

AUGUST 2022

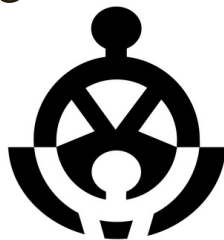
MAUI PHASE 1 REPORT

Native Hawaiian Substance use
stakeholder meetings

*He kēhau
ho'oma'ema'e ke aloha*

*Love is like
a cleansing dew*

O.N. 683



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 Maui Stakeholder Meeting took place on Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 3-5 pm via Zoom. Participants represented the following organizations: Hawaii CARES; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Department of Human Services; State of Hawai'i Judiciary, Adult Client Services Branch; Maui Youth and Family Services and Maui Behavioral Health Resources. Community members also participated.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART I: TOP CONCERNS

LIMITED CULTURAL PRACTICES INTEGRATED INTO TREATMENT

Participants reported that substance use treatment providers on Maui mainly employ western-based practices which results in a lack of cultural awareness, responsiveness, sensitivity, and understanding to meet the needs of Native Hawaiians.

It was also noted that many service providers are from the continental U.S. and thus, do not have roots in Maui or Hawai'i at large.

A participant recalled a personal interaction with a service provider who stated they did not see the need to provide culturally sensitive programming to address the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiians with substance use disorder because clients are all mixed and "hardly" Hawaiian.

Participants were asked to identify the top 2 concerns related to substance use among Native Hawaiians on the island of Maui.

SCARCITY OF RESOURCES ACROSS THE MAUI SYSTEM OF CARE

Participants expressed that there is a limited pool of cultural practitioners with mental health backgrounds (i.e. therapists and psychiatric care) to adequately provide substance use services.

Moreover, there have been significant decreases in funding for school-based and out-of-school adolescent prevention programs as well as substance use treatment and residential services for adults.

Lack of access to 'āina resources was also mentioned as an increasing concern – due to the privatization of the lands.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART II: STRENGTHS

PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE WAIWAI, STRENGTHS, OF MAUI'S NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY

Community Agency Pilina

Participants highlighted the top strength within the system of care on Maui to be the strong relationships that exist between community agencies. The lifelines of these organizations are made of dedicated professionals who are effective collaborators and support systems to one another to achieve shared goals in this collective work.

Likewise, a participant expressed the famous island 'Ōlelo No'eau, "Maui no ka 'oi," to frame efforts in building partnerships with the Native Hawaiian community over the past 15 years.



Other strengths-based themes identified include:

'Ohana Support Networks: Maui families possess strong 'ohana bonds and support systems. These support networks encourage participation in healthy, pro-social activities such as diving and hunting.

A participant stated, "once you're connected to sober support, you are part of the 'ohana."

KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART III: COMMUNITY HEALING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

Participants explored and identified healing spaces available to Native Hawaiians seeking recovery and healing on Maui. 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

Existing systems are limited and upon further research, Maui Behavioral Health Resources include:

- Mālama Family Recovery, Aloha House, and Maui Youth & Family Services.
- Hui no ke ola pono provides limited behavioral health services
- Some faith organizations provide community healing opportunities

One participant stated, "I feel that there are gaps in services for Hawaiians to find healing in our community, or there is a gap between the programs and the people."

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

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

SCARCITY OF RESOURCES ACROSS THE MAUI SYSTEM OF CARE

A significant volume of data pointed back to the theme identified as a top concern and illustrates that the root problems and issues may stem from overall gaps in service delivery. These gap areas primarily focused on the concerns highlighted below.

Limited Staff Capacity:

- Participants reported that there is not enough staff to provide effective support in delivering services. It was also noted that treatment providers are paid low wages and expected to produce quality programs and a vast array of services.

Limited Programmatic Treatment Options:

- There are a limited number of residential beds with brief stay times and a long waiting list on the island of Maui. A family recovery center allows women with two children to maintain family unification, but additional children must be cared for by other family members.
- More sober homes that are affordable and managed by treatment providers are desired within the community.

Gaps in prevention programs were also mentioned.



Reporting Requirements and Quality Assurance:

- Small amounts of funding are dispersed to service providers requiring significant reporting to be completed without adequate compensation and little evaluation capacity. These requirements inadvertently take away focus and attention from the quality of care.

Limited access to 'āina:

- Access to 'āina that was available during older times to practice 'āina-based therapy and healing is now restricted due to the privatization of many areas across Maui and the astronomical increase in tourism.

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CURRENT SYSTEM OF CARE IN MAUI LACKS FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR CULTURAL HEALING SERVICES:

Mana'o shared by some participants paints a picture of a system of care with limited Hawaiian cultural presence.

Compassion fatigue among providers:

- Through lived experience, a participant shared how service provider staff demonstrated no compassion towards people with substance use disorder (SUD). These workers were characterized as "dehumanizing" and displaying no positive motivation or regard for people affected by SUD.

A related concern is a need for increased oversight and accountability within administrative structures that minimizes staff burnout and turnover.

Need for culture-based mental health services:

- There is a need for culture-based mental health & substance use services for all age ranges on Maui.



Restricted Culture-Based Approaches in Substance Use Prevention for youth:

- One example, A life skills program serving intermediate and high school students does not currently include cultural aspects in its curriculum. The inclusion of culture-based components will build self-confidence and identity in youth which will tie into and strengthen substance use prevention knowledge and skill building.

Existing prevention programs for youth have a restricted ability to provide culturally-based programming

- School-based behavioral health counselors
- Safehouse
- Maui Behavioral Health Resources
- MEO Youth Services provides a culturally-based curriculum for high-risk youth

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.

CREATING HAWAIIAN CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE STRATEGIES

Creating a multi-pronged, long-term approach to shift mindsets and develop a set of common knowledge, understanding, and skills to acknowledge and amplify Native Hawaiian ways of knowing and being is the central theme that emerged. At a high level, participants identified the following professional development strategies to achieve this future state.

Develop Cultural Safety Training

- Develop cultural safety training across the workforce of service providers to educate about historical and intergenerational trauma and its impact on Native Hawaiian wellbeing

Partner with Cultural Practitioners

- Partner with cultural practitioners from the community to weave cultural aspects into professional development

Culture-Based Training

- Continue related culture-based training opportunities and support to move from knowledge to skill building to action



RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS

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

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 kānaka, 'āina 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 kānaka in addressing substance use on Maui. Papa Ola Lōkahi 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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