



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF WELLNESS AND RESILIENCE
KE KE'ENA KŪPA'A MAULI OLA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
415 S. BERETANIA ST. #415
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 30, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

Pursuant to Act 88 of Session Laws 2024, Relating to Peer Support Specialists, signed into law by Governor Josh Green, M.D., on June 27, 2024, the Peer Support Specialist Working Group submits its report to the legislature as required by this law.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, the report may also be viewed electronically at <https://owr.hawaii.gov/reports/>.

Should you have questions about this report, please contact us at (808) 586-0805 or via email at gov.owr@hawaii.gov.

Mālama pono,

Tia L. R. Hartsock, Director
Office of Wellness and Resilience

Enclosure: Peer Support Working Group 2024 Annual Report

c: Office of the Governor; Office of the Lt. Governor; Office of the Auditor; Dept. of Budget and Finance; Hawai'i State Library System: State Publications Distribution Center & Hawai'i Documents Center; Legislative Reference Bureau Library; University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—Hamilton Library, Serials Department



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PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST WORKING GROUP

2024 Report to the 2025 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i

Submitted December 2024

The Peer Support Specialist Working Group was established by Senate Bill 3094 SD2 HD2 CD1, becoming Act 88 when Governor Josh Green, M.D., signed the bill into law in June 2024. Act 88 established the Working Group within the Office of Wellness and Resilience (OWR).

The Working Group is charged with developing and making recommendations for a framework for peer support specialists in the state. Specifically, the Working Group must:

- 1) Identify best practices and create, develop, and adopt a statewide framework for peer support specialists;
- 2) Identify a trauma-informed model of supervision of peer support specialists;
- 3) Provide an inventory of current use of peer support specialists; and
- 4) Develop a sustainability plan identifying federal and state funding streams to incorporate requirements to establish peer support as a Medicaid-billable service.

The Working Group consists of several State department representatives, community partners, and people with lived experience. Below are names of the current Working Group members, which organization and/or specific lived experience they represent, and community partners. Please note that the Organization and Lived Experience column is listed as required representation in Act 88.

Name	Organization / Lived Experience	Island
Tia Hartsock (Chair)	Office of Wellness and Resilience, Office of the Governor	O'ahu
Kimberly Takata (Vice Chair)	Individual with lived experience in the juvenile justice system or an individual with lived experience in the adult correctional system	O'ahu
Michael Vincent	Dept. of Correction and Rehabilitation	O'ahu
Cynthia Chappell	Dept. of Education	O'ahu
Greg Uwono	Hawai'i State Judiciary	O'ahu
Darryl Tanaka	Adult Mental Health Division, Dept. of Health	O'ahu
Scott Shimabukuro	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division, Dept. of Health	O'ahu

Judy Mohr Peterson	MedQuest Division, Dept. of Human Services	O'ahu
Reina Purvis	Statewide Office on Homelessness and Housing Solutions	O'ahu
Heather Lusk	Member of the nonprofit sector (Hawai'i Health Harm Reduction Center)	O'ahu
Debbie Victor Macalino	Member of the nonprofit sector (Pu'a Foundation)	O'ahu
Samanatha U'u	Individual with lived experience as a child or youth in the child welfare system	Maui
Malia Daraban	Caregiver with lived experience as the caregiver of a child or youth in the behavioral health, child welfare, or juvenile justice system	O'ahu
Kathy Hammes	Member of the nonprofit sector (National Alliance of Mental Illness Hawai'i)	Hawai'i Island
Lindsay Pacheco	Individual with lived experience with recovery from substance abuse and lived experience being homeless	O'ahu
Cynthia Kaneshiro	Individual with lived experience navigating the mental health system either as a child or youth or as an adult	Kauai

The Office of Wellness and Resilience collaborates with two facilitators from EPIC 'Ohana to plan and manage the Working Group meetings: Kailene Nihipali Sanchez and Kimberly Nabarro. Both facilitators are trained in facilitation, and have significant lived experience and expertise working with the child welfare system in Hawai'i.

The Working Group began meeting in September 2024. Meetings were held on and are scheduled to be held on:

- September 25, 2024
- October 23, 2024
- November 25, 2024
- December 18, 2024
- January 22, 2025
- February 26, 2025
- March 24, 2025
- April 23, 2025
- May 28, 2025
- June 25, 2025

Because the Working Group is comprised of a diverse group of people working in various roles regarding peer support, the first two months were dedicated to pilina-building, discussing the impact peer support services has in our State systems, and collectively learning about the different peer supports available across the state.

In the November meeting, the Working Group voted to establish Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs) to establish three PIGs: 1) Adult peer support inventory PIG, 2) Youth peer support inventory PIG, and 3) Family peer support inventory PIG. The three PIGs were charged with creating an inventory list of peer support services that are available in Hawai'i for their designated populations. Interested community members attending the Working Group meetings, but who are not Working Group members, have also been actively asked to join PIGs to share their experiences and expertise.

In the December meeting, the Working Group collectively discussed the definition of “peer support specialists” for the framework. In the subsequent months, the Working Group plans to create additional PIGs to further establish required components of the framework.

Meeting agendas for September, October, November, and December are attached.

Meeting minutes, meeting recordings, and resources shared in the meetings can be found at <https://owr.hawaii.gov/peersupport/>. For more information, please contact gov.peers@hawaii.gov.

Meeting Date: September 25, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Locations: Multiple ways to join the meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Joining by computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone?

To join from your PC, Mac, Linus, iOS, or Android, please click on the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/93102434917>

Physical meeting location:

415 S. Beretania St., Conference Room 415

Honolulu, HI 96813

The Peer Support Specialists Working Group prioritizes inclusion and access, community input and engagement, and transparency. Important notes about submitting testimony, accessibility, and contact information follow the agenda.

Meeting handouts are distributed via email no less than six (6) calendar days prior to the day of the meeting. If you would like to receive meeting handouts, please contact the Office of Wellness and Resilience via email at gov.peers@hawaii.gov or via telephone at (808) 859-1934 with your name and email address.

MEETING AGENDA

No	Item	Person Responsible	Time
I.	Call to Order - Establishment of Quorum <i>(Pursuant to Act 137-18 (SB 203), Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes: “(f) A quorum for purposes of doing business shall consist of a majority of the members serving on the council immediately before a meeting begins. (f) if a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of members present shall constitute a valid act of the council unless this chapter, part 1 of chapter 92, the articles of</i>	Tia Roberts Hartsock, Chair	10:00 a.m.

	<p><i>incorporation, or the bylaws require a greater number of affirmative votes.”</i></p> <p><i>For example, if only 11 members are appointed, at least 6 must be present to establish a quorum. To validate a (Working Group) action, of the 11 members present, an affirmative vote from at least 6 members is required.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motion to Approve Agenda/Amendments to the Agenda - Welcome and Opening Remarks 		
II.	<p>Introductions of Working Group Members and Acknowledgement of Team Members and Guests</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali Sanchez & Kim Nabarro</p>	<p>10:10</p>
III	<p>Today's Agenda, Focus & Goals</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali Sanchez</p>	<p>10:25</p>
IV.	<p>Public Comment and Input</p> <p>For anyone who cannot stay for the agenda items in question</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali Sanchez</p>	<p>10:30</p>
V.	<p>Summary of Act 088, SLH 2024 which established the Peer Support Specialists Working Group</p> <p>Working Group Goal and Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify best practices and adopt a statewide framework for peer support specialists - Identify a trauma-informed model of supervision for peer support specialists - Provide an inventory of current use - Develop a sustainability plan for funding sources <p>Review of Sunshine Law Intent and rules (Notice, Openness, Comment & Records</p>	<p>Tia Roberts Hartsock</p>	<p>10:35</p>

		Kailene Nihipali Sanchez	
VI	Discuss meeting dates and Timelines Discuss working group standards of conduct Discuss goals of working group	Kim Nabarro	10:50
VII	Presentation about Peer Support Specialists working in different places in Hawai'i	Kailene Nihipali Sanchez Kim Nabarro	11:15
VIII	Discuss definition of "Peer Support Specialist"	Kailene Nihipali Sanchez	11:25
IX	Public Comment		11:35
X	Closing and Adjournment	Kailene Nihipali Sanchez	

The Working Group will attempt to address every agenda item, but no guarantee is intended. Priorities, such as Sunshine Law, may preclude addressing every or all agenda item(s). The Working Group reserves the right to adjust the agenda schedule (and any scheduled times, if indicated) as necessary to efficiently conduct the meeting.

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person. (Pursuant to Section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, community members will have 3 minutes to speak or submit written testimony preferably at least (3) business days prior to the meeting.

All testimony will be accepted up to and during the meeting. If you would like to submit written testimony, the Working Group requests you to please submit it, preferably, at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting by emailing it to: gov.peers@hawaii.gov Any written testimony submitted after such time will be distributed to the members at the meeting.

Additionally, if you would like to submit written comments via mail carrier, please send to the Office of Wellness and Resilience, Office of the Governor, 415 S. Beretania St., Room 415, Honolulu, HI 96813, with postmark preferably dated three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

Meetings are recorded and posted at: owr.hawaii.gov/peersupport

Accessibility If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Office of Wellness and Resilience at gov.peers@hawaii.gov or via telephone at (808) 859-1934, as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to accommodate. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats. Mahalo.

Meeting Date: October 23, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Locations: Multiple ways to join the meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Joining by computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone?

To join from your PC, Mac, Linus, iOS, or Android, please click on the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/92112062294>

Physical meeting location:

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MEETING AGENDA

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I	Call to Order - Establishment of Quorum <i>(Pursuant to Act 137-18 (SB 203), Chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes: “(f) A quorum for purposes of doing business shall consist of a majority of the members serving on the council immediately before a meeting begins. (f) if a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of members present shall constitute a valid act of the council unless this chapter, part 1 of chapter 92, the articles of</i>	Tia Roberts Hartsock, Chair	10:00 a.m.

	<p><i>incorporation, or the bylaws require a greater number of affirmative votes.”</i></p> <p><i>For example, if only 11 members are appointed, at least 6 must be present to establish a quorum. To validate a (Working Group) action, of the 11 members present, an affirmative vote from at least 6 members is required.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motion to approve agenda / Amendments to agenda - Motion to approve minutes / Amendments to minutes - Welcome and opening remarks 		
II	<p>Today’s agenda, focus, and goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitators will go over the agenda with the group - Facilitators will ask Working Group members to share their stories on what brought them to provide peer supports or administer peer supports and what their goals are. Community members will be asked to share their stories in the chat on Zoom. - 	Kailene Nihipali Sanchez & Kim Nabarro (Facilitators)	10:10
III	<p>Designation of Vice Chair of Peer Support Specialist Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kimmy Takata, Forensic Peer Specialist, Pū’ā Foundation 	Tia Hartsock	10:25
IV	<p>Public comment and input</p> <p>For anyone who cannot stay for the agenda items in question</p>	Facilitators	10:30
V	<p>Introduction and discussion on different types of peer support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working group members will share the peer support they provide and/or administer 	Facilitators	10:35
VI	<p>Discussion on framework to be established by the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working Group chair will provide an overview of trauma-informed care approach and how peer support is an integral part of the approach 	Tia Hartsock Facilitators	10:50

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitators will guide the discussion on how the framework will support the peer support providers and communities they serve 		
VII	Break		11:05
VIII	<p>Discussion on framework to be established by the Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitators will guide the discussion on how the establishment of a framework can possibly become a barrier to existing peer support services and how the Working Group can address those barriers 	Facilitators	11:10
IX	Public Comment		
IX	<p>Summarize meeting and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key highlights - Next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permitted Interaction Group - Timeline review for the group - If there is anything else anyone wants to propose to have on agenda, please email gov.peers@hawaii.gov 	Facilitators	11:55
X	Closing and adjournment	Tia Hartsock	11:59

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Meeting Date: November 25, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Locations: Multiple ways to join the meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Joining by computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone?

To join from your PC, Mac, Linus, iOS, or Android, please click on the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/96614953621>

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MEETING AGENDA

No	Item	Person Responsible	Time
I.	<p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishment of Quorum <p><i>(Pursuant to Act 137-18 (SB 203), Chapter 92, Hawai 'i Revised Statutes: "(f) A quorum for purposes of doing business shall consist of a majority of the members serving on the council immediately before a meeting begins. (f) if a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of members present shall constitute a valid act of the council unless this chapter, part 1 of chapter 92, the articles of</i></p>	Tia Roberts Hartsock, Chair	10:00 a.m.

	<p><i>incorporation, or the bylaws require a greater number of affirmative votes.”</i></p> <p><i>For example, if only 11 members are appointed, at least 6 must be present to establish a quorum. To validate a (Working Group) action, of the 11 members present, an affirmative vote from at least 6 members is required.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion to approve agenda / Amendments to agenda ● Motion to approve October working group meeting minutes / Amendments to minutes ● Welcome and opening remarks 		
II.	<p>Today’s agenda, focus, and goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitators will go over the agenda and the expected outcome for today’s meeting 	Facilitators: Kailene Nihipali Sanchez & Kim Nabarro	10:10
III	<p>Pilina builder opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peer support can take different shapes and be applied in different situations. Facilitators will ask working group members who they go to in times when they need support and what that person brings to the table that allows them to keep seeking that person’s support. Public will be asked to share in the group chat. 	Facilitators	10:15
IV.	<p>Public comment and input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For anyone who cannot stay for the agenda items in question 	Facilitators	10:30
V.	<p>Review the timeline of the working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitators will review the timeline of permitted interaction groups, decision making, and draft and approval of reports to the legislature 	Facilitators Tia Hartsock	10:35
VI.	<p>Discussion on different types of peer support specialists</p>	Facilitators	10:50

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The working group is mandated to provide an inventory of current use of peer support specialists. The facilitators will ask working group members what types of peer support is needed for the populations they serve. 		
VI	BREAK		11:05
VII	<p>Discussion and motion to establish Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review what PIGs are and the sunshine law as it pertains to PIGs Motion to establish three PIGs on the inventory of peer support in Hawai'i and motion to establish chairs. The three PIGS that the working group is looking to establish are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> PIG on inventory of peer support that serve youth PIG on inventory of peer support that serve families PIG on inventory of peer support that serve individual adults Facilitators will ask working group members which PIGs they would like to join Facilitators will ask public participants which PIGs they would like to join 	Facilitators	11:10
VIII	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitators will ask public participants for comments on talked about agenda items' in the November meeting. For public comments on items that are not on the agenda: the public is invited to comment on issues not listed on the meeting agenda, but the board cannot discuss or consider such issues until a future meeting at which they are listed on the agenda. 	Facilitators	11:35
IX	<p>Summarize meeting and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key highlights Next meeting is on December 18th, Wednesday 10 a.m. - noon If there is anything else anyone wants to propose to have on agenda, please email gov.peers@hawaii.gov 	Facilitators	11:55
X	Closing and adjournment		11:59

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Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Locations: Multiple ways to join the meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Joining by computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone?

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MEETING AGENDA

No	Item	Person Responsible	Time
I.	<p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establishment of Quorum <p><i>(Pursuant to Act 137-18 (SB 203), Chapter 92, Hawai 'i Revised Statutes: "(f) A quorum for purposes of doing business shall consist of a majority of the members serving on the council immediately before a meeting begins. (f) if a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of members present shall constitute a valid act of the council unless this chapter, part 1 of chapter 92, the articles of incorporation, or the bylaws require a greater number of affirmative votes."</i></p>	Tia Roberts Hartsock, Chair	10:00 a.m.

	<p><i>For example, if only 11 members are appointed, at least 6 must be present to establish a quorum. To validate a (Working Group) action, of the 11 members present, an affirmative vote from at least 6 members is required.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion to approve November working group meeting minutes / Amendments to minutes ● Welcome and opening remarks ● New working group members (as of November) Darryl Tanaka (Adult Mental Health Division, Department of Health) and Malia Daraban (Hawaii Family as Allies) 		
II.	<p>Today’s agenda, focus, and goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitators will go over the agenda and the expected outcome for today’s meeting ● Reminder that Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) meetings are taking place. Below are the scheduled meetings for PIG meetings. If you are a non-working group member and wish to join a PIG and haven’t received a meeting invite, please contact gov.peers@hawaii.gov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family peer support inventory PIG December 12th Thursday, 2 – 3 p.m. January 6th Monday, 1 – 2p.m. ○ Adult peer support inventory PIG December 20th Friday, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. January 10th Friday, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. ○ Youth peer support inventory PIG December 13th Friday, 11:00 – 12:30 p.m. January 10th Friday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. 	Facilitators: Kailene Nihipali Sanchez & Kim Nabarro	10:15
III.	<p>Pilina builder opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the November meeting, working group members and community members shared who they go to in times of support. In this meeting, facilitators will pose the question how they share their support for others in your everyday lives. ● This discussion will serve as a segway into agenda item VI in which we will be talking about definition of peer support for the framework. 	Facilitators	10:20
IV.	<p>Public comment and input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For anyone who cannot stay for the agenda items in question 	Facilitators	10:35

V.	<p>Report to the legislature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Working Group must submit a report to the legislature 20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. Since the Working Group is in its early stages of working on developing the framework, the report to the legislature will be a summary of the conversations that the Working Group has had thus far. Working Group members will be presented the draft report in the meeting and Working Group Chair will ask for any questions or comments. 	<p>Facilitators</p> <p>Tia Hartsock</p>	10:40
	BREAK	Facilitators	10:55
VI.	<p>Peer support specialist definition discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The framework to be developed by the working group needs to include clear roles and definition of peer support specialists, youth peer specialists, adult peer support specialists, and caregiver peer support specialists. In previous meetings, the working group has discussed different types of peer support and understanding of peer support that exist. Facilitators will guide the discussion on types of peer support (formal, informal, mentor, volunteer, etc) while posing the question of how should the working group define “peer support specialist” for the purpose of the framework. 	Facilitators	11:00
VII.	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitators will ask public participants for comments on talked about agenda items in the December meeting. For public comments on items that are not on the agenda: the public is invited to comment on issues not listed on the meeting agenda, but the board cannot discuss or consider such issues until a future meeting at which they are listed on the agenda. 	Facilitators	11:30
VIII	<p>Summarize meeting and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key highlights Next meeting is on January 22nd, Wednesday 10 a.m. – noon If there is anything else anyone wants to propose to have on agenda, please email gov.peers@hawaii.gov 	Facilitators	11:50
IX	Closing and adjournment	Tia Hartsock	11:55

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Community input and engagement: Public testimony will be accepted on each agenda item prior to the discussion of that agenda item. To ensure adequate time for the full agenda, testimony should address only the specific agenda item being considered. Oral testimony will be limited to three (3) minutes per person for each agenda item.

All testimony will be accepted up to and during the meeting. If you would like to submit written testimony, the Working Group requests you to please submit it, preferably, at least one (1) business day prior to the meeting by emailing it to: gov.peers@hawaii.gov Any written testimony submitted after such time will be distributed to the members at the meeting.

Additionally, if you would like to submit written comments via mail carrier, please send to the Office of Wellness and Resilience, Office of the Governor, 415 S. Beretania St., Room 415, Honolulu, HI 96813, with postmark preferably dated three (3) calendar days prior to the meeting. Testimonies postmarked after that date will still be accepted but may be delayed in reaching members.

Meetings are recorded and posted at: owr.hawaii.gov/peersupport

Accessibility If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, please contact the Office of Wellness and Resilience at gov.peers@hawaii.gov or via telephone at (808) 859-1934, as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible have a greater likelihood of being fulfilled. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to accommodate. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats. Mahalo.