

*To see our children as precious as the mammo flower and to help them chart a pono path in harmony with all their relations and with generations past and future.*

**Ho'opono Mamo** captures the spirit of a new juvenile justice diversion system designed to steer youth away from the juvenile justice system to a pathway of supportive programs to help them address those issues that may be leading to risky or harmful behavior. The goal is to offer youth avenues to overcome the challenges that lay at the root of their actions and to realize their own kuleana as valuable and gifted members of our communities.

Through the new Hawaii Youth Diversion System (HYDS), youth who would have previously been arrested for status offenses and first-time misdemeanor offenses will be given a civil citation with the opportunity to connect directly to an elder and counselor at an Assessment Center who will help them find an appropriate pathway of actions or programs so they can better address the challenges they may be facing. For first-time misdemeanor offenses, youth can avoid having the citation proceed to an arrest if they complete their program plan. The goal is to support our youth to become engaged, healthy, contributing members of our communities.

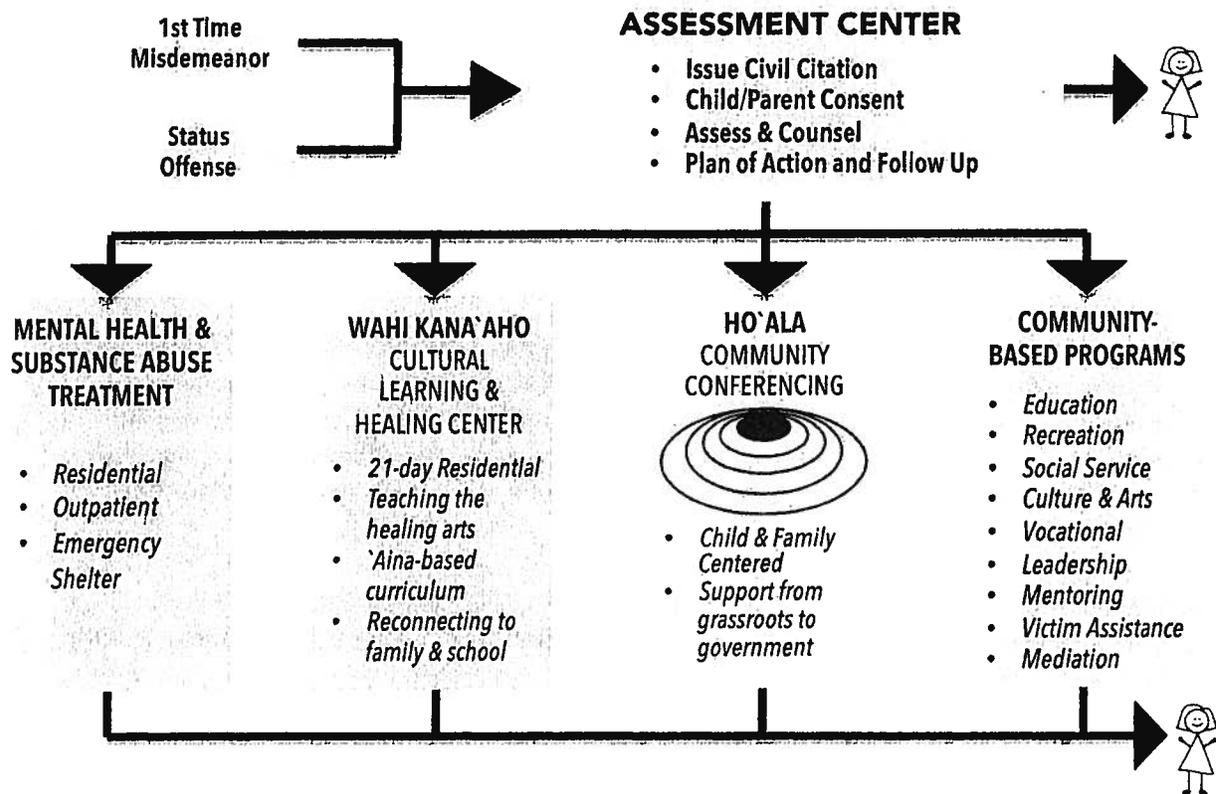
This initiative follows a nationwide shift in juvenile justice policy based on successful models and the latest research on adolescent development. This shift is towards a more collaborative, restorative approach in order to address the "root" of the issues youths are dealing with, such as hardships at home, substance abuse, past trauma, depression, or difficulties in school. This model is family centered and youth driven with an emphasis on healing, restitution, forgiveness and reconciliation.

The first phase will be developed in Honolulu Police Department District 5, which includes the area from Moanalua to Kalihi. A multi-agency task force formed in January 2013 to design the system and oversee its implementation. We are gathering partners and resources to launch in 2014 and will later expand statewide.

**Initiating Partner Agencies include:**

State of Hawaii Office of Youth Services  
State of Hawaii Department of Human Services  
State of Hawaii Child and Adolescent Mental  
Health Division  
Honolulu Police Department  
Hawaii State Judiciary

Office of the Prosecuting Attorney  
Office of the Public Defender  
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative  
Juvenile Justice Center  
EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.  
...and a wide array of community organizations



## **HO'OPONO MAMO** **Hawaii Youth Diversion System (HYDS) Process**

- Police pick up juvenile for status offense or law violation
- Child is taken to police station to determine eligibility (status offense or 1st time misdemeanor offense with no prior law violation)
- If eligible, child is transported to an Assessment Center
- Child is issued a Civil Citation and invited to participate in Ho'opono Mamo with parent/guardian permission if needed
- Culturally appropriate talk story-style assessment with staff and kūpuna
- Youth with assistance of staff and kūpuna develop an action plan, including restitution
- Pathways can include:
  - Counsel and release
  - Mental health and/or substance abuse treatment (residential or outpatient)
  - Wahi Kana'aho Cultural Learning and Healing Center (21-day residential)
  - Ho'ala Community Conferencing Circles
  - Wide array of community-based programs
- If youth completes their plan of action, a citation for a misdemeanor offense does not proceed to an arrest
- Assessment Center staff tracks the progress of youth
- Evaluations to assess effectiveness and continually make improvements to the system