



State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services
Social Services Division-Child Welfare Services Branch
1010 Richards Street, Room 216
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Elladine Olevao

1/30/2024

Aloha Ms. Olevao,

Na Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i Citizen Review Panel has worked in collaboration with Hawai'i Child Welfare Services since 2011. We look forward in continuing our work together! Please find the following report of the Panel's activities for the State Fiscal Year 2023, which covers July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

We would like to thank Florence Calderon, Assistant Program Administrator, who has been our liaison with the Department for the past four years. She is a strong advocate and support for us. She meets with us monthly via in-person and online meetings; shares updates of the Department and Hawai'i's child welfare system, responds to issues/requests from the Panel and discusses recommendations.

We would also like to thank Elaida Cuaresma, Staff Development Secretary, Child Welfare Services, who coordinates our travel so that the Panel can be effective in addressing issues and achieving goals. Elaida also makes purchases for our projects and keeps our budget up to date.

Who We Are

Hawai`i's Citizen's Review Panel (HCRP) is comprised of citizen volunteers, as mandated by the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Our mission is to examine the policies, procedures, and practices of Hawai'i's child welfare services system to evaluate agency practice and to enhance the agency's capacity to help Hawai'i's children and families engaged in child welfare services achieve positive outcomes.

Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i is comprised of citizens who represent their organizations and have knowledge about children from their respective islands. Representatives are committed to meeting the needs of children. Together, we make recommendations to the child welfare system on making improvements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children and families in our community.

Participation in Monthly Meetings

Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i members, representative from each county, have met monthly either through face-to-face visits on O`ahu or through video conference to establish goals and discuss projects and issues related to Hawaii Child Welfare Services (CWS).

Current Membership

Chair: Monica Ka'auwai, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Kaua'i County

*Panelist: Stephen Haynes, Court Appointed Special Advocate, Honolulu County

*Panelist: Noe Realin, Lili'uokalani Trust, Honolulu County

*Panelist: Leah Ho, Resource Caregiver & Kauai Planning and Action Alliance, Kaua'i County

*Panelist: Michelle Jenkins, Hale Kipa, Honolulu County

*Panelist: Christopher Molina, Lili'uokalani Trust, Kaua'i County

*Indicates new members

We would like to express our sincere mahalo to the following members who left the Panel this year:

Panelist: Jeny Bissell, Department of Health, Maui County

Panelist: Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, Hale Kipa, Honolulu County

Panelist: Rona Martin, Hawai'i Child Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement Project, Maui County

Panelist: Marcie Ventura, Department of Education, Maui County

Their contributions to the CRP were invaluable and much appreciated.

Summary of Panel Activities

Hawaii Citizen Review Panel Annual Retreat: No retreat held this year.

Monthly Meetings: Na Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i members met:

July 21, 2022 held via ZOOM

August 18, 2022 held on Kaua'i

September 15, 2022 via ZOOM

October 20, 2022 via ZOOM

November 17, 2022 held on Maui

December 15, 2022 meeting was cancelled

January 19, 2023 via ZOOM

February 16, 2023 held on O'ahu

March 16, 2023 via MS Teams

April 20, 2023 via MS Teams

May 18, 2023 held in Hilo

June 15, 2023 via MS Teams

Projects

1. Recruitment efforts continue and is an ongoing project. Our goal is to increase Panel membership with people who have diverse life and work experiences, backgrounds, and education. When we have in-person CRP meetings on neighboring islands we have an "Open House" scheduled for interested parties to come and meet us and find out what we're about. This past year we have welcomed five new members to our Panel. This new year, so far, we welcome aboard Heidi Allencastre who hails from Maui and will begin in January 2024.

2. We continue to look into ways that we can collaborate with the Department's Family First Hawai'i program.
3. Staff Wellness baskets are an ongoing project under the Staff Wellness Initiative. Since its start in June of 2021 these baskets contain items that help staff decompress during the day and support wellness in the workplace. Every section has a basket and we've included the Program Development unit this past year.

Final thoughts

Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i, Hawai'i's Citizen Review Panel, looks forward to our continued work together with the Hawai'i Child Welfare Services to address challenges and topics of interest and continue to help children and families involved in the child welfare system have positive outcomes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,

Monica Ka'auwai

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TA Chair