



# Hale Kipa

615 Pi'ikoi Street, Suite 203  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-3139

T 808 589-1829  
F 808 589-2610  
E info@halekipa.org

## Executive Staff

Punky Pletan-Cross  
*President and CEO*

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka  
*Deputy CEO of  
Outreach Services*

Mari Vermeer  
*Deputy CEO of  
Placement Services*

Dori Tyau  
*Director of Human  
Resources and Training*

## Board of Directors

Paul Schraff  
*Chair*

Stacy Evensen  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair*

Georgette Deemer  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair*

Dennis H.K. Hu  
*Treasurer*

Dolores Foley  
*Secretary*

Heidi Cregor  
*Past Chair*

Brian Isobe  
*Past Chair*

Sterling Yee  
*Past Chair*

Zadoc W. Brown

Chris Deuchar

Ed Fountain

Phil Gray

Lianne Iwanaga-Ohashi

Luis P. Salaveria

Abelina Madrid Shaw

Heidi K. Wild

Dianne Willoughby

Luke W.T. Yeh

Andy Levin  
*Neighbor Island Board  
Liaison*

Ms. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Committee on Human Services and Public Housing

~~RE: SB 2223 Relating to Human Services~~

FROM: Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW  
Deputy CEO-Outreach Services, Hale Kipa

Dear Chair Chun-Oakland and Committee Members:

My name is Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka and I am the Deputy CEO-Outreach Services at Hale Kipa, Inc. Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of this critical bill that appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services(DHS) for independent living skills training for youth in and transitioning out of foster care.

As the primary provider of independent living skill preparation for youth on Oahu in DHS foster homes, we are painfully aware of the current real needs of these youth and the accompanying lack of the level of funding that would allow each and every youth to access support and training for their eventual transition into adulthood. To succeed, youth need to build competencies and possess a sense of mastery as well as develop and maintain a strong support system.

In addition to the strong preparation of these youth, their capacity to successfully transition will be greatly heightened by the availability of transitional housing that will assist to stabilize the youth and prevent the possibility of homelessness, a real and sad potential situation that we see some former foster youth endure.

We are please the Department of Human Services has made this bill a priority and encourage the legislature to make this a reality for the youth of Hawaii.

Sincerely

Jaque Kelley-Uyeoka, ACSW  
Deputy CEO-Outreach Services  
Hale Kipa, Inc.

