



State of Hawaii Department of Human Services
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
1010 Richards Street, Room 216
Honolulu, HI 96813
ATTN: Elladine Olevao

08/01/2022

Dear Ms. Olevao:

Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i Citizen Review Panel has worked collaboratively with Hawaii Child Welfare Services since 2011 and look forward to our continued partnership. Please find the following report of the Panel's activities for the State fiscal year (SFY) 2022, which covers the timeframe from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

In Appreciation

Florence Calderon, Assistant Program Administrator, has been the Child Welfare Services' Citizen Review Panel Liaison for the past several years. We are grateful for the energy and commitment she brings to the Panel as our liaison. Florence attends the Panel's monthly meetings where she provides a DHS update and participates in discussions. We sincerely appreciate working with Florence, as we continue to build our relationship with the Department.

We would also like to thank the many other Department staff who have and continue to support the Panel.

SFY 2022 Membership

Chairperson: Rona Martin, Hawaii Child Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement Project, Maui County
(resigned from Panel April 2022)

Vice Chairperson: Marcie Ventura, Department of Education, Maui County

Panelist: Jeny Bissell, Department of Health, Maui County

Panelist: Monica Ka'auwai, Partners in Development, Kaua'i County

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

Summary of Panel Activities

Hawaii Citizen Review Panel Annual Retreat: A virtual annual retreat was held on November 5, 2021. The agenda consisted of our monthly CRP meeting, presentations and sharing by DHS (mahalo to you and Kintaro Yonekura for participating), a review of what other CRPs are doing, planning for the next fiscal year, and mindfulness activities.

Monthly Meetings: Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i members, representatives from Honolulu, Maui, and Kaua`i county, have met monthly virtually to establish goals and discuss projects and issues related to Hawaii Child Welfare Services (CWS).

The Panel met on the following dates:

- July 15, 2021 – (via video conference)
- August 19, 2021 (via video conference)
- September 16, 2021 (via video conference)
- November 5, 2021 (via video conference)
- December 16, 2021 (via video conference)
- January 20, 2022 (via video conference)
- February 17, 2022 (via video conference)
- March 17, 2022 (via video conference)
- April 21, 2022 (via video conference)
- May 19, 2022 (via video conference)
- June 16, 2022 (via video conference)

CRP National Conference 2022: Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i was not able to attend the conference this year, but 2 representatives from DHS attended, including our liaison, Florence. She will be sharing with the panel what she learned at the conference at our July 2022 meeting.

Projects

1. *Recruitment efforts to increase Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i membership to include new members from Hawaii County, Kaua`i County, and Honolulu County from various backgrounds that are not currently represented. As of June 2022, there have been 11 individuals who have expressed interest in joining CRP. We are pleased to announce that 2 of those individuals will be officially joining the Panel in July and August of 2022. In June 2022, members of the Panel along with our DHS liaison traveled to the Big Island and hosted an “Open House” for anyone in the community to come and learn more about CRP. This event resulted in additional individuals interested in joining the Panel.*
2. *Staff wellness initiative to implement, support, and encourage wellness in the workplace. Staff wellness baskets were assembled and distributed to all CWS offices across the state. The baskets included self-care items such as adult coloring books, markers, colored pencils, fidget items, zen gardens, and exercise bands. CRP members presented the baskets to the staff in-person. The overall response to the baskets was positive and much appreciated by the staff. This was also a great opportunity for the Panel to introduce ourselves to the staff and start to*

develop a working relationship. Based on feedback from staff, the Panel plans to refill the baskets with additional self-care items.

As requested, the Panel also coordinated the Maui Section Annual Retreat and Team Building Event on April 4, 2022. Staff from Maui, Molokai, and Lanai attended the gathering that started at Keopuolani Park. Breakfast was provided followed by a hands-on workshop where each staff member shaped, “planted,” and took home a Kokedama plant. After the workshop, the staff enjoyed a whale watch by Trilogy Excursions. Lunch was provided on-board the vessel. The Panel would like to extend our deepest mahalo to our sponsors of the event: Village of Hope and the Friends of the Children’s Justice Center, Maui.

CRP Recommendations

The Panel’s recommendations are given with respect and are based on the projects Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai’i completed this year—recruitment and staff wellness.


1. Child Welfare Services may continue to look to the Hawai’i Citizen Review Panel for support with the Department’s initiatives and programs.
2. Child Welfare Services continues to promote staff wellness throughout all levels and branches of the Department. Employee/workplace wellness is linked to many positive outcomes, including increased productivity, increased job satisfaction, decreased absenteeism, and ultimately increased retention of happy, healthy staff.

Final Thoughts

The Panel looks forward to continued work with Hawaii Child Welfare Services to address issues and topics of interest to help children and families involved in the child welfare system have positive outcomes; our efforts to pursue future projects are ongoing. We appreciate the opportunity the CRP has in continued dialogue with the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Marcie Ventura

Acting Chair (effective 4/12/2022)