

AUGUST 2022

HAWAI'I ISLAND PHASE 1 REPORT

Native Hawaiian Substance use
stakeholder meetings

Ua ola loko i ke aloha

Love gives life within

O,N. 2836



Papa Ola Lokahi
Nana I Ka Pono Na Ma





KA PAHUHOPU (GOAL)

The Native Hawaiian Substance Use Stakeholder Meetings engaged stakeholders' in a virtual huaka'i of minds, hearts and na'au to describe and unpack what Native Hawaiian Lifeways could and should look like across the continuum of care in substance use services. Meetings were conducted for each mokupuni to harness and harvest the collective wisdom of stakeholders that have knowledge, lived experience and expertise specific to their own community needs.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The Hawai'i Island Stakeholder Meeting took place on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 from 3-5 pm via Zoom. Participants represented the following organizations: West Hawaii Community Health Center; Bridge House, Inc.; Hui Ho'ola O Nā Nāhulu O Hawai'i; Kānaka O Puna; Men of PA'A; Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division; Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC); Hawai'i Learning Groups; Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi; Going Home Hawai'i; Hawai'i Pacific University; Bay Clinic, Inc.; Epic 'Ohana, Inc. and The County of Hawai'i Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART I: TOP CONCERNS

NEED FOR RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTERS AND LONG TERM CARE

Participants expressed, that the need for individuals to seek higher levels of care off-island provides a disconnect between the individual and their families and makes it really difficult for reunification.

- Participants indicated that there is a need to build a strong network with treatment facilities on other islands while awaiting more on-island residential treatment facility development.
- 'Ohana are desperate for any help for their loved ones, especially for on-island treatment for severe issues with substance use and mental health

Similarly, the addition and support of stabilization micro-units, transitional beds, and non-medical stabilization beds, to ease and assist individuals into treatment, would be increasingly beneficial toward improving community, 'ohana, and individual health.

Participants were asked to identify the top 2 concerns related to substance use among Native Hawaiians on Hawai'i Island.

LIMITED ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS

Participants reported that a limited amount of organized activities for youth during out-of-school time and on weekends invites and attracts the opportunity for young people to fill their idle time with potential substance use.

Likewise, it is perceived that within some 'ohana and/or friend groups, a culture of normalization and acceptance of youth using substances is perpetuated and, in some instances, youth are "almost expected" to participate in using illegal drugs because of this standard.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART II: STRENGTHS

PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE WAIWAI, STRENGTHS, OF HAWAI'I ISLAND'S NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY



Āina-Based Recovery Programs

Participants identified the top strength of the community on Hawai'i Island to be 'āina-based recovery programs. These programs focus on service to the community through the revitalization of loko i'a (fishponds), lō'i kalo (taro paddies) and other place-based spaces as a means to practice and perpetuate healthy lifestyles and behaviors towards healing.

Other strengths-based themes identified include:

'Ohana Connectedness:

- Hawai'i Island families possess strong 'ohana bonds and support systems.

Multi-Agency Collaborations:

- Hawai'i Island community organizations are accustomed to working together and it was highlighted that many non-profit organizations are currently organizing to address the community's needs around substance use on multiple levels.

Cultural Traditions/Values:

- Hawaiian traditions/values are foundational to healthy 'ohana and provide protective & resiliency factors that lead to mauiola or optimal health.

KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART III: COMMUNITY HEALING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

Participants explored and identified healing spaces available to Native Hawaiians seeking recovery and healing on Hawai'i Island. Conversely, they were asked to communicate the need to fill gaps in order to provide appropriate community healing spaces to those seeking this type of support.

EXISTING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

Organizations that provide Hawaiian Healing Approaches to Address Mental Health and Substance Use:

- Treatment: Hawai'i Island Community Health Center (formally Bay Clinic, Inc.), Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC), Bridge House, Kū Aloha Ola Mau
- Recovery: Men of Pa'a, Going Home Hawai'i
- Prevention: Alu Like, Inc.,

Hawaii Island Community Health Center continues negotiations with Aloha Care. Aloha Care will provide insurance coverage for Ho'oponopono, Lomilomi, 'Ai pono, and Hula as Indigenous healing approaches, respectively.

NEEDS AND GAPS

The needs and gaps in this section will be synthesized with the cultural approaches needs and gaps discussion in the next session in order to avoid duplication and provide a broader and more inclusive understanding of what is required across the continuum of care ahupua'a.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART IV: NEEDS & GAPS FOR CULTURAL APPROACHES TO SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

LIMITED CULTURAL PRACTICES INTEGRATED INTO THE CARE SYSTEM

In a variety of ways, participants emphasized that Hawaiian culture and culture-based approaches are not often recognized, understood, or valued by administrative structures overseeing substance use services, nor are they reimbursable by the state and federal entities.

Participants articulated the needs and gaps in Hawaiian cultural approaches for substance use services across the continuum of care ahupua'a.

DIFFICULTY IN HIRING & FUNDING HAWAIIAN CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS TO PROVIDE CULTURE-BASED SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE USE:

There is a disconnect in hiring, funding, and justifying the use of cultural practitioners as opposed to Certified Addiction Counselors. This disconnection results in services being delivered primarily from a western perspective that does not meet the needs and perspectives of Native Hawaiians.

Currently, Indigenous practitioners are training families, communities, professionals, and children to have “a healer in every home”. This effort is truly a way to ho'i I ka piko, return to our center, our grounding, to how we used to have a healer in every home to care for each 'ohana.



NEED FOR CULTURALLY-BASED YOUTH AND ADOLESCENT ACTIVITIES:

Youth and adolescents are sometimes perceived not having the desire to learn and appreciate their culture. However, many 'ohana today have become disconnected from their culture due to the impacts of colonization. Prevention programs that connect young people, as well as their 'ohana, to the 'āina and kai and teach 'oli and mele may strengthen their connectedness.

LIMITED 'OHANA ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS:

There are no substantive 'ohana intervention programs that target and support family members to understand substance use disorder and strategies to attend to their own support needs and self-care.

KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART V: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a means to address the aforementioned gaps, participants were asked to identify professional development activities to effectively integrate Hawaiian culture into the continuum of care. The following focus areas were identified as the main themes for professional development towards this end.

HONORING LIVED EXPERIENCE: :

Validate the knowledge and wisdom of people in recovery who want to provide support as substance use professionals. Provide spaces for their expertise to be acknowledged, utilized and integrated into the larger continuum of care.

RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS:

Cultural practitioners should not be forced to attain “state” certification in order to “qualify” or be reimbursed to provide healing through cultural approaches.

HONORING INDIGENOUS WAYS OF KNOWING AND BEING:

Integrate Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian History into ongoing professional development opportunities in order to develop language acquisition and understand critical events that have impacted Native Hawaiian wellbeing.

TARGETED RECRUITMENT OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN PRACTITIONERS:

Provide career pathways for Native Hawaiian practitioners to secure professions at various levels within the substance use continuum of care.

Expand the workforce of Native Hawaiian researchers and scholars to grow the knowledge base around culturally-grounded substance use services.



NEXT STEPS

Native Hawaiians have and will always be keen and insightful data stewards about the natural world and the interconnected relationships that exist between k  naka, '  ina and spirituality. This share back report frames a set of priorities and recommendations that lift up this data manifested through the voices of stakeholders that come from Native Hawaiian communities and providers that serve k  naka in addressing substance use on Hawai'i Island. Papa Ola L  kahi will utilize the gathered data to support the development of a Hawaiian culture-based continuum of care system that serves the best interests and needs of Native Hawaiians.



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