

AUGUST 2022

O'AHU PHASE 1 REPORT

Native Hawaiian Substance use
stakeholder meetings

'Ua hilo 'ia i ke aho a ke aloha

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O.N. 2786



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 O'ahu Stakeholder Meeting took place on Friday, October 29, 2021, from 3-5 pm via Zoom. Participants represented the following organizations: Salvation Army Treatment Services; RYSE; Hawaii CARES; Dr. Cara Lucey Psy. D.; United Health Care; University of Washington; The Queen's Health Systems; 'Imi Ke Ola Mau; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; Early Childhood Action Strategy; University of Hawai'i at West Oahu; University of Hawai'i Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work; University Health Services Mānoa; University Health Partners; Kaipuokaualeku, LLC.; Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center; University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine; Hawaii State Department of Health; Hawaii Pacific University; EMDR Hawaii; University of Hawaii Pacific Health Analytics Collaborative and Kalihi-Palama Health Center.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART I: TOP CONCERNS

NEED FOR SERVICES TO ADDRESS HISTORICAL TRAUMA

Participants identified a lack of culturally-informed resources and services to effectively address historical trauma as a root cause affecting and perpetuating Native Hawaiian substance use.

It was reported that substances are used as a coping mechanism to "stop the re-experiencing" of unresolved trauma. At a systems level, unresolved cultural trauma spirals into a cycle and "revolving door" of incarceration where kānaka possess disproportionate representation in the criminal justice system with higher rates of criminal charges and sentencing instead of receiving appropriate treatment and care. This cycle negatively perpetuates stigma and impacts other basic needs for Native Hawaiian wellbeing which include housing security and employment.

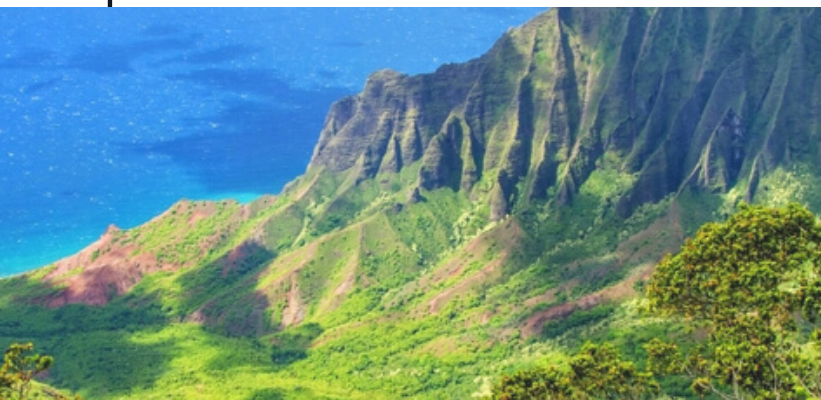
Participants were asked to identify the top 2 concerns related to substance use among Native Hawaiians on O'ahu.

NEED TO ADDRESS ACCOUNTABILITY AND RIGIDITY OF FUNDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Participants also communicated that some organizations are awarded grants to provide culture-based substance use services, but are not utilizing the funding to fulfill this purpose.

This issue points to a lack of oversight to ensure that the services rendered are indeed serving the needs of the Lāhui as intended.

On a related note, government reporting requirements appear inflexible and prescriptive which poses challenges for providers to be creative and innovative in programmatic design and delivery in order to meet the needs of Native Hawaiians where they are at.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART II: STRENGTHS

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

Kaiaulu STRONG

Participants identified the top strength within the O'ahu system of care to be the collective voice and pride of the broader community, as well as, the substance use provider community to advocate for the need for culture-based services as a healing pathway to wellness for Kānaka Maoli. This overarching strength of community engagement efforts to effect positive change was also described through the following examples:

Native Hawaiian Professional Capacity Building:

- There is a growing number of Native Hawaiian professionals in education and health care fields who are strengthening culturally-responsive methods for improving substance use services programmatically and systemically.

Community-Driven Funding:

- The Department of Health Adult Mental Health Division's Overdose Data to Action Project provided community sub-grantee awards through the Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center.



Other strengths-based themes identified include:

Connection to Place:

- Working with 'āina-based organizations to connect people to the land as a means to ignite ancestral memory and Native Hawaiian Identity to heal from trauma.

'Ohana Connectedness:

- There is a strong sense of support and resilience from all generations within the 'ohana unit.

KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART III:

COMMUNITY HEALING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

Participants explored and identified healing spaces available to Native Hawaiians seeking recovery and healing on O'ahu. 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

Participants identified existing community-based organizations, programs, and churches as community healing spaces on O'ahu. The specific programs and services within the continuum of care are identified below:

- Community-Based Organizations: Hale Na'au Pono; Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF), Papa Ola Lōkahi; Kōkua Kalihi Valley
- Prevention Programs: Ho'ouna Project
- Treatment Programs: Kū Aloha Ola Mau Outpatient/Recovery, Ho'omaueola - residential/outpatient/recovery, I Ola Lāhui, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive, Hina Mauka
- Spiritual Programs: Mālama Recovery Services Churches and Spiritual Spaces
- 'Āina-based Programs: Ho'okua'āina
- Transitional homes

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.

NEED TO INCREASE CULTURE-BASED SERVICES AND CULTURAL SAFETY ACROSS THE CONTINUUM OF CARE

Participants consistently stressed that there is an insufficient amount of culture-based approaches within substance use services from prevention to recovery. In addition, there is also a need for service providers to receive cultural training to understand the needs of Native Hawaiians and the role that historical, cultural, and intergenerational trauma plays in the manifestation of substance use disorder.

Two powerful examples emerge to offer a glimpse into the challenges that Native Hawaiians face with substance use disorder and a healing pathway forward.



Need for Culturally-Based Residential Services:

- Participants disclosed that some clients re-experience traumatic episodes in residential treatment because of a lack of support and tools to rediscover pride and connections in their Native Hawaiian Identity.

'Ohana-Focused Wellbeing:

- There is a need to involve the entire 'ohana in treatment and to sustain clean and sober living in recovery. Connecting families to housing and 'āina to allow healing and practice shared kuleana to do "real life together."

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OTHER PRIMARY NEEDS AND GAP AREAS TO FOCUS INCLUDE:

Need for Healthcare

Reimbursement:

- Providers do not receive health insurance reimbursement for culturally-based services.

Need for Flexible Programmatic Infrastructure:

- Allow providers room to pilot cultural approaches to design, deliver and evaluate programs and services for Native Hawaiians. Furthermore, decrease administrative reporting requirements to open and strengthen spaces for culturally appropriate care to flourish.

Need to recognize the biological nature of addiction:

- The biological nature of addiction must be recognized. This is a disease that impacts the brain and the body.



Need for providers to develop trauma-informed lens:

- Not just a historical but also an intergenerational trauma-informed lens as well.
- In regards to harm-reduction, participants expressed that it is not just that many providers or agencies don't incorporate trauma-informed practice, but are actually anti-trauma-informed or anti-harm reduction because they are stuck on the treatment aspects or are siloed in abstinence-based approaches which can cause confusion and exclude people from accessing help.

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.

AMPLIFYING HAWAIIAN CULTURE-BASED PATHWAYS TO HEALING

Participants collectively acknowledge that trauma experienced by Native Hawaiians is the root cause of substance use disorder. In order to address this problem effectively, a systemic approach is warranted to shift the mindsets of lawmakers, decision-makers, and service providers at all levels and touch points within the continuum of care. To put this mindset into action, it is imperative that professional development activities impart a set of knowledge and skills that provide understanding and insight into the Indigenous worldview and the detrimental effects of trauma on Native Hawaiian wellbeing. Participants provided examples of what professional development activities could look like in practice in order to achieve this future state.

Sense of Place:

- Provide opportunities for providers to connect to and learn about the communities their clients come from. Learn about the communities' strengths and contexts.

Elevating Cultural Practitioners:

- Creating spaces for Hawaiian and Western approaches to come together and provide the best quality of care. Provide training sessions delivered by cultural practitioners about Native Hawaiian health practices.

Growing a Culturally Connected Workforce:

- Train future clinicians, social workers, etc. in their fields of study to develop their cultural competence to work effectively with Native Hawaiians. Create career pathways for Native Hawaiian youth to access and secure employment in helping professions to positively impact Native Hawaiian wellbeing.



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 O'ahu. 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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