

AUGUST 2022

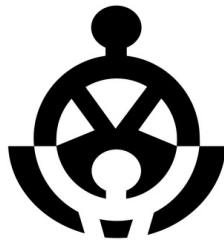
KAUA'I PHASE 1 REPORT

Native Hawaiian Substance use
stakeholder meetings

*Mōhala i ka wai i ka maka
o ka 'ōpua*

*Unfolded by the water are
the faces of the flowers*

O.N. 2178



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 moku'uni 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 Kaua'i Stakeholder Meeting took place on Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 3-5 pm via Zoom. Participants represented the following organizations: Department of Health; Queen Lili'uokalani Trust; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; ALU LIKE, Inc.; Kaua'i Drug Court; Ho'okele Coalition and HMSA. Community members also participated.



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART I: TOP CONCERNS

LIMITED ON ISLAND TREATMENT OPTIONS

Participants expressed that there are limited treatment programs for youth and none for adults on Kaua'i which leads to unnecessary and inappropriate incarceration for Native Hawaiians affected by substance use disorder.

Moreover, the removal of family members due to incarceration or the need to seek treatment on neighbor islands causes separation from loved ones and long-term disruption to the connectedness of the 'ohana unit.

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

EARLY ONSET OF SUBSTANCE USE BY YOUTH

Participants reported that youth are engaging in substance use at earlier ages due to a culture of normalization that includes the frequency of gatherings at the beach and at parties consisting of alcohol and other substances. This culture is characterized by a low perception of harm by adults and, in turn, results in high usage by youth.

It was also noted that parents and/or caregivers are overwhelmed with life stressors and may leave youth unsupervised, and at times, without their basic needs being attended to.

One participant stated, "Youth need to know that people care about them."



KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART II: STRENGTHS

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



Community-Based Programs

Existing programs offering services in specific areas of the continuum of care were identified as the top area of strength on Kaua'i. These programs include the following:

- In-school and afterschool outreach, treatment, and prevention programs delivered by ALU LIKE, Inc., Ho'āla Hou, Hale 'Ōpio, Teen Care, & Kaua'i Resilience Project
- Afterschool CrossFit Programs provided by The Keala Foundation Trust Circles provided by the Kaua'i Fatherhood Council
- Christian Ministry facilitated by Ed Ka'ahea for those experiencing and/or recovering from substance use.

Healing through cultural and traditional practices was also mentioned as a source of strength for the Native Hawaiian community on Kaua'i.

KŪKĀKŪKĀ PART III:

COMMUNITY HEALING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

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

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.

EXISTING SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT

Participants re-emphasized existing programs and services that are currently serving as healing spaces for the Native Hawaiian community. This emphasis recognizes the value of these programs to provide effective support within this area of expertise. The following programs within specific areas of the continuum of care are identified below:

- Prevention Programs: Big Brothers, Big Sisters; Boys and Girls Club; Child and Family Services; Alaka'i O Kaua'i Program
- Outpatient/Recovery Programs: Ahu Waiwai; Child and Family Services; Ke Ala Pono; Women in Need; Teen Care (intervention/treatment program offered onsite at all public high schools excluding Hawaiian Charter Schools)
- Keala to Success Early-Intervention Program serves as an intervention for current substance users ages 12-18 yrs through the Keala Foundation.
- Traditional Hawaiian Healing Programs: Ho'ōla Lāhui Hawai'i with Kumu Sean Chun.
- Outreach: Kaua'i Resilience Project
- ALU LIKE, inc: Ho'āla Hou a High-Risk Reduction Program



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.

In response, a participant expressed that the gaps are the same issues the community has been dealing with for over 20 years. This dialogue helped to guide and frame thinking to dig deeper in order to address the multiple and complex layers leading to substance use. These factors emerged as the primary needs and gaps for the Kaua'i community.

LASER LIGHT FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF YOUTH:

Participants stressed that more attention needs to be given to preventing the onset of use and/or reducing ongoing substance use by youth. The following programs and activities were highlighted to address this top need and gap area for Kaua'i.

- Comprehensive and consistent offerings of substance use prevention services within schools that are integrated into classrooms and not offered as one-day activities.
- Increasing 'ohana engagement and ownership in the value of prevention programs.
- Cultural support groups for youth to discuss challenges they face at home within a safe environment.
- Individual and group psychoeducational training.



NEED FOR RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR THE 'OHANA:

Participants identified substance use disorder as a family disease that does not only affect the individual who struggling with this disease. Thus, there is a need for the development and integration of residential treatment programs that address the impact of substance use on the whole family and the utilization of appropriate interventions for holistic healing.

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.

EMBRACING HAWAIIAN HEALING APPROACHES

E ho'i i ka piko, returning to the source and actualizing Hawaiian approaches as a pathway towards healing emerged as the main professional development strategy. The following activities were identified as the essential elements to create this preferred future.

Cultural Safety Training:

- Dissemination of education to service providers to understand cultural, historical and intergenerational trauma and its impact on Native Hawaiian health and wellbeing.

Connection to 'Āina:

- Nurturing an intimate and spiritual relationship with the land through farming practices and growing of food such as kalo, 'uala and 'ulu.

Language and Culture-Based Immersion Prevention:

- Leveraging Hawaiian Immersion Education and 'āina-based learning as key protective factors to prevent substance use in youth.



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 Kaua'i. 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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