



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

December 26, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott Saiki
Speaker and Members of the House
of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: Report in Accordance with Section 352D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Annual Report of the Office of Youth Services; Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, Annual Report of Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility; Act 281, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, Non-School Hour Programs for Children and Youth¹; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Section 223 (a)(3)(D)(ii), as amended 2002

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and members of the Legislature,

Attached is the following report submitted in accordance with:

- Provisions of Section 352D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Annual Report of the Office of Youth Services; Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, Annual Report of Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility; Act 281, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, Non-School Hour Programs for Children and Youth; Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Section 223 (a)(3)(D)(ii), as amended 2002.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, copies of these reports have been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library and the reports may be viewed electronically at <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cathy Betts", with a long, sweeping underline.

Cathy Betts
Deputy Director

¹ Regarding the report required by Act 281 (SLH 2006): funding for non-school hour programs have not been appropriated since 2008; there is no report for this provision.

December 26, 2019

Page 2

Ecopy only:

Office of the Governor

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Department of Budget & Finance

Legislative Auditor

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services

Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2020

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF

Section 352D-6, Annual Report of the Office of Youth Services
Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, Annual Report of Hawaii Youth
Correctional Facility
Act 281, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, Non-School Hour Programs for Children
and Youth¹
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Section 223 (a)(3)(D)(ii),
as amended 2002, and re-authorized 2018

**OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
December 2019**

¹ Regarding the report required by Act 281 (SLH 2006): funding for non-school hour programs have not been appropriated since 2008; there is no report for this provision.

A. OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES (OYS):

Programs, Services, Achievements, and Looking Ahead

The Legislature established the Office of Youth Services (OYS) in 1989 to provide and coordinate a continuum of services and programs in every county for youth-at-risk, to prevent delinquency, and reduce the incidence of recidivism. While a core responsibility of the OYS is to manage and operate the State's only Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), the agency also provides and supports "front end" prevention, diversion, and intervention services.

Programs & Service Areas

OYS focuses on programs and service areas that address youth needs that range from prevention to incarceration, and after-care. The foundation and working philosophy undergirding the continuum of youth services supported by OYS is the "Aloha Spirit" statute, section 5-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which recognizes and emphasizes the essence of relationships between people as a critical factor in our State. OYS strongly believes that community is where our youth belong and that deep connections, restoration, forgiveness, and healing emerges as the Aloha Spirit statute is considered and embraced. The following is a brief description of the programs and services the OYS provides statewide.

1) Positive Youth Development (PYD)

The PYD programs target youth that are involved, or at high risk for involvement, with the juvenile justice system. Programs are designed to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for youth, families, and their communities through a variety of services that promote positive youth development and resiliency. Approximately 1,426 youth statewide were served through 10 community-based programs.

2) Project-Based Cultural Programs

Project-based cultural programs provide learning environments that immerse youth in their values, heritage, cultures, landscapes, opportunities and experiences. The premise for culturally competent programs and services is the belief that continued learning and practicing of a native language and culture are fundamental prerequisites for nurturing healthy and responsive citizens and contributes to the growth and harmony of the community. Identifying with one's culture is considered a protective factor that helps to promote positive health and an increased sense of self and identity. Approximately 2,849 youth participated in 12 project-based cultural programs statewide.

3) Truancy Prevention and In-School Suspension

In collaboration with the Department of Education, OYS offered services to enhance school engagement and performance to ensure educational success for at-risk youth and their families. Targeted youth were ages 10 to 18 and at risk for truancy and chronic absences. Six (6) funded agencies provided services and activities for approximately 200 youth that promoted

attendance, attachment, and achievement to ensure educational success. The agencies are: Susannah Wesley Community Center; Coalition for A Drug-Free Hawaii; Maui Youth & Family Services, Inc.; Hale Kipa, Inc.; The Salvation Army Family Intervention Services; and Lanakila Learning Center.

4) Community-Based Outreach and Advocacy

OYS provided intervention case advocacy services to youth whose unhealthy, risky behaviors placed them at-risk for initial or further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Five (5) contracted providers (Adult Friends for Youth; Hale Kipa, Inc.; Catholic Charities Hawaii; Maui Youth & Family Services; and The Salvation Army Family Intervention Services) identified and engaged youth and family to provide attendant care services, intake and assessment, assisted in creating a youth/family-driven service plan, supported youth/family in accessing services, and provided follow-up to ensure services were properly provided. Approximately 734 youth were served statewide.

5) Intensive Mentoring Program

Intensive mentoring program services are targeted to youth who have been adjudicated by the Family Court, and have been placed on probation or other status. The goals are to provide intensive supervision for youth, hold them accountable for their behavior, and assist youth to follow the terms and conditions of probation. The service delivery approach includes involvement with the youth's family in supporting the youth's participation in activities that increase protective factors and decrease risk factors in various domains of the youth's life. Approximately 154 youth were served statewide in the four judicial circuits.

6) Parent Partnerships

Parent Partnerships services provide varied activities to support families involved in the Juvenile Justice system of care to improve outcomes for youth and families. Parent Partners provided individual supports to parents and family support groups. The Parent Partners assist parents and families with navigating the system of care to meet the identified needs of the youth and families, with an emphasis on supporting the “voice and choice” of the family during the wraparound process. A critical factor in supporting families to access the activities and services of the system of care is the relationship that develops between the family and the Parent Partners based on trust, safety, and commitment. Approximately 261 families were served statewide.

OYS continues to provide funding support for the Parent Project, an eight-week parent training curriculum for parents of teenagers who may experience difficulties in various domains such as family, peers, school, and community, in collaboration with trained facilitators from the Department of Education. Approximately 91 family members participated in the Parent Project sessions.

7) Wraparound Services

Wraparound services target youth and their families involved in the juvenile justice system who experience very complicated situations that require intensive interventions and services with multiple state agencies. The wraparound planning process brings together people who are natural supports to the youth and their families, as well as the professionals who provide services to the youth. The wraparound facilitator, navigator, and Parent Partner, with the help of the parents and youth, identify strengths and underlying needs of the youth and family. Once strengths and needs are identified, a plan of care is created that helps coordinate the various services and supports that have been identified. The wraparound planning process helps both youth currently on probation and during the transition process when youth are discharged from HYCF and return to community. Wraparound services were provided to 36 families.

8) Community-Based Residential Services

Youth who cannot, or will not, remain at home were served by community-based residential programs that helped them prepare for return to community living. Programs are focused on improving youths' decision-making, social and independent living skills, and enhancing their commitment to learning and education. Through 13 contracts and a range of residential programs on all major islands, approximately 181 youth were served in FY 2019 through the following residential programs statewide:

- Emergency Shelters for youth ages 10 to 18: Emergency shelters provide shelters for recently arrested status offenders, non-violent law violators, intoxicated, troubled, abused, or neglected youth requiring short-term shelter and related services that addressed a present crisis.
- Intensive Residential Services for youth ages 12 through 19: Intensive Residential Services provide priority services for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. These youth are assessed as high risk in one or more areas of need and are unable to function in a pro-social manner without constant supervision and support. These youth may also benefit from highly structured residential services.
- Independent Living Programs for youth ages 17 through 22: Independent Living programs provide services for youth and young adults that are troubled, abused, neglected, or adjudicated, and lack the attitudes, skills, and resources for independent living.
- Statewide Ke Kama Pono ("Children of Promise") Safe Houses are community-based residential alternatives for troubled youth who are at-risk of further involvement in the juvenile justice system. A diversion from the institutional setting of the HYCF, the Ke Kama Pono program provides guidance and support for troubled youth in a highly structured, closely supervised rehabilitative environment, while preparing the youth to reintegrate back into their respective communities.

9) Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF)

HYCF is a 30-bed facility whose primary purpose is to provide care and custody of at-risk youth committed to the custody of the State by the Family Courts. HYCF provides a variety of

counseling, treatment, and educational services within the facility to aid in the redirection and rehabilitation of each ward in a safe and secure setting. The programs conducted within the facility are intended to provide guidance and opportunities for positive behavioral changes. HYCF continued to implement programs to better serve the youth, including substance abuse services through collaboration with the Alcohol and Drug-Abuse Division, Department of Health. Mindful-forgiveness group services were provided through DOE school-based behavioral specialist in collaboration with a trainer resource; this approach showed promising outcomes.

The passage of Act 208 by the 2018 Legislature, authorizing the establishment of the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center on the HYCF campus, facilitated expansion of services for youth and young adults, ages 18 – 24. These youth and young adults may need additional assistance to make a successful transition from various systems of care, including mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice. Leases with several non-profit organizations were implemented, including: a short-term assessment center for commercially sex-exploited youth; transitional housing and support services for young adults facing homelessness; vocational and educational support for youth/young adults; and natural farming activities training for youth. These leases were executed with Hale Kipa, Inc. - short-term assessment center, Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE) - transitional housing young adults, Kinai 'Eha - vocational/educational support, and Partners In Development - natural farming.

The Vera Institute of Justice's Initiative to End Girls' Incarceration accepted OYS/HYCF into its cohort joining four other local and state jurisdictions: Maine; North Dakota; Santa Clara County (California); and the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The initiative addresses systematic harms that lead girls, particularly girls of color and LGB/TGNC youth, into the justice system. Hawaii and the other jurisdictions will receive guidance from Vera's team to develop and implement a strategic plan to eliminate confinement of girls through improved policy, practice, and programmatic approaches. A kick-off event was held in 9/18 in collaboration with the Pua Foundation. Subsequent activities by the Vera Institute included data collection, interviews with key stakeholders, and visitations to agencies and organizations statewide that serve girls. This initiative will continue in FY 2020.

Additionally, HYCF continues to build partnerships with public agencies such as DHS, DOE, DOH, the Judiciary - Family Court, county agencies, religious-spiritual, and non-profit agencies. These partnerships lead to better coordination of the State's efforts in providing services to youth.

Major initiatives that HYCF administration continue to support and encourage include:

- Continue development of facility policies, procedures, and practices that are Juvenile Justice appropriate.
- Provide ongoing staff training for HYCF direct care staff, social workers, and other staff on Juvenile Justice/Juvenile corrections best practices. These training opportunities better equip staff with skills and knowledge needed to provide a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for the youth in the state's care and custody.

- Continue to strengthen communication between the Judiciary and State agencies: Department of Health (DOH); Department of Education (DOE); Department of Human Services (DHS); and OYS/HYCF to ensure the delivery of appropriate services for youth in a seamless and collaborative manner.
- Continue planning for expansion of service continuum at HYCF to include multiple pathways and programs for youth and young adults with substance abuse, mental health, and/or other identified needs that may require additional resources and funding streams.
- Continue to enhance and expand in-facility programs and services to better prepare youth for reintegration back into community.
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). HYCF participated in an audit to meet compliance with PREA. Initially, HYCF did not meet the PREA standards, and a corrective action plan was developed and implemented. HYCF met PREA compliance during the CAP in 12/18.
- Quality Assurance. HYCF will monitor facility progress through a Performance-based Standards (PbS) program to assess and evaluate facility progress and the conditions of confinement. Participation with the PbS program continued with a PbS staff providing technical assistance (in-person and phone/computer) during FY 19.

10) Federal Grant Programs

OYS also oversees and manages a variety of federal grant programs from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The intent of these programs is to improve the juvenile justice and education systems, and to narrow the path to detention and/or incarceration. In 1974, Congress enacted the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act to protect and promote safe conditions for youth as well as address their physical and emotional needs in the juvenile justice system. Sections 571-32(k) and 352F-5(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes, place the administration of the JJDP Act with OYS. The State's compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act results in funding for juvenile justice programs from the OJJDP (see chart below). Compliance with the JJDP Act protects the State from civil suits related to conditions of confinement, as courts have found that jailing juveniles violates the 8th Amendment (Cruel and Unusual Punishment) and the 14th Amendment (Due Process) of the Constitution.

Funding from the JJDP Act include Title II, Formula Grants Program, enables the State to meet and maintain compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP Act, supports delinquency prevention efforts, and improves the juvenile justice system. The core mandates are: the deinstitutionalization of status offenders; removal of law violators from jails and lockups; elimination of sight and sound contact between juveniles and adult offenders; and reduction of the disproportionate numbers ethnic minority youth who come into contact with the law. In addition, recent federal statutes mandate compliance with the standards established by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

Core Requirements of the JJDP Act	Compliance Status
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) Juvenile Charges with status offenses, offenses which would not be criminal if committed by an adult, shall not be placed in secure detention or correctional facilities. Status offenses include but are not limited to truancy, running away, and minors in possession of alcohol.	The State is in full compliance with the DSO requirement.
Jail and Lockup Removal (JLR) No juvenile shall be securely held in adult jails or lockups. Under the Reporting Exception, accused law violators may be held for up to six hours for the purpose of identification, processing, interrogation, transfer to a juvenile facility, or while awaiting release to parents/guardians.	The State is in full compliance with the JLR requirement.
Sight and Sound Separation (SSS) During the temporary period that a juvenile may be securely held in an adult jail and lockup, sight and sound contact is prohibited between the juvenile and adult inmates or trustees.	The State is in full compliance with the SSS requirement.
Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) States must address reducing the proportionate number of juveniles of respective minority ethnic groups, who are detained or confined in secure detention facilities, or in secure correctional facilities, or in jails and lockups, if such proportionate number exceeds the representative proportion of such minority groups to the general population.	Based on the DMC plan submitted to the U.S. OJJDP from the OYS, Hawaii is currently in compliance.

Since 1996, significant improvements were achieved in meeting the federal mandates for Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Jail and Lockup Removal (JLR), and Sight and Sound Separation (SSS), and Hawaii continues to be compliant with the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) requirement. For 2018, Hawaii continued to be in compliance with the JJDP Act, and in compliance with all four core requirements of the JJDP Act for the past five (5)-year period from 2013 through 2018. The data below compares the number and rate of violations for DSO and JLR for the five (5)-year period, with no violations having been cited for SSS:

Comparison of Number of Violations from 2014 to 2018

Compliance Violations from 2012 to 2016	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	1	1	0	0	3
Jail and Lockup Removal	4	2	1	0	0

Comparison of Rate of Violations from 2014 to 2018

Core Requirements	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.00	98
Jail and Lockup Removal	1..21	0.66	0.32	0.00	0

In addition to OJJDP funding, OYS receives funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services--Title XX Block Grant. The Title XX Block Grant Program provides funding for services to at-risk youth and youth in need of foster care. The primary goal of this grant is to increase the level of self-sufficiency for youth and to prevent institutionalization within the social welfare or juvenile justice systems.

OYS Achievements in FY 2019 System Improvement:

OYS continued collaboration with the Judiciary to spearhead the State’s effort in juvenile justice reform and improvement, based on the comprehensive recommendations of the Hawaii Juvenile Justice Working Group, Act 201 (Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2014). The intent of the law was to reduce secure confinement, strengthen community supervision, focus resources on practices proven to reduce recidivism, and provided an upfront investment of \$1.26 million for mental health and substance abuse treatment, delinquency interventions, and implementation of the reforms.

The policies contained in Act 201 advance priorities in three areas:

- *Reduce the use of secure confinement and protect public safety*

Limiting space in expensive secure facilities to the most serious juvenile offenders will help Hawaii produce the greatest public safety benefit from the juvenile justice system. In addition, providing certain youth adjudicated for low-level crimes with the opportunity for early interventions will ensure that they are held accountable and that resources are put to their best use.

- *Strengthen community supervision and probation practices*

Effective community supervision will allow Hawaii to maximize the public safety return on taxpayer investments in juvenile justice. By grounding probation practices in data and research, the state can better hold lower-risk youth accountable while reducing recidivism.

- *Sustain effective practices and cultivate stakeholder collaboration*

Regular collection and analysis of data and outcomes continued to improve and maximize public safety returns. Act 201’s increasing avenues for collaboration across

agencies promoted efficient system management and case planning, enhancing decision-making and resource allocation. During SFY 19, regular meetings were convened with the Judiciary to sustain practices, and continue improvements regarding implementation of Act 201.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:

The Office of Youth Services' work with youth requires a collaborative approach. Collaboration permeates through all of the agency's major programs, including partnerships with state departments and branches such as DOE, DOH, Judiciary, and University of Hawaii and county agencies with the police, prosecutors and Mayor's office. Below are a number of ways OYS collaborates with other government agencies to serve Hawaii's youth and their families.

- **Hawai'i Island**

OYS continued collaboration with the Hawai'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney to implement a juvenile justice intake and assessment center in East Hawai'i. Funding to expand services to West Hawai'i was provided by OYS in SFY 18. The assessment center provides an array of services for at-risk youth who have been arrested for minor or status offenses, identifies their needs, and links them and their families with appropriate services.

- **O'ahu**

OYS continued implementation of the Ho'opono Mamo program, designed to steer youth away from the juvenile justice system to a pathway of supportive programs to help them address issues that may lead to risky or harmful behavior. Also, planning to implement a similar assessment center service through a Grant-In-Aid provider was ongoing with plans to begin services in FY 20.

Based on the Vera Institute's report regarding improvement of services and systems in response to status offenders, a working group to implement recommendations was convened in FY 2019. Tasks include gathering more data/information statewide, identifying cost-benefit analysis of the current and proposed system; and developing statutory changes to implement a more effective system.

OYS participated in a collaborative planning effort with Lili'uokalani Trust's (LT) initiative to expand resources and services for Native Hawaiian and other youth/young adults at-risk. The planning process included a wide range of stakeholders to assure a comprehensive approach, with plans to begin services in the downtown Honolulu area in FY 2021.

- **Maui**

OYS continues to collaborate with the Maui Police Department's (MPD) Positive Outreach Intervention (POI) project, which addresses lag times between arrests and initial court hearings with outreach services to youth. OYS also funds the Kalo program

with MPD, a cultural based program for at-risk youth and their families. The Kalo curriculum includes building family communication skills and relationships, increasing the youth's connection to the community and increasing cultural awareness and appreciation. Kalo collaborates with the DOE and serves youth of all ages, including youth under the age of 11 who are chronically absent from school and/or are at risk for expulsions.

- **Kaua'i**

OYS continues to provide funding support for the Kaua'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney's Teen Court Program. The diversionary program is an alternative process to hold youth accountable through a peer-driven approach, rather than the Family Court system. OYS also continued to fund intensive monitoring services for youth on probation in collaboration with Family Court.

- **Judiciary**

OYS continues to work with the Judiciary, the Family Court, and the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council to implement the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) with the guidance of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Implementation of JDAI core strategies helped to eliminate inappropriate or unnecessary use of secure detention, minimize failures to appear and incidences of delinquent behavior, redirect public finances to successful reform strategies, improve conditions in secure detention facilities, and reduce minority over-representation in the juvenile justice system.

OYS also continues to work closely with the courts in all four judicial circuits to expand community-based treatment and monitoring as alternatives to confinement at the youth correctional facility. OYS continued funding a therapist with the Girl's Court in the 5th Circuit, to provide a range of gender specific and strength-based programming with female juvenile offenders.

- **Department of Health**

OYS continued collaboration with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD), Department of Health, through two services: Kealahou and Kaeru. Kealahou provides outreach, training and gender-specific, trauma-informed mental health services for adolescent females in or at-risk to penetrate the juvenile justice system on O'ahu; Kaeru services target children and youth who are placed in out-of-state residential treatment facilities or at risk for placement, utilizing a strengths-based, solution-focused family team service model that features many components of the wraparound service model. OYS also continued to contract with CAMHD to provide access to mental health services for youth involved with, or at risk for penetration into, the juvenile justice system who are ineligible for CAMHD services.

Training

OYS provides training opportunities to strengthen skills and collaboration for providers and partners in the juvenile justice and other systems of care. During FY 19, the following training activities were supported by OYS:

- OYS, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, and Attorney General Grants & Planning Branch, hosted three days of skills-based training for staff from public agencies and private community-based agencies providing services for youth and families involved with Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). The training covered a wide-range of CSEC topics, including mandatory reporting; neurobiological impact of trauma; best practices in working with CSEC youth; and assessment, outreach and treatment planning.
- OYS continued collaborating with DHS to provide forgiveness training workshops conducted by Fred Luskin, Ph.D., Director of the Stanford University Forgiveness Project. The workshops focused on teaching forgiveness methods as a life skill that can be learned and applied in professional and personal settings, and integrating the forgiveness approach within the workplace. Additionally, a training workshop to learn how to facilitate forgiveness training was conducted over a two-month period.
- OYS continued training sessions statewide with Dr. Thao Le, professor at the University of Hawai'i, in skill-building for mindfulness as a promising intervention in working with at-risk youth. Staff from both private and public agencies, representing various youth and family services were trained on the mindfulness approach, including Department of Health, Judiciary, Department of Education, County Police Departments, and social services.
- OYS, through its program monitor (John Paekukui), continues to oversee compliance with core requirements of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (reauthorized by the 2002 U.S. Congress) and provided training for 70 police officers.

In collaboration with the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i, training opportunities were provided for the youth and family serving community in multiple ways.

- Training sessions were provided to expand awareness of effective practices, strengthen strategic planning, and resource development for the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder community.
- Restorative Justice training for DOE schools to implement practices and principles.
- LGBTQ conference to provide training for the juvenile justice and youth serving system on the latest developments, issues, and best practices related to working with LGBTQ youth.

- Training on connecting and engaging youth who are difficult to work with, through Aloha based methods.
- Training with Roy Sakuma, presenting on resiliency, and the power of authentic acceptance and relationships.

OYS Focus in 2020

The OYS 2020 focus is to enhance services and programs to best meet the needs of adjudicated youth on probation, to prevent further involvement into the juvenile justice system; to reduce recidivism, and to maximize opportunities for youth to become productive, and responsible citizens.

- Ensure adjudicated youth are placed in the least restrictive environment possible – without jeopardizing public safety, consistent with nationwide best practices.
- Ensure fair and equal treatment for all youth, regardless of race/ethnicity, and reduce disproportionate minority contact at decision making points in the juvenile justice system.
- Continue implementing the provisions of Act 201 (SLH 2014), to increase public safety, hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, and reduce costs to Hawaii taxpayers by maximizing the public safety return on Hawaii’s juvenile justice investment.
- Continue to implement Assessment Centers to provide an array of services for juveniles who have been arrested or are at-risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system, by conducting in-depth assessments, facilitating access to services, and developing connections with community resources in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Continue utilization of DHS’ Ohana Nui approach to ensure services are multi-generational and wholistic to promote positive outcomes and stabilization for and family.
- Increase community based, family-focused interventions, with emphasis on culturally appropriate service delivery.
- Continue to lead the effort to improve of services and systems in response to status offenders. Through the Status Offense Reform System work group, continue data/information statewide; identifying cost-benefit analysis of the current and proposed system; and develop statutory changes to implement a more effective system.
- Provide support and training to implement and sustain a restorative justice philosophy and activities in the community, including systems of care that provide services for youth and families in education, juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health.
- Actively participate with DHS, DOE, DOH and the Judiciary to implement wraparound services to more effectively address the complex needs of at-risk youth and their families through integrated case planning between agencies.

- Participate in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Program that promotes detention reform efforts and alternatives to incarceration.
- Improve provider accountability to ensure that youth programs meet the needs of children and communities. Improve access to services and working relationships between stakeholders such as Family Court, CAMHD, DHS-CWS, and OYS through meetings hosted in each circuit.
- Collect outcome data to improve program performance and youth success.
- Prioritize youth needs and enhance fiscal responsibility to ensure that moneys are being directed to meet the most serious needs of youth.
- Continue to improve services and programs at the HYCF. Participate with the PbS quality control process, and the VERA Institute's initiative to End Girls' Incarceration.
- Provide leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and training opportunities for providers and partners, including the areas of Forgiveness, Aloha Spirit, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.
- Continue to explore partnerships with public and private funding resources to maintain and enhance service capacity for the community. Participate with Lili'uokalani Trust's initiative to expand services and resources for Native Hawaiian and other youth/young adults at-risk.