

JAN 27 2022



State of Hawaii Department of Human Services
Social Services Division
Child Welfare Services Branch
810 Richards Street, Suite 400
Honolulu, HI 96813
ATTN: Elladine Olevao

01/12/2022

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 what the future holds. Please find the following report of the Panel's activities for the State fiscal year (SFY) 2021, which covers the timeframe from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

In Appreciation

Florence Calderon, Assistant Program Administrator, has been the Child Welfare Services' Citizen Review Panel Liaison for the past several years. A special thank you is appropriate for her continued support to Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i. Without her support, Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i would not be able to accomplish its goals. Florence meets with the Panel monthly to share information regarding Hawai'i's child welfare system and participates in the Panel's discussions. We sincerely appreciate working with Florence, as we continue to build our relationship with the Department.

We would also like to thank the Department's staff for all their time taken to answer our questions and respond to our inquiries so that the Panel can be effective in addressing issues and achieving goals.

SFY 2021 Membership

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

Vice Chairperson: Crystal Chong-Wong, Community Partner (resigned from Panel in May 2021; position remained vacant through the remainder of SFY 2021), Honolulu County

Panelist: Jeny Bissell, Department of Health, Maui County

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

Panelist: Rona Martin, Hawaii Child Welfare Continuous Quality Improvement Project, Maui County

Panelist: Marcie Ventura, Department of Education, Maui County

The following panelists left the panel during SFY 2021:

- 1) Sharie Liden (Department of Education, Lanai, Maui County) – August 2020
- 2) Marci Lopes (Domestic Violence Action Center, Honolulu County) – March 2021
- 3) Crystal Chong-Wong, (Community Partner, Honolulu County) – May 2021

Summary of Panel Activities

Hawaii Citizen Review Panel Annual Retreat: Due to COVID-19, there was no annual retreat held during SFY 2021.

Monthly Meetings: Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i members, representative from Honolulu, Maui, and Kauai county, have met monthly either through various video conferencing platforms to establish goals and discuss projects and issues related to Hawaii Child Welfare Services (CWS).

The Panel met on the following dates:

- July 2020 – Meeting cancelled
- August 27, 2020 (via Zoom)
- September 17, 2020 (via Zoom)
- November 19, 2020 (via Zoom)
- December 17, 2020 (via Zoom)
- January 21, 2021 (via Zoom)
- February 18, 2021 (via Zoom)
- March 18, 2021 (via Zoom)
- April 15, 2021 (via Zoom)
- May 20, 2021 (via Teams)
- June 17, 2021 (via Teams)

CRP National Conference 2021: Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i did not participate in the virtual event.

Projects

1. *Recruitment efforts to increase Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai`i membership to include new members from Hawaii County, Kauai County, and Honolulu County from various backgrounds that are not currently represented.* The recruitment sub-committee consisted of Monica, Jaque, Marcie and Jeny. A google account (specifically for CRP) and CRP email (hawaiiicrp@gmail.com) was created in April 2021. In addition, significant progress was made toward the creation of the brochure to use as a recruitment tool.
2. *Staff wellness initiative to implement, support, and encourage wellness in the workplace.* The staff wellness sub-committee consisted of Marci and Rona. A staff wellness survey was created and distributed to CWS staff in April 2021; there were 194 responses received. The data was analyzed, a report was created and presented to CWS in June 2021. The data indicated that staff were interested in the creation and utilization of a meditation room, as well as other items that would improve wellness in the workplace. As a result, efforts to purchase staff wellness baskets ensued in June 2021. There were some safety concerns noted in some surveys; those concerns

were provided directly to CWS Branch and Program Development for immediate follow-up on May 28, 2021.

CRP Recommendations

This year's recommendations are suggestions with respect and are based on the topics of the projects Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i completed this year—recruitment and staff wellness.

1. Child Welfare Services ongoing commitment to support Nā Kupa Alo Ana O Hawai'i's recruitment efforts to ensure a membership consisting of Statewide representation of individuals with diverse backgrounds and diverse agency affiliation.
2. Child Welfare Services ensures that information regarding the staff wellness initiative be considered to improve overall wellness in the workplace.

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,



Rona Martin
Chair (effective 8/1/2021)



Marcie Ventura
Vice-Chair (effective 9/1/2021)