
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead

If you have a desire to make a positive impact on the child welfare service system and those involved, consider joining the panel!

Desired Panelist Qualifications:

- Willingness to make an initial commitment of 2 years on the panel
- Ability to meet monthly (some travel may be required)
- Must maintain confidentiality
- Genuine concern and compassion for those involved in the child welfare service system
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and economic diversity
- May not currently be involved in child welfare service, child custody dispute or criminal matter
- Must sign a release authorizing a criminal records check and a child maltreatment records check



Hawai'i Citizen Review Panel

*The power of community
ending child abuse and neglect.*

— Since 2011 —

Contact Us

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Citizen Review Panel

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requires the creation of Citizen Review Panels in each state. The goal of the panel is to examine the effectiveness of the child protection agencies in discharging their child protection responsibilities. The panel, composed of volunteer members, is charged with working collaboratively with the local child welfare agencies through their DHS liaison and provide annual reports of the panel's activities and feedback.

Our Mission

The mission of Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i is to assess the child welfare system and make informed recommendations for continuous improvement to ensure the safety and well-being of children, youth, and families in the community.

"The safety and well-being of all children will never be achieved without everyday citizens integrating themselves into the loop of community service and protection."

~Jennifer Fitchett, MSW

Who We Are

The Hawai'i Citizen Review Panel, also known as Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i, is comprised of professional and private citizens from across the state who are committed to meeting the needs of our keiki.

Past and present panel members include representatives from:

- The general public
- State and local government:
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Education
 - University of Hawaii
- Local non-profit agencies
 - Hale Kipa
 - Partners in Development Foundation
 - Blueprint For Change
 - Domestic Violence Action Center
 - Children's Justice Center
 - Legal Aid Society
 - Maui Economic Opportunity
 - Parents and Children Together
 - Ka Hale A Ke Ola Resource Center
 - Molokai Ohana Health Center
 - West Hawai'i Fatherhood Initiative
 - AND MANY OTHER GREAT ORGANIZATIONS
- Private attorney
- Resource Caregiver (aka Foster Parent)



What We Have Done

PAST PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- Social Worker Proclamation
- Joy Ambassador Program/Pet Visitation Project-in partnership with the Hawaiian Humane Society, brought the joy of pets to children, families, and staff involved in child welfare
- Social Worker Appreciation month activities
- Sex Trafficking Awareness campaigns
- Surveyed callers to the CWS intake line to improve caller experiences
- Focus groups with CWS social workers in order to better support staff
- Attended national conferences to network and learn from other panels across the nation
- Annual reports to CWS on the panel's activities and recommendations (available on the Hawaii DHS website)