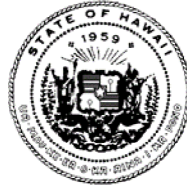


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**DEPT. COMM. NO. 260**

RYAN I. YAMANE  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

December 26, 2024

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

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

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

Enclosed is the following report submitted by the Office of Youth Services in accordance with the following:

- Section 352D-6(11), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), Annual Report of the Office Of Youth Services, And Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 1991, Annual Report of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility,
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Section 223 (A)(3)(D)(II), as amended in 2002 and reauthorized in 2018,
- Section 367D-8, HRS, Annual Report of the Office of Youth Services on Gender-Responsive Programs for Female Adjudicated Youth,
- Act 130, SLH 2022, Safe Spaces For Youth Pilot Program, and
- House Resolution 180, HD 1, SLH 2024, Requesting the Department of Human Services to Report on the Cultural and Therapeutic Services provided by Community-Based Organizations at the Kawaihoa Youth And Family Wellness Center.

Per section 93-16, HRS, this report will be available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>. For questions regarding this report, contact Leanne Gillespie, Executive Director, Office of Youth Services, at [lgillespie@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:lgillespie@dhs.hawaii.gov).

December 26, 2024

Page 2

Sincerely,



Ryan I. Yamane

Director

Enclosure

c: Governor's Office

Lieutenant Governor's Office

Department of Budget and Finance

Legislative Auditor

Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)

Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, one electronic copy)

Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2025 IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF:

- SECTION 352D-6(11), HAWAII REVISED STATUTES (HRS), ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES, AND ACT 151, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII (SLH) 1991, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY,
- JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 1974, SECTION 223 (A)(3)(D)(II), AS AMENDED 2002, AND REAUTHORIZED 2018,
- SECTION 367D-8, HRS, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES ON GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE ADJUDICATED YOUTH,
- Act 130, SLH 2022, SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM, AND
- HOUSE RESOLUTION 180, HD 1, SLH 2024, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO REPORT ON THE CULTURAL AND THERAPEUTIC SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AT THE KAWAIILOA YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CENTER.

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
December 2024

## History of the Office of Youth Services

Established in 1865 on Oahu, Hawaii’s first youth institution, the Hawaii Industrial School, housed youth as young as six. The Industrial School operated under the doctrine of *Parrens Patriae*, allowing the Kingdom of Hawaii to exert parental authority over the youth when the natural parents were deemed unworthy. In 1928, the Territory of Hawaii established two training schools, the Kawaiiloa Training School for Girls in Kailua and the Waile’e Training School for Boys on the North Shore. Both schools operated as a farm and ranch.

In 1962, the Waile’e Training School for Boys closed, and the boys were moved to Kailua. In 1987, the Department of Social Service and Housing (DSSH), Division of Corrections officially became the Department of Public Safety. All of the Adult Correctional Institutions left DSSH. The Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility remained within DSSH.

In 1989, the Legislature established the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to separate minor offenders from adult offenders, bringing a new era for juvenile corrections in Hawaii. Chapter 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), also tasked the OYS to provide and coordinate a continuum of services and programs for at-risk youth 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 correctional facility for youth, Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF), the agency also provides and supports “front end” prevention, diversion, and intervention services and “back end” reentry and transition supportive services.

## Trends, Programs & Services, Achievements, and Looking Ahead

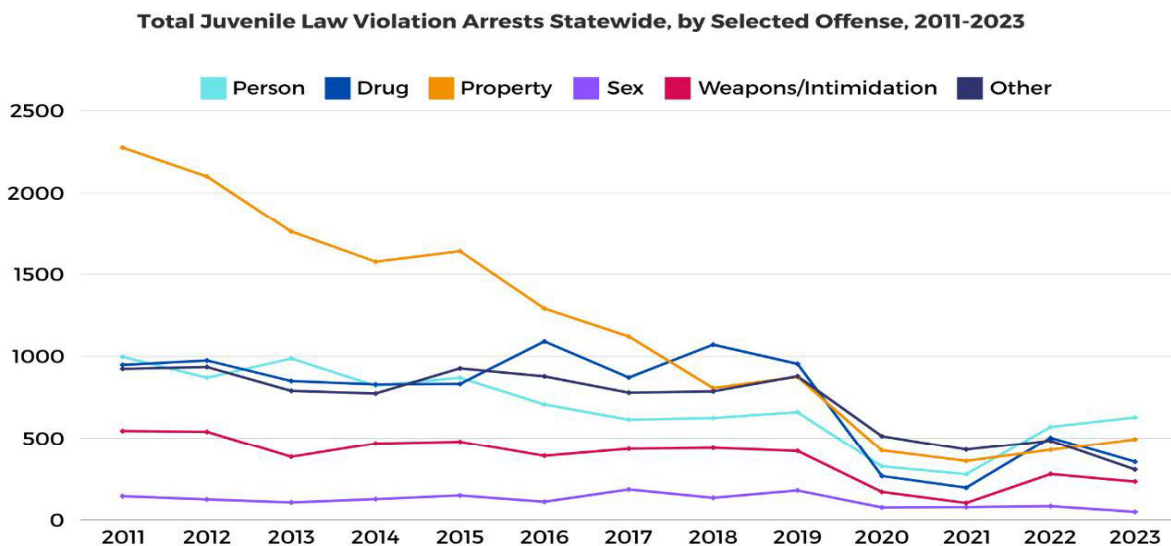


Figure 1. Total Juvenile Law Violation Arrests Statewide, by Selected Offense, 2011-2023.



## **Programs & Service Areas**

OYS focuses on programs and service areas that address youth needs ranging from prevention to commitment, transition, and after-care. The foundation and working philosophy upholding the continuum of youth services supported by OYS is the "Aloha Spirit" statute, section 5-7.5, 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 connection, restoration, forgiveness, and healing emerge as OYS considers and embraces the Aloha Spirit statute. State Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) was a busy procurement year with the need to reprocur services in the areas of project-based cultural programs, positive youth development, and truancy prevention. OYS spent significant time reviewing past performances of these programs, speaking with community partners, and developing new programs that meet the changing needs of our youth and their families. As a result, some of the program areas listed below have changed. OYS served over 2,700 youth in community-based contracted programs, down from previous years. This decrease is due to the rising costs of doing business in Hawaii post-pandemic, in addition to the increased needs of youth being served.

In FY24, OYS implemented new gender demographics collection instruments. As agencies pivot to collect and provide this information, OYS will gain a better understanding of the youth served and their needs. It is expected to take a few years to fully implement the collection of this new information.

## **WHO WE SERVE**

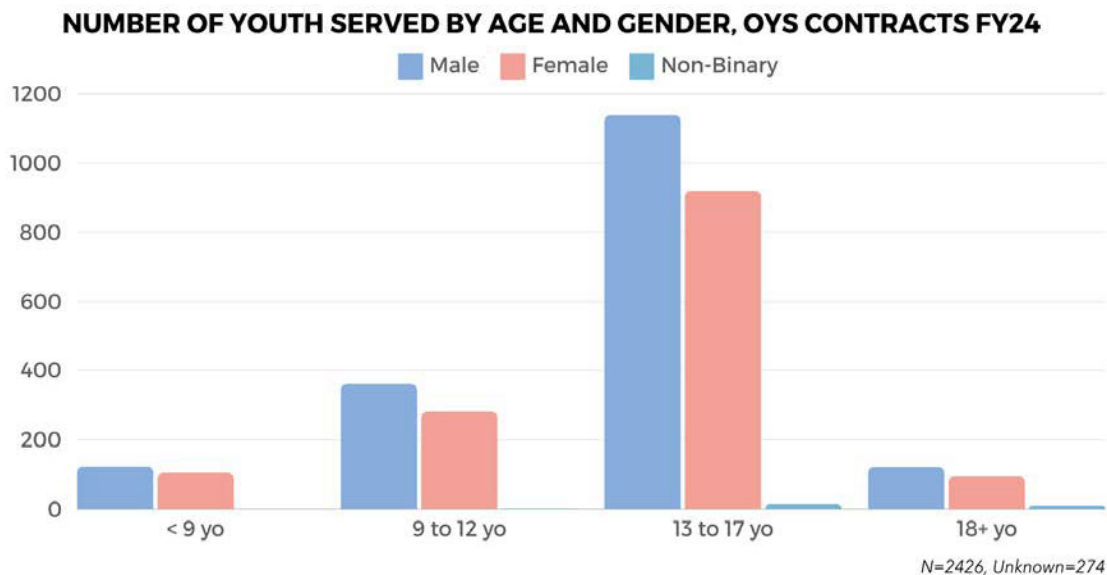


Figure 2. Number of Youth Served by age and gender, OYS Contracts FY24.

OYS continues to prioritize serving youth and families who are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system in our contracted programs. The chart below shows that OYS is meeting this goal, with the majority of youth serviced being Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander youth.

**PERCENT OF YOUTH SERVED BY ETHNICITY, OYS CONTRACTS FY24**

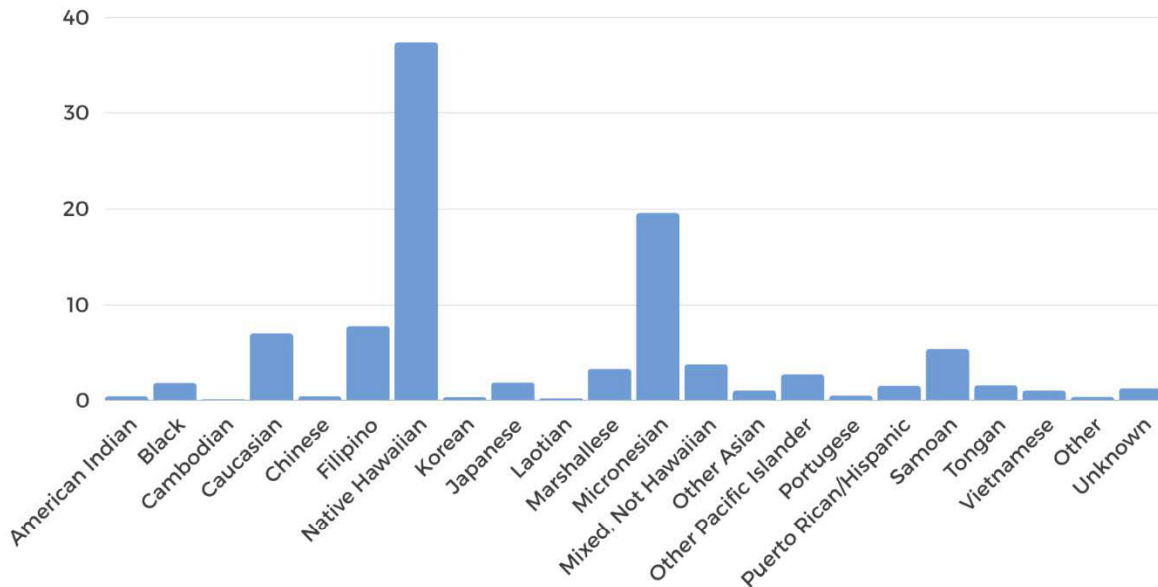


Figure 3. Percentage of youth served by ethnicity, OYS contracts FY24.

OYS served youth in the following program areas:

**1) Project-Based Cultural Programs**

Learning environments that immerse youth in cultural values, practices, traditions, landscapes, opportunities, and experiences are designed to help youth avoid unproductive behaviors and maintain safe, healthy lifestyles. Programs promote the reduction of risk factors and increase protective factors specific to developing and supporting healthy youth within the communities where the program services are to be provided.

**2) Culturally Specific Supportive Services**

Supportive services for underserved youth and families that are culturally relevant and appropriate to the population it serves. Culturally specific, in the context of these services, means a group united by shared experience of oppression and cultural resilience based on such identities as race, ethnicity, immigration status, and language, whose access to safety, resources, and services is limited. These services may include one or more of the following types of services: family support, educational support, mentoring and intergenerational mentoring, resource and system navigation, youth in cultural transition, and other services.

**3) Positive Youth Development (PAL)**

Positive Alternative Learning (PAL) services are community-based services for youth exhibiting unproductive at-risk behaviors, such as status offenses such as truancy, in-school suspension, absenteeism, drinking, etc., especially in out-of-home school or social environments.

The PAL services program has a two (2)-fold service objective for youth-at-risk and their families:

1. The first of the two-fold objectives is to proliferate Positive Youth Development (PYD) and implement positive developmental programs and educational curricula that promote PYD activities designed to help youth maintain safe, healthy family and social lifestyles and to generally avoid or stem unproductive status offending behaviors.
2. The second objective is to prevent truancy and in-school suspensions by providing services designed to help youth stay in school and avoid unproductive antisocial behaviors, such as drinking, excessive tardiness, absenteeism in school attendance, smoking, doing drugs, becoming violent or losing control with other classmates or teachers, etc., that could lead to expulsion from school.

The target population for the PAL services includes youth of all genders and/or sexual orientations, ages eight (8)- up to eighteen (18)- years old, who have been marginalized due to race, ethnicity, immigration, and/or language barriers and youth exhibiting status offending behaviors, i.e., being truant or excessively tardy; becoming hostile, violent, and unable to focus in the classroom setting; being troublesome; as well as having other problematic behaviors, such as not completing schoolwork, drinking or smoking on campus, etc.

#### **4) Community-Based Outreach and Advocacy**

OYS provided intervention case advocacy services to youth whose unhealthy and risky behaviors placed them at risk for initial or further involvement with the juvenile justice system. OYS contracts five (5) providers to identify and engage youth and families. Services include attendant care services, intake and assessment, creating a youth/family-driven service plan, supporting youth/family in assessment services, and providing follow-up to ensure service provision. These programs served approximately 90 youth statewide.

#### **5) Intensive Mentoring Program**

Intensive mentoring program services focus on youth adjudicated by the Family Court and placed on probation or another status. The goals of these four (4) programs are to provide intensive supervision for youth, hold them accountable for their behavior, and assist youth in following the terms and conditions of their 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.

## **6) Peer Parent Support**

Parent Partnership services provide varied activities to support families in the Juvenile Justice system to improve outcomes for youth and families. Parent Partners offered individual and group support to parents and families. The Parent Partners are peers and assist parents and families with navigating the system of care to meet the identified needs of the youth and families, emphasizing supporting the "voice and choice" of the family during the wraparound process. A critical factor in helping families access the activities and services of the care system is the relationship that develops between the family and the Parent Partners based on trust, safety, and commitment.

## **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 and the professionals providing services to them. The wraparound facilitator, navigator, and Parent Partner, with the help of the parents and youth, identify the strengths and underlying needs of the youth and family. The wraparound planning process uses the identified strengths and needs and creates a plan of care to coordinate the various services and supports. The wraparound planning process helps youth currently on probation and during the transition process when being discharged from HYCF and returned to the community.

## **8) Community-Based Residential Services**

Community-based residential programs serve youth who cannot or will not remain at home and prepare them to 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.

- Emergency Shelters for youth ages 10 through 17: Emergency shelters provide shelters for recently arrested status offenders, non-violent law violators, and intoxicated, troubled, abused, or neglected youth requiring short-term shelter and related services that address a present crisis.
- Statewide Safe Houses are community-based residential alternatives and emergency shelters for troubled youth, ages 12 through 17, who are at risk of further involvement in the juvenile justice system. A diversion from the institutional setting of HYCF, safe houses provide guidance and support for troubled youth in a highly structured, closely supervised rehabilitative environment while preparing the youth to return to their respective communities.
- Intensive Residential Services for youth ages 12 through 17: Intensive Residential Services provide priority services for youth in the juvenile justice system. These youth are assessed

as high risk in one or more areas of need and cannot currently function pro-socially without constant supervision and support. These youth may also benefit from highly structured residential services.

- Independent Living Programs for youth ages 12 through 22: Independent living programs provide services for youth and young adults who are troubled, abused, neglected, or adjudicated and lack the attitudes, skills, and resources for independent living.

## **9) Hawaii State Youth Commission**

The Legislature established the Hawaii State Youth Commission (HiYC) through Act 106, SLH 2018, "to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State."

The Governor, the Senate President, and the House Speaker nominate 15 HiYC members (ages 14 – 24) to serve as commissioners. Current Commission membership includes Kauai, Oahu, Lanai Molokai, Maui, and Hawaii island representation.

HiYC Commissioners are provided training and opportunities, using the Aloha Spirit statute as a foundation for developing communication and leadership skills and knowledge and competence as youth advocates through legislative processes. In addition, youth Commissioners have many opportunities to connect with and collaborate with other programs, boards, community organizations, and stakeholders on youth and related community issues. The Youth Commission submits a separate report at the end of each fiscal year.

## **10) Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF)**

HYCF is a 30-bed facility that provides custody, care, and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders who have committed serious or violent law violations. Youth who do not require secure confinement at HYCF may be placed in appropriate community-based programs that meet the needs of the youth without jeopardizing the public's safety. HYCF strives to provide programs and services that will aid and prepare the youth for reintegration back into the community. These include but are not limited to the programs and services listed below.

### Olomana School (DOE)

This school follows the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) school calendar and provides summer school for the youth. Olomana School educates the youth at HYCF from 5th to 12th grade, depending on where they are in their present grade level. The teachers are highly trained and qualified in their assigned subject areas and teach using the Hawaii Common Core curriculum. At the facility, these subjects are provided to the youth: English, Math, Social Studies, Science, Art, Culinary Arts, Health, Guidance, Physical Education, Credit Recovery, and Special Education. Special education and 504 plans are implemented for students who qualify. Olomana School also offers technical education, including industry-standard wood and welding shops. Each student earns credits for promotion from one grade level to the next to

work towards acquiring a high school diploma. Olomana School also provides other activities such as quarterly sports tournaments, district woods, and culinary competitions, art and music exhibitions, and cultural days. Students can also participate in job training and internships on and off campus.

### Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) works with DOE high schools such as Olomana School to assist eligible participants with physical, mental, or emotional disabilities in preparing for, obtaining, maintaining, or regaining employment. At HYCF/Olomana School, students with a diagnosed physical, mental, or behavioral disability apply for DVR services through the transition coordinator at Olomana School. Nearly all of the HYCF/Olomana School students have a diagnosed disability, as evidenced by their Individualized Educational Program (Special Education), their 504 Plan, or their Mental Health Evaluation, which qualifies them for DVR's Pre-Employment Transition Services (mini DVR program). This mini version of the DVR program provides the following five services to students from age 14:

1. Job exploration counseling,
2. Work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after-school opportunities, experiences outside of the traditional school setting, and/or internships,
3. Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational programs,
4. Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living, and
5. Instruction in self-advocacy.

Lanakila Pacific is the employment service that provides job coaching and employment classes and basically does the legwork to get our kids into jobs when they leave. The paychecks that students receive come from Lanakila Pacific and are funded by DVR.

Prior to their release, we have the wards apply for the full DVR services so they can receive all the benefits and concrete support, such as a cell phone with monthly phone cards, clothing for work/interviews, tools/tech for jobs, shoes/safety items, etc. DVR can also pay for training or college tuition, etc. To apply for full DVR services, HYCF social workers obtain vital documents and state ID, the Department of Health's (DOH) Family Court Liaison Branch (FCLB) completes the DVR psych form, and the transition coordinator (Olomana School) completes the application. The transition coordinator sets up several transition meetings with the student, social worker, probation officer (PO), Lanakila Pacific, DVR, and the programs, if applicable, to ensure that the student's plan is solidified. Kazu from Lanakila Pacific meets with the students/wards to start applying for jobs, develop a resume, conduct a career interest inventory, and counsel them on their responsibilities when they are released. Within the first week of their release, Kazu meets with them to coach them on how to get to their job, call in sick, etc.

### Teens Outreach Program (TOP)

HYCF staff facilitate the 12-month program (divided into six-month cycles) that promotes the positive development of adolescents through curriculum-guided, interactive group discussions, positive adult guidance and support, and community service learning. It is designed to meet the developmental needs of middle and high school youths. The Teens Outreach Program can be facilitated in various settings, including in-school and after-school, through community-based organizations, or in systems and institutional settings, including residential facilities.

This evidence-based program integrates three core components: (1) TOP is an interactive curriculum that adult facilitators use during weekly group meetings. The curriculum includes problem-solving, emotional regulations, goal setting, health, and wellness. TOP was designed to be effective across different cultural backgrounds and sensitive to the trauma that participants have experienced. (2) Teens could give back to their communities and practice the skills they were taught by engaging in community service learning. These events give the youth a sense of community connectedness, confidence, and purpose. (3) Caring, responsive, and knowledgeable trained facilitators provide support and coaching inside and outside these group meetings.

### Victim Impact Classes (VIC)

HYCF staff facilitate VIC, which is designed to provide a victim's perspective. VIC is a 13-unit program that is built around ten core crime topics: Property Crime, Assault, Robbery, Hate and Bias, Gang Violence, Sexual Assault, Child Abuse and Neglect, Domestic Violence, Drunk and Impairment Driving, and Homicide. It is designed for committed youth to engage with victims of crime with the precept of providing victims with a chance to voice their experiences and the impact of crime on them as a focal point for the youth. VIC identifies any individual who can become a crime victim, as victimization causes a ripple effect throughout the community. By meeting with victims, juveniles can change their thinking and behavior; all juveniles must make amends to their victims directly or indirectly. The goals for the community are to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles being re-committed to adult corrections and gain empathy for the crimes they committed against their victims.

### Mental Health Support Services

The FCLB is a part of the DOH's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD). FCLB provides direct clinical mental health services to the youth at HYCF. The FCLB meets with the youth at HYCF at least weekly for approximately 45-minute to 1-hour sessions. They work with the youth using client-centered, trauma-informed care, emotion-focused, cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and anger management skill building. The therapist also works with the youth on safety plans and building social, coping, and emotional skills to address their thinking and judgment skills of others and themselves. FCLB also provides medication monitoring for youth who need medications for psychiatric diagnosis and to adjust while being in confinement. FCLB facilitates treatment team meetings for the youth and attends the monthly multidisciplinary team meetings to discuss the youth's progress.

### Hōkū Group Services

The Hōkū Group Services Program offers weekly therapeutic group sessions for youth, providing skills, knowledge, and connection in a safe space. Youth who participate may have multiple risk factors and vulnerabilities and may have been identified as victims of exploitation. Often, Hōkū provides continuity for youth who move between facilities as they navigate a space to heal.

Hōkū groups provide youth opportunities to express and process their thoughts and emotions. Sessions are designed to be fun and engaging, with the purpose of empowering and building resilience. The aim is always to support youth where they're "at" – however they're feeling, in whatever situation they find themselves. These factors are paramount in the recovery of trauma survivors. Sessions include psychoeducational and therapeutic activities focused on increasing self-worth and social safety, the power of choice, exploring one's identity and communication skills, and promoting self-empowerment. Activities focus on healthy forms of expression through discussion, art, critical thinking, and movement-based activities. Hōkū recognizes the importance of culture in one's healing and facilitates activities and discussions related to the various cultural backgrounds of Hawaii.

### Starfish Mentoring Program

The Starfish Mentoring Program (SMP) provides care to high-risk, vulnerable youth who have a confirmed history of exploitation. The program supports youth between 11 and 24 years of age who are male, female, or LGBTQIA+, regardless of the level of disclosure. Participants are matched with a safe, trusted adult and engage in meaningful activities that guide the youth toward self-efficacy and empowered living. Studies show that one consistent, trusted adult in a young person's life is key to building healthy relationships and achieving life goals.

Mentors meet with youth for two hours weekly in their communities, foster care placements or facilities. They follow youth from placement to placement and commit to their mentee for at least one year. Activities are based on the youths' goals and interests, empowering their voice and choices. Some experiences include hiking, sharing a meal, playing games, going to the beach, and career exploration. Mentors are trained in trauma-informed care to meet the complex needs of children who have experienced trauma. Through empathy, connection, and established trust, mentors can support youth throughout their path to healing.

### Girls Circle

The program provides support groups for girls and gender-expansive youth. The circle allows the youths to express themselves further through creative or focused activities such as role-playing, journaling, media, murals, poetry, drama, movement, drawing, collage, clay, visualization, and imagery. The topics are introduced which relate to the girls' and young women's lives, such as being a girl, trusting ourselves, friendships, body image, goals, sexuality, drugs, alcohol, social media, and decision-making. They also offer support for mothers and their daughters.



### The Council for Boys and Young Men

The program is a strengths-based group approach to encourage boys and young men's safe and healthy passage through the pre-teen and young adult years. The boys have the opportunity to address masculine definitions and behaviors and build capacities to identify value and create who they are.

### Forward Thinking Pre/Post Transition Services

Forward Thinking is a cognitive-behavioral journaling program that incorporates Motivational Interviewing and the Transtheoretical Model (TTM) of behavior change. It is facilitated by Hale Kipa staff and designed to assist youth in the criminal justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Participants apply the information presented in the Interactive Journals to their own lives to achieve their goals for responsible living. To evaluate the program's effectiveness, facilitators administer a pre-test and post-test to assess whether participants have understood and retained the information. The Interactive Journals address topics such as examining the consequences of past decisions, identifying influences, fostering positive attitudes for successful change, promoting responsible behavior, increasing victim awareness, and preparing for reentry. Upon completing the program, Hale Kipa develops a transition plan for each participant, supports their reintegration into the community, and provides post-release services to enhance their chances of long-term success.

### Youth Outreach Program (YOP) Substance Abuse Program – (HYCF)

The Youth Outreach Program (YOP) is a Child & Family Service program contracted by the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD). The program provides substance abuse counseling to youth committed at HYCF. YOP delivers individual and group counseling designed to strengthen youth resilience by addressing self-awareness, self-esteem, problem-solving skills, coping skills, peer relationships, substance use education and counseling, and learning to make healthy and positive personal decisions. The program is three months and extends based on the youth's treatment needs and level of care. Treatment continues to support youth during the transition into the community. The individual sessions focus on increasing healthy lifestyle skills and decreasing damaging behaviors. The substance abuse treatment plan covers Self-Management Skills, Reduction of Alcohol and Other Drug use, Positive use of Leisure time, Service to the Community, and Positive Relationships. The parents are encouraged to participate in the youth's recovery and are offered outreach services to receive education and support.

### Trauma Informed Care for Youth (TIC)

This Pu'a Foundation program provides services for the youth through an evidence-based curriculum impacting structural inequity and is responsive to the unique needs of diverse communities. TIC intersects in many different ways with culture, history, race, gender, location, and language from the unique response for improving the standard care for traumatized children, families, organizations, communities, and partnerships. The program assists youths in developing and creating life changes by reducing the adverse impact of trauma and increasing awareness of promotive factors that can reduce the negative effects of trauma.

### Employment Services

Lanakila Employment Services, contracted by the DHS DVR, provides training and work experience to youths committed at HYCF. Lanakila takes an individualized approach to helping youths with disabilities by providing access to workshops, skills training, and job coaching. As part of the re-entry to the community, Lanakila connects youths with local employers to offer them hands-on, real-world experience in a job. The youths also learn the essential components of obtaining and maintaining competitive employment.

### HYCF Work Program

Youths earn through good behavior to participate in the on-Job Training Program in a facility that supports operations such as maintenance, auto mechanic, farming and ranching, Call Center, and food service. All earnings will be paid to restitution, and excess funds will be saved to assist with re-entry into the community.

### Kapili Like

Kapili Like is a workforce program development rooted in Hawaiian values. Youths are immersed in the kauhale of wrap-around services, including GED and career pathway support, social services referrals, counseling, leadership development, and community service engagement. The program offered the youths the following education/certification: Construction, Sustainable Agriculture, Automotive, Transportation, Renewable energy, and Future entrepreneurship.

### Dream Navigator

This Alu Like program provides services to Native Hawaiian, Native American Indian, and Alaska Native youth at HYCF. The program offers a 6-unit curriculum on a journey of self-discovery, encouraging life, career, and academic success. The curriculum assists youth with finding their direction in life success and achieving their short- and long-term goals. It will provide a 1-year license to the Dream Navigator Career Planning System. Youths are assessed through a qualification process (i.e., vital documents, low-income verification, and education credentials). Eligible youth will be placed in a classroom training activity and will have one year to complete the six modules. Youth will be compensated with an incentive payment award (\$200) for completing each module.

### Financial Literacy

Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union provides financial literacy lessons to the youths. The youths learn to budget effectively, prioritize to avoid financial strain, build credit, and plan for emergencies. The program's key objectives are Imparting knowledge and understanding of financial concepts, banking/financial products, and services. The program aims to develop skills and attitudes toward budgeting, savings, investment, debt management, financial negotiation, rights, and obligations. The program facilitates behavioral changes and practices to improve financial outcomes, including financial well-being through increased savings, improved debt management, and perceived financial stress or satisfaction.

Figure 4 below shows youth admissions to HYCF between FY08 through FY24. As a result of juvenile justice reform and increased program services, inter-agency coordination, and system improvements, commitments to HYCF have been reduced by 86% from 2009 to 2022.

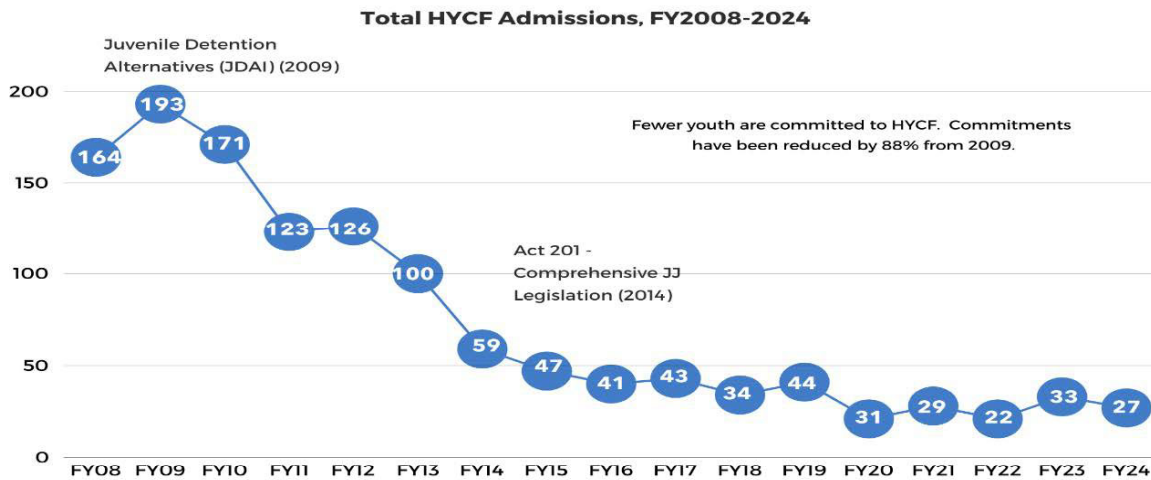


Figure 4. Total HYCF Admissions, fy2008-2024; Department of the Attorney General, Juvenile Justice Information System, 2008-2015, and Office of Youth Services, Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility Admissions data, 2008-2024.

Figure 5 below shows the recidivism rates of minors re-adjudicated as minors 12 months after release from HYCF. The data shows an average recidivism rate of 19.8% 12 months post-discharge. Recidivism rates at the juvenile level decreased from 2016 through 2018 but increased again in 2019. The reason for this is unknown.

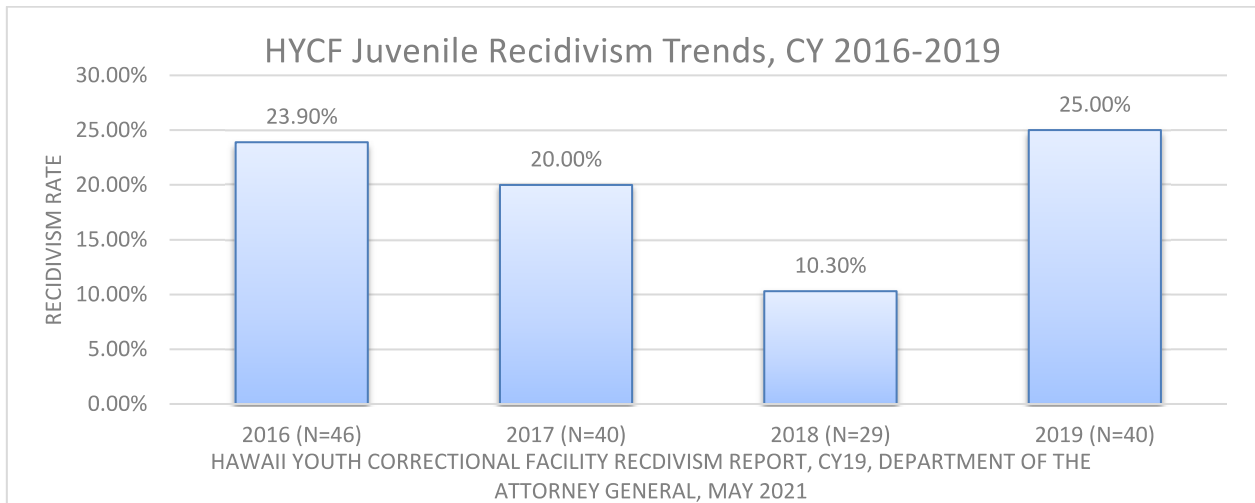


Figure 5. HYCF Juvenile Recidivism Trends, CY2016-2019.

Figure 6 shows the recidivism rates of minors released from HYCF who recidivated as adults 12 months after release. The data shows an average recidivism rate of 12.8% at the 12-

month follow-up. Recidivism rates at the adult level decreased from 9 in 2016 to 1 in 2019, an 88.9% decrease.

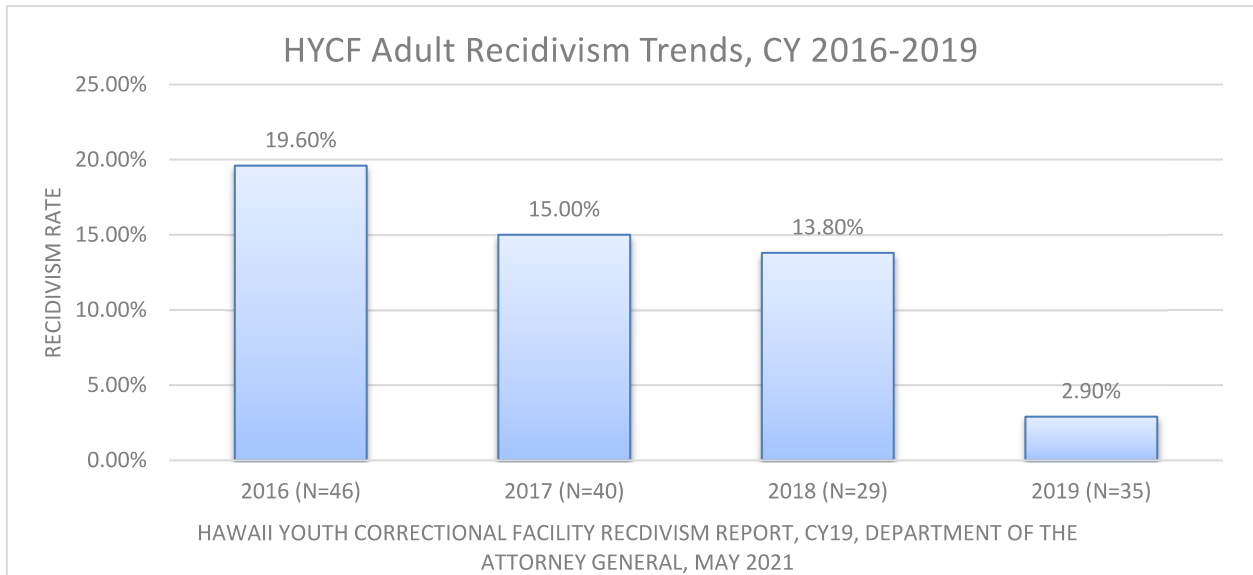


Figure 6. HYCF Adult Recidivism Trends, FY2016-2019

### 11) Kawailoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC)

Hawaii's juvenile justice system has been engaged in efforts to implement a therapeutic, restorative framework of policies and resources to support youth for decades. We are nearing 50 years since the submission of the first Juvenile Justice Plan to the Hawaii State Legislature in January 1975.<sup>1</sup> The establishment of the OYS by the Legislature in 1989 is evidence of Hawaii's recognition of the special needs of youth who far too often have struggled to adjust and adapt from an early age "as victims of neglect and abuse in families burdened with many problems."<sup>2</sup> In 2009, Hawai'i entered into a national campaign supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), that aimed to reduce the inappropriate use of detention as a response to juvenile delinquency.

By 2014, changes in mindset and practice resulted in a significant and sustained decrease in the number of youth detained and incarcerated in Hawaii. These changes presented a strong case for further reforms. Act 201, SLH 2014, improved probation practices, codifying limitations for youth placement at HYCF, and requiring re-entry plans for youth released from HYCF. As a result of Act 201, further declines in court filings, probation placements, and youth confinement were realized.

<sup>1</sup> See Act 303, Sessions Laws of Hawaii, 1980; the Hawaii Juvenile Justice Plan of 1974, supplements, and subsequent updates.

<sup>2</sup> The Legislative Auditor of the State of Hawaii, *Management Audit of the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility*, Report No. 86-15 (Honolulu, December 1986), 3.

The Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) at HYCF was established by Act 208, SLH 2018, as the next step in the State's effort to transform the juvenile justice system. Over the past six years, partners have been working together to develop a model for a system that centers healing and leads to improved community safety. The HYCF Administrator, who manages KYFWC, has engaged partners to co-locate public and private (i.e., community-based) youth-serving organizations on the KYFWC campus. The eight primary objectives and the corresponding evidence of progress and impact at KYFWC are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. KYFWC Objectives and Evidence of Progress and Impact

Objectives	Timeline & Evidence of Progress/Impact
1. Collaborating on effective community-based programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2018-2024</u>: Co-location of private services at KYFWC (described in Table 2 below), program refinement, adaptation, and expansion; preliminary cross-campus evaluation and data-tracking developed</li> </ul>
2. Engaging youth, families and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2021-2024</u>: Families in Training (FIT) workouts hosted by Kinai ‘Eha have enhanced intergenerational well-being through prosocial, healthy activities that promote community-building.</li> <li>▪ <u>2023-2024</u>: Kawaiiloa Pilina Builders formed a cross-campus team of program staff who planned and implemented engagement events for youth, staff, families, and community members (e.g., learning trips to local cultural sites; a Kawaiiloa staff appreciation event and La Ho‘iho‘i Ea celebration)</li> <li>▪ <u>2024</u>: Developed and refined parent support component of the Ho‘okanaka diversion program at Kupa ‘Aina Farm</li> </ul>
3. Supporting Judiciary Diversionary Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2020-2024</u>: Partnership with Family Court 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Youth Accountability Program – Kupa ‘Aina Farm as a community service and cultural learning site</li> <li>▪ <u>2023-2024</u>: Planning and implementation with Family Court 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Juvenile Diversion Unit of the culturally relevant Ho‘okanaka diversion program at Kupa ‘Aina Farm</li> </ul>
4. Ending the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians within the juvenile justice system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2021-2024</u>: Partnership with Kellogg Foundation to plan for and develop a Transformative Indigenous Model of culturally grounded, community-based therapeutic alternatives to youth incarceration</li> </ul>
5. Ending institutionalization for Hawaii’s youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2018-2024</u>: Partnership with Vera Institute to End Girl’s Incarceration [Verify timeline with Mark]</li> </ul>

Objectives	Timeline & Evidence of Progress/Impact
6. Keeping youth and young adults out of adult prisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2021-2024</u>: Diversion of young adults from Oahu Community Corrections Center to restorative shelters at KYFWC with supportive services, including education and employment resources by Kinai ‘Eha and RYSE</li> </ul>
7. Empowering community efforts in aftercare and re-entry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2018-2024</u>: Relationship building through community-based networks has expanded the referrals and connections available for youth re-entering the community after release from HYCF or OCCC. Kinai ‘Eha and RYSE have developed solid relationships with educational partners to help youth access higher education opportunities and to meet potential local employers willing to provide additional support to help youth learn, grow, and thrive. RYSE has expanded transitional housing options for young adults as they prepare to move out of the shelters at Kawaihoa.</li> </ul>
8. Recognizing and responding to the specialized needs of youth and young adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>2022-2024</u>: Increased mental and behavioral health supports among partners at Kawaihoa, including but not limited to clinical services, substance use and anger management classes, music lessons, and cultural identity formation and affirmation through Hawaiian language and protocols.</li> </ul>

KYFWC has successfully convened key organizations that provide on-site services on its 500-acre campus. Over the past six years, KYFWC has made steady progress and began implementing the paradigm shift by starting a cultural healing-focused program, building staff skills and capacity, and increasing staff and youth access to intervention resources and educational and vocational opportunities. Initiatives to assist with the evaluation of programs include establishing and providing data collection to demonstrate the impact, success, and learning of all KYFWC partners. Staff, volunteers, off-campus partners, and youth leaders engage in training in cultural approaches to become advocates for the State and private funders to invest in youth through resources for cultural healing, trauma-informed care, and mental health awareness. Below is a list of the programs on the KYFWC Campus (in addition to HYCF).

Table 2. KYFWC Programs and Services

Program	Services Provided at KYFWC
1. Hale Lanipōlua Assessment Center (HLAC)	This program is intended to provide services for commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) who need a place to stabilize, develop tools, and set goals before moving to supportive programs. Hale Kipa provided this service on the Kawaihoa campus until August 2023, then

Program	Services Provided at KYFWC
	relocated its programming to Ewa Beach. In FY2024, OYS/CSEC services have not been based at KYFWC, although partnership development has been underway with off-campus providers such as Ho'ola Na Pua.
2. Hale Mololani	Vocational and educational training program for disconnected youth ages 16-24 with educational challenges and a history of substance abuse. The program assists youth seeking a safe place to learn, positive relationships with themselves and mentors, mental and behavioral health services, and career and life skill development. Kinai 'Eha has been providing workforce training at KYFWC since 2018 and expanded to offer transitional shelter in late 2021. The Hale Ka Hana shelter primarily houses young adults ages 18-24 diverted from the O'ahu Community Correctional Center who commit to the highly structured, culturally-informed workforce development program.
3. Hale Apuakea	Temporary, transitional shelter for homeless street youth ages 18-24. Includes a daily drop-in center for homeless minors and young adults and provides mental health, healthcare, diversion support services, and vocational opportunities. RYSE also supports youth to plan for transition to independent living off-campus. RYSE has been providing these services at KYWFC since 2018.
4. Kupu `Āina	Kupu `Āina is an on-site five-acre natural farm that uses Aloha `Aina ("love of the land") as an intervention to heal youth, families, and communities. Kupu `Āina hosts community workdays and Farm-to-Table workshops, and alternative education activities and launched a court diversion program in partnership with the Court Judges and Diversion Unit in 2024. Kupa 'Aina donates harvested produce to KYFWC partners and the community. Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) has been providing this service at KYWFC since 2018.
5. Olomana School	Olomana School provides alternative education within the DOE and serves the daily public education needs of youth committed at HYCF.

In FY24, these partners served 371 youth (unduplicated individuals) on our Kawaiiloa campus.

## 12) Federal Grant Programs

Federally funded programs have been strategically developed to strengthen and improve the juvenile justice system while aligning with the priorities promoted at the federal level. The primary aim of federally funded programs is to divert youth from pathways that lead to detention or incarceration, thereby fostering more supportive and rehabilitative settings. By integrating evidence-based practices and collaborating with local organizations, federal funds are an added resource that supports interventions, including mental health services, educational support, and community engagement initiatives, all of which foster positive youth development.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act, enacted by Congress in 1974, serves to protect and promote the well-being of youth within the juvenile justice system. The JJDP Administrator has steadily emphasized three key priorities to advance justice reform: treat children as children, serve young people at home with their families and in their communities, and create opportunities for system-involved youth. The missions of DHS and OYS are aligned with and support these priorities at both state and local levels.

As outlined in sections 571-32(k) and 352F-5(b), HRS, OYS is the designated state entity responsible for administering the JJDP Act. OYS not only functions as an administrative body but also plays a vital role in overseeing and managing federal grant programs provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

This role also involves ensuring that the State complies with the Act's requirements to secure funding from the OJJDP. Compliance with the JJDP Act not only affords financial support for juvenile justice programs but also safeguards the State against potential civil litigation regarding the conditions of confinement.

The funding provided, particularly through the Title II Formula Grants Program, enables the State to fulfill the core requirements established by the JJDP Act. The core mandates of the JJDP Act emphasize the deinstitutionalization of status offenders (DSO), the removal of youths from adult jails and lockups, the prevention of contact between juvenile and adult offenders, also known as “sight and sound separation,” and the reduction of the disproportionate representation of race and ethnic minority youth within the legal system. Furthermore, federal law also mandates adherence to the standards set by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

The table below highlights the four core requirements along with Hawaii's current status.

Table 3. Core Requirements of the JJDP Act and compliance status.

Core Requirements of the JJDP Act	Compliance Status
<p><b>Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)</b>            Juvenile charges with status offenses, offenses that would not be criminal if committed by an adult, shall not be placed in secure detention or secure correctional facilities. Status</p>	<p>The State is in full compliance with the DSO requirement.</p>



Core Requirements of the JJDP Act	Compliance Status
offenses include but are not limited to truancy, running away, and minors in possession of alcohol.	
<b>Jail and Lockup Removal (JLR)</b> No juvenile shall be securely held in adult jails or lockups. However, under the Reporting Exception, accused law violators may be held for up to six hours for identification, processing, interrogation, transfer to a juvenile facility, or while awaiting release to parents or guardians.	The State is in full compliance with the JLR requirement.
<b>Sight and Sound Separation (SSS)</b> During the temporary period when a juvenile may be securely held in an adult jail and lockup, sight and sound contact are prohibited between the juvenile and adult inmates or trustees.	The State is in full compliance with the SSS requirement.
<b>Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED)</b> The state must identify and analyze race and ethnicity at decision points in the juvenile justice system to determine which points create racial and ethnic disparities among youth who encounter the juvenile justice system. In addition, the state must ensure that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably based on gender, race, ethnicity, family income, and disability.	The Office of Youth Services completed the annual Racial and Ethnic Disparities Plan, which was submitted to the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The State of Hawaii is in full compliance with the R/ED requirement.

Since the 1990s, OYS has made significant progress in improving its operations to comply with federal regulations. The improvements, which involved recruiting a dedicated statewide compliance monitor, primarily focused on meeting the federal mandates outlined above.

The dedicated Compliance Monitor plays a crucial role in overseeing and upholding federal standards. This individual is responsible for managing facility certification, conducting facility inspections across the state, facilitating compliance training, and providing vital technical assistance to various stakeholders.

During the 2024 Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), Hawaii upheld its commitment to the JJDP Act, meeting all core requirements throughout. The data presented in the following tables compares the frequency and rates of DSO and JLR violations over the last five years. It is noteworthy to highlight that there have been no reported SSS violations during this five-year timeframe.

Table 4. Comparison of Number of JDDP Act Compliance Violations from 2020 to 2024

Compliance Violations	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	0	3	0	1	1
Jail and Lockup Removal	0	0	2	2	2

Table 5. Comparison of Rate of Core Requirement Violations from 2020 to 2024

Core Requirements	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	0.00	1.0	0.00	0.03	0.03
Jail and Lockup Removal	0.00	0.00	0.67	0.59	0.30

Although both 2023 and 2024 report the same number of violations, the rates differ due to a change in the calculation method employed by the OJJDP. The new approach involves selecting three states and utilizing their average to determine the rates. Consequently, the figures and rates reported last year have been adjusted.

### Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council

Executive Order 91-4, which superseded Executive Order 91-2, established the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council (JJSAC) as an advisory body to OYS. The JJSAC is charged with implementing the provisions of the amended Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974. In partnership with the JJSAC, OYS addresses the prevention and treatment needs of youth involved in the justice system, ensuring compliance with the core mandates of the JJDP Act while also educating the Governor and the Legislature about juvenile justice reform and best practices.

The JJSAC comprises vetted professionals from government, private, and non-profit sectors, and youth. Guided by foundational values, strategic partnerships, and research-driven insights, the JJSAC has formed five subcommittees focused on specific areas: juvenile justice delinquency prevention, intervention strategies, addressing racial and ethnic disparities, and fostering an equitable system for youth.

In alignment with the 2024-2026 Three-Year State Plan, OYS and JJSAC have identified the following priority areas and goals: Planning and Administration, Compliance, State Advisory Group (SAG), Alternatives to Detention, and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED).

Table 6. OYS & JJSAC FY2024-2026 Goals and Progress

OYS & JJSAC FY2024-2026 Goals	Progress
Goal #1- Sustain and improve programs in specific geographic areas across the State, improve quality assurance measures, and support statewide coordinated efforts.	Ongoing from the previous State Plan

OYS & JJSAC FY2024-2026 Goals	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish a data collection system that can monitor key performance indicators linked to the recidivism rates of young offenders. The goal is to utilize data in guiding the decision-making processes related to policy development, program evaluation, and rehabilitation strategies.</li> <li>b. Gather precise gender-specific data to determine variations in treatment choices and care. Gender-disaggregated data will offer an understanding of the specific needs of young men, young women, and non-binary youth.</li> <li>c. Evaluate how factors such as sex/gender identity intersect with other social factors (e.g., race, class) that will help to improve services for marginalized populations who may face discrimination or exclusion based on their identities.</li> <li>d. Sustain and offer support to existing community-based prevention and intervention programs through collaboration, policy adjustments, and advocating for resources within state legislation.</li> </ul>	
<p>Goal #2- Address gaps in policy and program areas that include a holistic framework in the planning and evaluating prevention and intervention programs that account for generational poverty and trauma, cultural/ethnic differences, and dual-diagnosis assessments and care for mental health and substance use.</p>	<p>OYS has met with partnering agencies and participated in policy group discussions.</p>
<p>Goal #3- Address inaccuracies/missing data at key decision points such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Revisiting how race/ethnicity is identified at each decision point.</li> <li>b. Hold discussions on whether departments/agencies across the system use the same protocol for identifying and documenting.</li> <li>c. Develop strategies and make recommendations on accurate identification and recording of race and ethnicity.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing from the previous State Plan. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJSAC) R/ED sub-committee and prevention committee, in partnership with OYS, has taken on this task.</p>
<p>Goal #4- Join forces with Hawaii Judiciary, Family Court, police departments, and partnering agencies to address gaps in policy and program practices statewide. A holistic approach in program planning, evaluation, and intervention will provide alignment in addressing the needs of youth and reducing disparities at each stage</p>	<p>Ongoing from the previous State Plan</p>

OYS & JJSAC FY2024-2026 Goals	Progress
of the criminal justice system. Additionally, address Act 201 requirements regarding mandatory reporting from Family Court.	
<p>Goal #5- Collaborate with non-profit/private community partnering agencies and government agencies to heighten diversion efforts statewide.</p> <p>Activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Define/develop a statewide definition of diversion.</li> <li>b. Create evaluation methods and processes to monitor outcomes.</li> <li>c. Develop diversion programs in communities where disparities exist.</li> <li>d. Focus on policy implementation, practice, and system improvements.</li> <li>e. Revisit and update past MOU/MOAs between juvenile justice leaders to produce a cohesive way of reporting data elements.</li> </ol>	Ongoing from the previous State Plan
<p>Goal #6- Identify Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities who experience disproportionate social factors that are associated with poverty and homelessness. Research and review literature reveal that communities associated with poverty, housing, low employment, and mediocre healthcare generally result in higher rates of crime.</p>	Ongoing from the previous plan. OYS will reach out to partnering agencies in collaboration to address these social factors.
<p>Goal #7- Collaborate with the Juvenile State Advisory Council (JJSAC) in conducting regular analysis of R/ED across the juvenile justice system and provide education and technical assistance to the community, legislatures, judiciary circuits, and police departments.</p>	Ongoing from the previous plan. OYS has recently appointed a Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator to support these efforts.
<p>Goal #8- Ensure and maintain compliance with the three core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended: Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO); Jail and Lockup Removal (JLR); Sight and Sound Separation (SSS) of youth offenders from adult criminal offenders.</p>	Accomplished

The Title II State Advisory Group (SAG) allocation supports the work of the JJSAC and its Subcommittees. More than seventy-five percent of Title II funds are provided to public and private/nonprofit organizations to reduce juvenile crime and increase positive youth development in Hawaii communities. The Alternatives to Detention Programs is critical in the continuum of prevention and intervention. The federally funded programs serve over 300 youth involved in the justice system, ages 10-17 years old.

### **In response to HRS 367D-6-8, Gender Responsive Programs for Female Youth.**

The 2006 Hawaii State Legislature mandated through section 367D-6, HRS, that the OYS collaborate with the Departments of Human Services, Health, Labor, and Industrial Relations, and Education, as well as the representatives of the private sector, to develop a comprehensive continuum of care to address the gender-responsive needs of female adjudicated youth. Section 367D-7, HRS, also requires that the OYS shall foster a gender-responsive environment by providing model gender-responsive programs for female adjudicated youth, and section 367D-8, HRS, further requires that OYS report on the following areas: program descriptions, type, and costs of contracts made, name of the private agency awarded each contract, and the success of each contract in meeting program specifications.

Through our Ending Girl's Incarceration Initiative, OYS continues to increase gender responsiveness, programs and services, and opportunities for juvenile females to succeed and remain free of the juvenile justice system.

### **Ending Girl's Incarceration Initiative**

In 2017, Hawaii was one of five jurisdictions the Vera Institute chose to receive technical support in the nationwide initiative to End Girl's Incarceration. This project results from alarming numbers of girls being committed for low-level offenses to protect their safety or address their needs that have gone unmet within the community. Ending girls' incarceration will require a continuum of strong and effective gender and culturally responsive community-based services that meet girls' needs established within their community, allowing them to live healthily and safely. The core values of this project are:

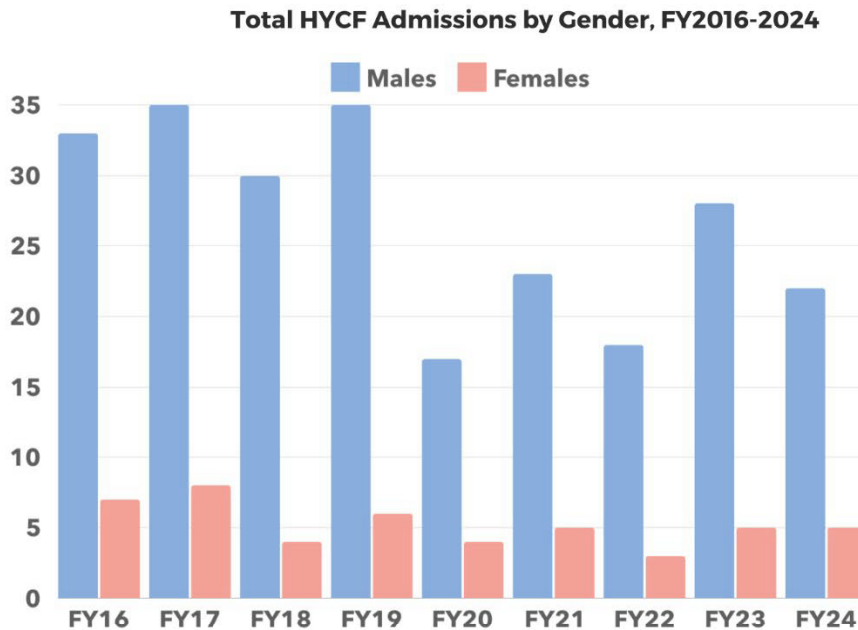
- Priority on strategies that promote healing and equality for girls and Lesbian, Gay, and Bi-Sexual (LGB) and Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) youth and youth of color.
- Gender-responsive means culturally responsive.
- Youth and family voices are integral to success.
- All girls have the right to self-determination, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to be valued as experts in their own lives, and
- Necessary changes require local leaders to identify and address local solutions.

## Girl's Incarceration in Hawaii: What We Know

The partnership with the Vera Institute included several research studies evaluating data on girls' involvement with the juvenile justice system. This research found that most of the girls and gender-expansive youth entering Hawaii's youth justice system pose no threat to public safety. Instead, youth are confined or placed on probation as a vehicle to connect them to needed services as services are limited or in an attempt to keep them safe from harm. Perversely, existing funding streams often limit or restrict access to services, creating a pathway for girls to enter the justice system to access the most intensive resources. At the same time, Hawaii's most vulnerable girls and gender-expansive youth end up in multiple systems and, as a result, are in contact with multiple adults who are responsible for various aspects of their well-being.

For example, a girl experiencing trafficking may have professionals assigned to her case from each agency: a case manager from a provider working with trafficked youth, a social worker from CWS, a probation officer from the Judiciary, a dedicated behavioral specialist from CAMHD, a social worker at a provider working with transitional housing, among others. As a result, coordination across systems and between providers is challenging, and caseworkers within one system are not always aware of the full slate of resources available within other systems. In addition, individual providers are often responsible for doing outreach and advocacy within systems to access the level of care girls need, while restrictive eligibility requirements – based on the funding source – limit what is accessible. Meanwhile, navigating multiple systems can be overwhelming, confusing, and challenging for young people and their families, who are often concurrently experiencing or healing from trauma.

In SFY22, Hawaii received national attention for being the first state-run facility in the country to achieve zero girls committed at a state juvenile correctional facility. HYCF saw eighty (80) days of zero girls committed. This attention to the needs of girls involved in juvenile justice began in 2004 with the establishment of Girl's Court under the innovative leadership of Circuit Court Judge Karen Radius (ret.). This historic accomplishment has taken over 20 years of collaborative efforts on the part of juvenile justice reform advocates, including the First Family Court leadership and judges, and the leadership of the OYS, HYCF, DOH CAMHD, and DHS Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) administrators, in addition to many community-based organizations and other partners.



**2022:  
ZERO  
GIRLS**  
80 DAYS

In FY25, OYS will continue working with system partners to develop solutions to decrease risk factors and increase program services for girls involved in or at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system.

**In response to Act 130, SLH 2022. the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program**

The Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program (Act 130, SLH 2022) created the opportunity for the OYS to establish:

1. An inter-agency safe spaces pilot program, and
2. Physical safe spaces for youth, ages 14 to 17 and 18 to 24 years old, in each county for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

Participating agencies include, but are not limited to, the DOE, DOH, DHS, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR), the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), and county police departments. OYS is tasked with coordinating the departments and agencies in identifying youth or young adults experiencing homelessness and placing them at a shelter for homeless youth or young adults.

Act 130 authorizes OYS to contract with knowledgeable, experienced, qualified, and licensed nonprofit organizations to operate shelters for homeless youth. Notwithstanding any other law, a contracted shelter may admit a youth into the shelter’s care for up to ninety (90) days without the consent of the youth’s parent or guardian. The OYS will propose an administrative

measure to make the pilot program a permanent program within OYS to finalize a program framework and implement a plan to accomplish the intent of Act 130.

In FY23, the first year of the project, OYS met with community partners, assessed shelter bed availability and needs, increased funding and capacity for minor residential beds, researched local and national best practices, and designed the project plan. OYS partnered with the Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) to plan and facilitate the implementation of the National Safe Place (NSP) program in Hawaii. NSP provides access points for youth to get help wherever they see a yellow Safe Place sign. In 2023, meetings and presentations were held with agencies across the state to develop an implementation plan.

In March 2023, NSP representatives conducted onsite training with HYSN. NSP and HYSN participated in a collaborative conference for almost 200 government and community-based organization personnel interested in Hawaii's Safe Spaces program.

In FY24, efforts focused on recruiting and training Safe Place sites, establishing both Text4Help and phone numbers for youth to call for help, Safe Place site training, and project outreach. In July 2024, the Safe Spaces project officially launched on Oahu and Hawaii Island with a joint DHS and HYSN media release. On Oahu, Hale Kipa serves as the Safe Place provider. On Hawaii Island, the Salvation Army serves as the Safe Place provider. Both agencies will respond to youth calls and text messages through the Safe Place program 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since its launch, this project has been met with favorable attention from several news agencies and community-based organizations requesting to be a part of this project to help homeless youth.

With the sunset of this pilot due on June 30, 2025, OYS recommends it become a permanent program. While the project took some time to plan, develop, and implement, it has grown significantly with successful outreach to expand Safe Place sites where youth know they can go to receive help and transportation to a Safe Spaces shelter. As the State only has one homeless shelter specifically for young adults ages 18 to 24 years old on Oahu, it is further recommended that the Legislature appropriate funds to OYS to procure services to open a second homeless shelter for this age group on Hawaii Island.

**In response to House Resolution 180, HD1 (SLH 2024), Requesting the Department of Human Services to Report on the Cultural and Therapeutic Services Provided by Community-Based Organizations at the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center.**

In 2014, Act 201 represented the culmination of the cross-sector Hawaii Juvenile Justice Working Group and the Pew Charitable Trust, which set a paradigm shift from punitive models toward rehabilitation through therapeutic programs and other alternative approaches to incarceration. The shift toward diversionary programs resulted in a large reduction in the juvenile incarcerated population. Commitments of youth to HYCF have been reduced by 77% from 2009 (193 vs 43).



Juvenile Justice Reform in Hawaii enhances public safety, as indicated in 2018 by the 75% decrease in the number of felony petitions filed. (See Juvenile Justice Reform Annual Results and Update, Hawaii JDAI Executive Committee, January 8, 2018).

The Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) at HYCF was established by Act 208 in 2018 as the next step in the State's effort to transform the juvenile justice system. Over the past six years, partners have been working together to develop a model for a system that centers healing and leads to improved community safety. The HYCF Administrator, who manages KYFWC, has engaged partners to co-locate public and private (i.e., community-based) youth-serving organizations on the KYFWC campus.

### KYFWC Mission

The idea of creating a campus where multiple state agencies and community non-profits collaborate in providing programs for the most vulnerable at-risk youth and young adult populations that still are falling through the Juvenile Justice System (JJS) reform efforts has materialized. The specific youth communities targeted for services are victims (minors) of sex trafficking, youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, vocational training for youth and young adults, and residential mental health programming for youth.

The purpose of the KYFWC is best described in the following principles:

- Supporting State Judiciary Diversionary Programs,
- Ending Institutionalization for Hawaii's youth,
- Ending the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiian youth within the JJS,
- Keep youth and young adults out of adult prisons,
- Engagement of youth families and communities,
- Empower community efforts in aftercare and re-entry,
- Recognize and provide for youth and young adults with specialized needs, and
- Collaborate on effective community-based programs.

Since the implementation of our Kawaiiloa Campus vision in 2018, there has been tremendous positive growth and obstacles, including the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact on youth and young adult mental health and homelessness. The combined programmatic work of Kawaiiloa partners has developed a profile of all the youth and young adults on campus that has shown an increase in mental health concerns. To understand the mental health crisis, we must begin to look at the factors that shape the social determinants of health for our most vulnerable youth and young adults and their families in Hawaii today:

1. Society  
Social and economic inequalities, discrimination, racism, migration, media and technology, popular culture, and government policies.
2. Environment  
Neighborhood Safety, access to green spaces, healthy food, housing, health care, pollution, natural disasters, climate change.

3. Community  
Relationships with peers, teachers, and mentors; faith community, school climate, academic pressure, and community support.
4. Family  
Relationships with parents, caregivers, and siblings, family mental health, financial stability, domestic violence, and trauma.
5. Individual  
Age, genetics, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, beliefs, knowledge, attitudes, and coping skills.

In addition to these factors is understanding this generation's COVID-19 pandemic experiences where it has been documented that certain social groups' mental health was challenged:

1. Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islander youth who reported increased stress due to COVID-19-related hate and harassment;
2. Low-income youth who faced economic, educational, and social disruption (for example, losing access to free school lunches or not having adequate equipment and resources to attend online school);
3. LGBTQ+ youth who lost access to school-based services and were sometimes confined to homes where they were not supported or accepted;
4. Youth in rural areas who faced additional challenges in participating in school or accessing mental health services (for example, due to limited connectivity);
5. Youth in migrant or immigrant households who faced language and technology barriers to accessing mental health services and education; and
6. Special youth populations, including youth involved with JJS or child welfare services, as well as runaway youth and youth experiencing homelessness.

With the profile provided on the current mental health conditions of the most vulnerable youth and their families, Kawailoa is being developed to address the following issues:

1. Recognize that mental health is an essential part of overall health and reduce stigma;
2. Empower youth and their families to recognize, manage, and learn from difficult emotions;
3. Ensure that every child has access to high-quality, affordable, and culturally competent mental health care;
4. Support the mental health of children and youth in educational, community, and child care settings;
5. Address the economic and social barriers that contribute to poor mental health for young people, families, and caregivers;
6. Increase timely data collection and research to identify and respond to youth mental health needs more rapidly.

As noted above, therapeutic services are provided on the Kawailoa campus by many agencies and community-based organizations. The Opportunity Youth Action Hui (OYAH) leads activities

related to the Kellogg Racial Equity 2023 Challenge grant awarded to the Partners In Development Foundation. Below is a summary of activities and achievements.

OYAH partners at Kawaiiloa are creating an indigenous system of support for youth shaped by Hawaiian knowledge and cultural practices. Our work occurs in 3 “streams”: 1) Pu‘uhonua: Healing sanctuary of programs and supports for youth; 2) Kapu Aloha: Healing policies & practices to shift from punitive to restorative approaches; 3) Pilina Ola: Healing partnerships to extend this network of cultural support.

Pu‘uhonua: On our Kawaiiloa campus, healing-centered, culturally grounded programs are being adapted and expanded to support justice-involved youth and those who have experienced other significant life disruptions (e.g., loss of housing or family support, disconnection from school, or unaddressed mental health needs). A nurturing environment of safety and consistency at Kawaiiloa is established through cultural protocols and grounded in relationships with people and place.

OYAH programs welcome youth to form trusting relationships with mentors and peers and regularly scheduled learning and community service activities. Youth who choose to learn the Hawaiian language and values through cultural practices, chants, songs, genealogy, and mo‘olelo (stories) develop skills and tools to strengthen their relationship with this place and reflect on their connection to the land that sustains our lives.

Youth operating from a survival mindset are able to root down and grow by exploring their sense of self and purpose through behavioral health services, educational and employment assessments, job training opportunities, and educational support. Cultural learning experiences serve as stepping stones for youth to gain understanding, practice skills, grow in confidence, and ultimately expand their access to future opportunities.

Kapu Aloha and Pilina Ola: Political and philosophical support for healing practices, policies, and pathways as alternatives to youth incarceration are mobilized through mutual learning and partnership development. At Kawaiiloa, OYAH and HYCF host learning exchanges via campus visits, stakeholder convenings, and training with government agencies, policymakers, funders, schools, and other community-based organizations (CBO). Emerging leaders who show potential to sustain system change are invited to experience culture-based approaches for themselves, often with time spent in ‘āina at the Farm.

Judiciary partners are working with OYAH programs closely to establish diversion referrals from Family and District Courts. RYSE and Kinai ‘Eha actively develop relationships with local employers, assisting youth to better prepare for the expectations and requirements of different career pathways. They also work with employers to have a fuller understanding of the resilience of youth who are working to overcome obstacles to employment in their lives.

To advance restorative and therapeutic policies at the State Legislature, OYAH continues to leverage funding to support the work of a policy team of law students who identify legislative

champions and track and support priority bills each session. Beyond campus, OYS, HYCF, and OYAH leaders and youth share about Kawaihoa at conferences like the Opportunity Youth Forum with the Aspen Institute (OYF-AI).

401 youth received support at Kawaihoa, benefiting from the four new racial equity programs launched by OYAH partners to nurture connections to āina, self, and people.

RYSE piloted a cultural healing program featuring learning trips to introduce youth to ‘āina-based and healing-focused cultural practitioners in different communities. Early evidence suggests that participating youth experience increased motivation (e.g., improved GED class attendance, avoided drug use, applied for jobs). The community-based partnerships are a vital part of a broader network of care, providing social support, connection to ‘āina, and potential employment opportunities.

Kinai ‘Eha piloted workforce development for community response through an Indigenous resource management lens, training youth in efforts to address the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) infestation decimating local crops. Youth assisted local farms, activating over 180 community members in an intergenerational event to capture over 500 CRB specimens.

A pilot program of cross-program Pilina Builders is now part of a more robust infrastructure for communication and coordination, supporting training and cultural learning for staff and youth.

Ho‘okanaka at Kupa ‘Aina began this year as both a program promoting racial equity and a formal diversion pathway established in partnership with the Judiciary. Youth referred to Ho‘okanaka from the Court diversion unit are immersed in culturally relevant ‘āina-based learning and eligible to have their arrest record expunged upon completion.

Improved diversion systems—99 youth engaged with OYAH programs. Beyond Ho‘okanaka, older youth on supervised release from jail accessed support at Kinai ‘Eha and RYSE to meet their court conditions, including culturally relevant job training and/or education. Youth were successful in fulfilling their obligations (e.g., paying restitution), and their efforts were recognized by judges (e.g., shortened probation period).

Forty-eight emerging leaders were trained and mobilized as ambassadors for justice system transformation. As adults stepped back, youth leaders opened national conferences with cultural protocols, led tours for campus visitors, and shared their stories of challenges and healing.

At least 17 partnerships (e.g., PACT, Compassionate Ko‘olaupoko, Luluku Farms) expanded the system of services and resources for youth and staff at Kawaihoa. OYAH partners deepened collaborative relationships this year while continuing to build the 31 partnerships reported in year 1, including national-level collaborations with organizations like PRI, FHI 360, US DOE, OYF-AI, and CJJ.

Four policy wins were powered by nine legislative champions with whom our Policy Team has developed relationships, promoting healing responses for youth: to establish a State Peer Support Specialist Work Group; expand funding for youth wellness and resilience; pilot a Crisis Intervention Diversion Program with DOH; and have DHS report to the State Legislature on Kawaiiloa culturally grounded and healing-centered community programs.

Twenty-four organizations, such as the prosecutor's office, family and district court judges, and probation, are engaged in adapting approaches toward cultural healing.

Understanding the demographics of the current juvenile justice systems, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) are combined as the highest ethnic group with system involvement.

### Future Planning

As Kawaiiloa moves forward into 2025, the following initiatives and collaborations continue:

1. With Legislative funding received in 2019, the HYCF Capitol Improvement Project “Master Plan” will see a final report on recommendations for the restoration and upgrade of the ninety-six-year-old campus. The plan will outline the demolition of aged facilities and the building of new ones to house mental health residential programs for minors, a new young adult homeless structure, Kawaiiloa administration and training building, and renovation of the campus barn and farm area to include office space, program space, storage, and upgrades to water and sewer antiquated systems, parking and lighting expansion.
2. Continued partnership with the Opportunity Youth Action Hui (OYAH) and finalizing lease agreements.
3. We continued discussing with the Governor’s task force on Homelessness to designate Kawaiiloa as a potential site for a Kauhale to house the homeless young adult population aging out of the Judiciary, HYCF, Child Welfare, and CAMDH.
4. We have continued discussions with the Department of Health (CAMDH) and the Department of Human Services (CWS) regarding potential resources to initiate mental health residential programming for vulnerable male and female minors within vacant Kawaiiloa campus structures.
5. Continuation and expansion of Safe Places to provide sanctuaries statewide for homeless youth and young adults.
6. Continued support of Commercially Sexual Exploited Children shelters and programs throughout the state in support of CAMDH, Judiciary, and CWS.
7. Continued support of statewide youth shelters in support of CAMDH, Judiciary, and CWS.
8. Completion of the National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform report on an assessment and evaluation of OYS’ system of care.

## Recommendations

The OYS will continue to work with government, community, and partner organizations and partners to address the needs of youth and families. Additional time is needed to make specific legislative recommendations. The OYS appreciates the legislature's continued support for youth prevention and diversion programs, and requests support for the administration's measure to be approved to make the Safe Spaces program permanent.

## OYS Achievements and Continued Projects:

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 that resulted in Act 201. The law intended to reduce secure confinement, strengthen community supervision, focus resources on practices proven to reduce recidivism, and provide an upfront investment of \$1.26 million for mental health and substance abuse treatment, delinquency interventions, and implementation of the reforms.

Act 201 advanced 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 most significant 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. In addition, 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 SFY22, regular meetings were continued and convened with the Judiciary to sustain practices and continue improvements intended by Act 201.

## **Community Collaboration:**

OYS's work requires a collaborative approach. Collaboration permeates the agency's major programs, including partnerships with DOE, DOH, the Judiciary, the University of Hawaii, and county agencies, including the police, prosecutors, and Mayors' offices. Below are several ways OYS collaborates with other government agencies to serve Hawaii's youth and families.

- **Hawaii 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. In SFY 18, OYS provided funding to expand services to West Hawai'i. However, this contract was canceled following COVID-19 budget reductions. The assessment center offers various services for at-risk youth arrested for status and certain misdemeanor offenses. The assessment center identifies needs and links youth and their families with appropriate services.

- **Oahu**

OYS continued implementing the Ho'opono Mamo diversion program in Kalihi, 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.

- **Maui**

OYS collaborates 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 culturally 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 DOE and serves youth of all ages, including those under 11 who are chronically absent from school or at risk for expulsions.

OYS also responded to requests for shelter beds for sexually exploited children by providing funding to a local shelter.

- **Kauai**

OYS supports the Kauai 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 continued to fund intensive monitoring services for youth on probation in collaboration with Family Court. OYS also expanded services to youth on probation in SFY21 and continued through SFY24.

- **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. Implementing JDAI core strategies helped 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 works 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.

- **Department of Health**

OYS continued collaboration with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division (CAMHD) to provide youth exiting HYCF with intensive mental health services to foster successful reintegration into the community. Many of these youth need intensive mental health services to address their substance abuse and mental health treatment needs. This collaboration also applies to youth referred by the Family Court for consideration before they are committed to the HYCF. Other stakeholders, such as DHS Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) and private community-based agencies, may refer juvenile justice-involved youth for intensive mental health services.

### **Continuing Philosophy and Projects:**

Investing in OYS community-based prevention programs at the front end yields considerable short- and long-term dividends. The resulting benefits to youth, families, and communities include maintaining positive relationships with family and support systems, receiving mental health and substance abuse treatment, reducing youth homelessness, and reducing delinquency behavior and criminal recidivism.

Conversely, reducing resources for these programs can have a detrimental impact on positive outcomes that ultimately contribute to youth continuing further into the juvenile justice system. Programs across all areas of service, especially those providing residential shelter, report receiving youth who have increased behavioral health needs, resulting in the need for more intensive programming and trained staff. As a result, programs are serving fewer children with higher intensity, and OYS has needed to decrease the number of contracts to provide more funding for priority or key programs.

Nonetheless, OYS continues to focus on enhancing services and programs and pivoting to meet needs as necessary. Programs must continue to meet the needs of adjudicated youth on probation, prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system, reduce recidivism, and maximize opportunities for youth to become productive and responsible citizens.

- Ensure adjudicated youth are placed in the least restrictive environment possible, consistent with nationwide best practices, without jeopardizing public safety.



- 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 the transformation envisioned by Act 201 - 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 the DHS 'Ohana Nui multigenerational approach to ensure holistic services that promote positive outcomes and stabilization for youth and their families.
- Increase community-based, family-focused interventions, emphasizing culturally appropriate service delivery.
- Continue to lead the effort to improve services and systems in response to status offenders. Through the Status Offense Reform System workgroup, continue the review of data/information statewide, conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the current and proposed system, and develop statutory changes to implement a more effective system.
- Actively participate with DHS, DOE, DOH, and the Judiciary to implement wraparound services that 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, CWS, and OYS through meetings hosted in each Circuit.
- Collect outcome data to improve program performance and youth success.
- Continue to improve services and programs at the HYCF.
- Participate in 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 forgiveness, the 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. For example, participate in

Lili'uokalani Trust's initiative to expand services and resources for Native Hawaiians and other at-risk youth and young adults.

- Efforts to allow OYS to create and expand career and vocational programs at KYFWC by establishing a revolving fund that would receive proceeds from sales for products and services continue by developing a comprehensive plan of the program, financial processes, oversights, and benefits. The program seeks to provide expansive opportunities to youth and young adults to earn a livable wage, increase financial literacy, and achieve success while decreasing dependence on state general funds for programs, services, and justice involvement.

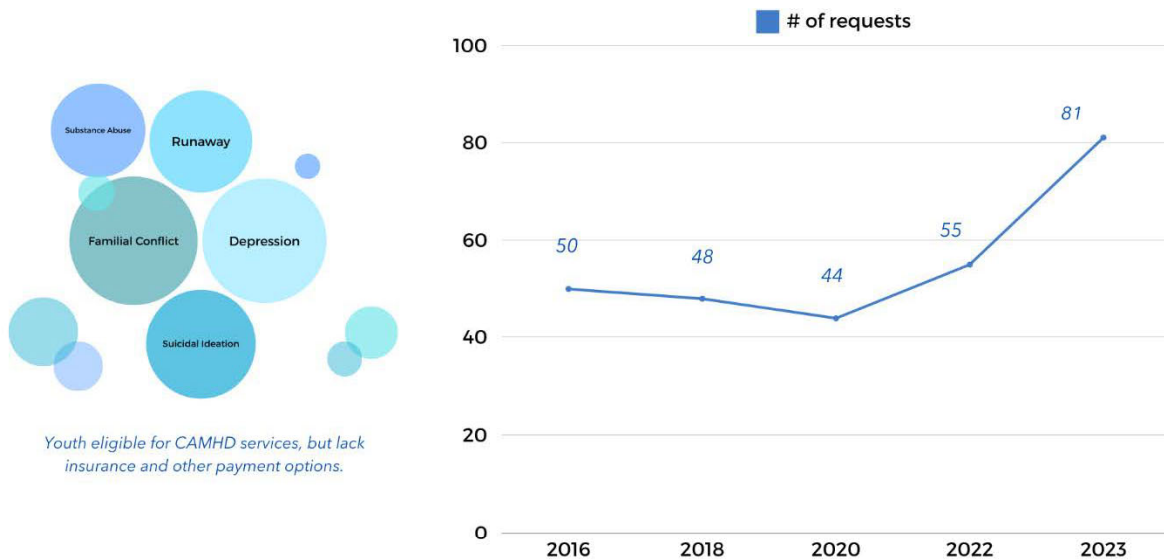
### **Looking Ahead: OYS Focus in SFY25**

Improving system response to youth mental health is a key priority for OYS. Nationally, children suffering from anxiety and depression increased by 25.5% from 2016 to 2020, with Hawaii children showing a 22.4% increase. In 2022, Hawaii ranked 22 out of 50 states for Overall Child Well-Being.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, Hawaii dropped to 25<sup>th</sup> place.<sup>2</sup> In Hawaii, since the pandemic, youth are displaying increased behavioral and mental health issues. As a result of the Lahaina wildfires, youth experiencing trauma, helplessness, and mental health issues have also increased.

OYS works with the Department of Health, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Division to provide mental health treatment to youth in the community who are eligible for CAMHD services but do not have a funding stream. OYS has seen a steady increase in referrals. In the calendar year 2023, OYS received a record 81 referrals for youth treatment services. It should be noted that referrals are limited to OYS funds from the legislature. When funds are expended, no additional referrals are made until the next budget year. With increased funding, referrals are expected to rise.

Table 7. Requests for Non-CAMHD Youth Mental Health Services.

## NON-CAMHD YOUTH - MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



**N=278**

### Civil Citation/Diversion System Improvement

In March 2015, OYS and the Honolulu Police Department implemented a Juvenile Civil Citation Program for juvenile offenders who commit status offenses and qualifying misdemeanor offenses. This program aims to divert juveniles with qualifying offenses away from the court system, provide immediate response to address their behavior, and refer them to appropriate services. Upon the juvenile's arrest, a police officer issues a civil citation. The goals of this front-end diversion process include:

- Screening and assessment.
- Referral to services.
- Improving outcomes.
- Reducing recidivism.
- Reducing costs to the juvenile justice system by keeping low-risk juveniles out of the system.
- Freeing up limited resources; and
- Reducing disproportionate minority contact.

In June 2021, OYS formed a policy group to discuss policy changes to this program and processes to facilitate system improvement. This policy group includes representation from the Family Court, Department of the Attorney General, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Department of the Public Defender, Honolulu Police Department, and OYS. This policy group continues to meet to address gaps in services, policies, and laws.

As a result of the policy group work, in 2023, OYS submitted an administration bill that would expand the criteria for record expungement for minors arrested for status offenses. This bill aimed to incentivize participation in diversion programs, facilitate access to needed services to avoid court involvement, and allow a minor sixteen years of age or older who completes a diversion program and remains arrest-free for one year to petition the court to expunge their arrest record. This bill seeks to reduce the obstacles minors with arrest records face, including difficulty accessing educational and employment opportunities, obtaining scholarships, participating in the Job Corps, or entering the military. SB 1363 and HB1065 are carried over to the 2024 session. While these measures were not heard, the committee will revisit this initiative in the future.