has been:
  - an 18% reduction in the number of children entering foster care as a result of the DHS' successful family strengthening services and diversion programs;
  - Hawai'i's 2013 re-abuse rate of 1.4% is substantially below the national average of 6.1%.
  - a 30% increase in the number of foster youth attending post-secondary education programs at an accredited institution of higher education.

- The DHS requested and the Legislature passed a \$100 per annum (or 20% increase) in the clothing allowance for all children in foster care as well as young adults participating in the Voluntary Care to 21 program.
- The Legislature approved the DHS' request for increased foster board payments. As a result, foster board payments were increased by 8% for children 0-5 years old; 21% for children 6-11 years old; and 26% for children 12 and older. The Child Welfare Services Branch worked with its community partners to research and analyze best practices and to collaboratively develop the rate structure and methodology for the increased foster board payment rates.
- The Child Welfare Services Branch developed and implemented a Family Journal tool to help birth families organize case records and maintain contact with child welfare services providers. The Family Journal contains information to assist parents with case planning. Staged implementation of the Family Journal began on Maui and is being expanded to other locales.
- The DHS Child Welfare Services Branch invested in Hawaii's young adults by establishing the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care program, which extends support to foster youth until age 21. Voluntary extended care will help youth transition to adulthood, decrease homelessness, dependency on public welfare benefits, and reduce incarceration and drug dependency rates.

### **Domestic Violence**

In fiscal years FY 2011-2014, the DHS increased funding for domestic violence shelters providing over \$10.8 million for these critical services. During the same period \$1.1 million was provided for Teen Dating Violence Education and Prevention; \$1.9 million for DV survivor/child and batterer services; and \$300,000 in new funding for legal services for victims in DV shelters and immigrants experiencing DV. The DHS also simplified DV shelter reporting procedures.

### **Sex and Labor Trafficking**

- The DHS introduced and championed legislation that protects child victims of sex and labor trafficking within the scope of the Child Protective Act HRS 350-1. The legislation will heighten awareness and support for child victims of sexual exploitation or labor trafficking and promote prevention, early identification, intervention, and services to address the needs of trafficked children.