

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**DEPT. COMM. NO. 314**

CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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

December 30, 2020

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

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Enclosed are reports to the Legislature in accordance with

- Section 352D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Annual Report of the Office of Youth Services;
- Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, Annual Report of Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility;
- Act 281, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, Non-School Hour Programs for Children and Youth;<sup>1</sup> and
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, Section 223 (a)(3)(D)(ii), as amended 2002, and re-authorized in 2018.

In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, the report is available to review electronically at the Department's website, at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Betts".

Cathy Betts  
Director

---

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

President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki

December 30, 2020

Page 2

Enclosure

c:

Governor's Office

Lieutenant Governor's Office

Department of Budget & Finance

Legislative Auditor

Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)

Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, 1 electronic copy)

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

# **REPORTS TO THE THIRTY-FIRST HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2021**

## **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF**

Section 352D-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Annual Report  
of the Office of Youth Services

Act 151, Session Laws of Hawaii 1991, Annual Report of  
Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility

Act 281, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, Non-School Hour  
Programs for Children and Youth<sup>1</sup>

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974,  
Section 223 (a)(3)(D)(ii), as amended 2002, and re-  
authorized 2018

## **OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES December 2020**

---

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

## **OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES (OYS):**

### **Programs, Services, Achievements, and Looking Ahead**

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

### **Programs & Service Areas**

OYS focuses on programs and service areas that address youth needs ranging from prevention to incarceration 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, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which recognizes and emphasizes the essence of relationships between people as a critical factor in our State. OYS strongly believes that community is where our youth belong and that deep connection, restoration, forgiveness, and healing emerge as the Aloha Spirit statute is considered and embraced. The following is a brief description of the programs and services the OYS provides statewide.

#### **1) Positive Youth Development (PYD)**

The PYD programs target youth involved, or at high risk for involvement, with the juvenile justice system. Programs aim to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for youth, families, and their communities through various services that promote positive youth development and resiliency. Approximately 1,000 youth statewide were served through 10 community-based programs.

#### **2) Project-Based Cultural Programs**

Project-based cultural programs provide learning environments that immerse youth in their values, heritage, cultures, landscapes, opportunities, and experiences. The premise for culturally competent programs and services is the belief that continued learning and practicing a native language and culture are fundamental prerequisites for nurturing healthy and responsive citizens and contributing to the community's growth and harmony. Identifying with one's culture is considered a protective factor promoting positive health and an increased sense of self and identity. Approximately 1,900 youth participated in 12 project-based cultural programs statewide.

#### **3) Truancy Prevention and In-School Suspension**

In collaboration with the Department of Education, OYS offered services to enhance school engagement and performance to ensure educational success for at-risk youth and their families. Targeted youth were ages 10 to 18 and at risk for truancy and chronic absences. Six

(6) funded agencies provided services and activities for approximately 220 youth that promoted attendance, attachment, and achievement to ensure educational success. The agencies are Susannah Wesley Community Center; Coalition for A Drug-Free Hawaii; Maui Youth & Family Services, Inc.; Hale Kipa, Inc.; The Salvation Army Family Intervention Services; and Lanakila Learning Center.

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

OYS provided intervention case advocacy services to youth whose unhealthy and risky behaviors placed them at-risk for initial or further involvement with the juvenile justice system. Five (5) contracted providers (Adult Friends for Youth; Hale Kipa, Inc.; Catholic Charities Hawaii; Maui Youth & Family Services; and The Salvation Army Family Intervention Services) identified and engaged youth and families. Services include attendant care services, intake and assessment, creating a youth/family-driven service plan, supporting youth/family in accessing services, and providing follow-up to contact to ensure services were properly provided. The programs served approximately 700 youth statewide.

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

Intensive mentoring program services targeted youth who have been adjudicated by the Family Court and placed on probation or another status. The goals are to provide intensive supervision for youth, hold them accountable for their behavior, and assist youth to follow the terms and conditions of probation. The service delivery approach includes involvement with the youth's family in supporting the youth's participation in activities that increase protective factors and decrease risk factors in various domains of the youth's life. The program served approximately 135 youth statewide in the four judicial circuits.

#### **6) Parent Partnerships**

Parent Partnerships services provide varied activities to support families involved in the Juvenile Justice system of care to improve outcomes for youth and families. Parent Partners provided individual supports to parents and family support groups. The Parent Partners assist parents and families with navigating the system of care to meet the identified needs of the youth and families, emphasizing supporting the "voice and choice" of the family during the wraparound process. A critical factor in helping families access the system of care's activities and services are the relationship between the family and the Parent Partners based on trust, safety, and commitment. The program served approximately 89 families statewide.

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



## **7) Wraparound Services**

Wraparound services target youth and their families involved in the juvenile justice system who experience very complicated situations that require intensive interventions and services with multiple state agencies. The wraparound planning process brings together natural support to the youth and their families and the professionals who provide services to the youth. 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. Using the identified strengths and needs, the wraparound team creates a plan of care to coordinate the various services and identified supports. The wraparound planning process helps youth currently on probation and during the transition process, when youth are discharged from HYCF and return to the community. The wraparound program served 38 families in FY20.

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

Youth who cannot, or will not, remain at home were served by community-based residential programs that helped them prepare 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. Through 13 contracts and a range of residential programs on all major islands, this program served approximately 84 youth in FY 2020 through the following residential programs statewide:

- Emergency Shelters for youth ages 10 to 18: Emergency shelters provide shelters for recently arrested status offenders, non-violent law violators, intoxicated, troubled, abused, or neglected youth requiring short-term shelter and related services that addressed a present crisis.
- Intensive Residential Services for youth ages 12 through 19: Intensive Residential Services provide priority services for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. These youth are assessed as high risk in one or more areas of need and cannot yet function in a pro-social manner without constant supervision and support. These youth may also benefit from highly structured residential services.
- Independent Living Programs for youth ages 17 through 22: Independent Living programs provide services for youth and young adults that are troubled, abused, neglected, or adjudicated and lack the attitudes, skills, and resources for independent living.
- Statewide Ke Kama Pono ("Children of Promise") Safe Houses are community-based residential alternatives for troubled youth who are at-risk of further involvement in the juvenile justice system. A diversion from the institutional setting of the HYCF, the Ke Kama Pono program provides guidance and support for troubled youth in a highly structured, closely supervised rehabilitative environment while preparing the youth to reintegrate back into their respective communities.

## **9) The Hawaii Youth Commission**

The Legislature established the Hawaii Youth Commission (HYC) to engage and empower youth to articulate their voices and perspectives to the Governor and Legislature on legislative policies, programs, and budgets concerning Hawai'i youth. The Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House appoint 15 Youth Commission members (ages 14 – 24). Current membership includes representation from Kauai, Oahu, Lanai, Molokai, Maui, and the Big Island.

Youth Commissioners are provided training and opportunities with the Spirit of Aloha as a foundation for developing communication and leadership skills with knowledge and competence as youth advocates through legislative processes. Youth Commissioners have many opportunities to connect with and collaborate with other programs, boards, community organizations, and stakeholders on youth-related issues.

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

HYCF is a 30-bed facility whose primary purpose is to provide care and custody of at-risk youth committed to the State's custody by the Family Courts. HYCF provides various counseling, treatment, and educational services within the facility to aid in redirecting and rehabilitating each ward in a safe and secure setting. The programs conducted within the facility intended to provide guidance and opportunities for positive behavioral changes. HYCF continued to implement programs to better serve the youth, including substance abuse services, through collaboration with the Alcohol and Drug-Abuse Division, Department of Health. A DOE school-based behavioral specialist collaborated with a trainer resource and provided mindful-forgiveness group services; this approach showed promising outcomes.

The Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) provides secure custody and quality care for youth at HYCF. Youth receive rehabilitation programs, specialized services, and custodial care to increase their ability to function within the community upon their release without re-offending.

Act 208, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018 authorized the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center. Act 208 (SLH 2018) facilitated the expansion of services for youth and young adults ages 18 – 24 on the HYCF campus. Services and programs may include limited to mental health services and programs, substance abuse treatment programs, a crisis shelter for homeless youth, crisis shelters for victims of human and sex trafficking, vocational training, group homes, day treatment programs, after-care, independent and family counseling services, educational services, and other services and programs required to meet the needs of youth and young adults.

These youth and young adults may need additional assistance to make a successful transition from various systems of care, including mental health, child welfare, and juvenile justice. Several non-profit organizations provide different services, including a short-term assessment center for commercially sex-exploited youth; transitional housing and support services for young adults facing homelessness; vocational and educational support for youth/young adults; and farming activities training for youth. HYCF executed leases with Hale Kipa, Inc. - short-term assessment center, Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE) - transitional housing young adults, Kinai 'Eha - vocational/educational support, and Partners In Development - natural farming.

Act 375 (SLH 1989) mandated the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to provide a continuum of services ranging from prevention to secure care. On July 1, 1991, OYS assumed the responsibility for HYCF, the only juvenile correctional facility in the State. In September 1995, the 30-bed facility at the HYCF was completed. Additionally, a 10-bed secure building near the main facility that currently houses females.

Major initiatives that HYCF administration continues to support:

- Development and revision of facility policies, procedures, and practices that are appropriate for Juvenile Justice;
- Provision of ongoing staff training for HYCF direct care staff, social workers, and other staff;
- Improved communication between the Judiciary, Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Human Services (DHS) and other State agencies to ensure the delivery of appropriate services for youth seamlessly and collaboratively;
- Manage on-campus partnerships that allow services for commercially sexually exploited children, vocational training for 15 – 25-year-olds, and Homeless Shelter for young adults (18-25 years old); and
- Develop and maintain Performance-based standards in programs, contracts, and evaluation.
- Continue planning for and implementation of the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC), a comprehensive 'aina-based Pu'uhonua sanctuary on the 400+ acres that currently houses the HYCF Olomana School, Hale Lanipolua Assessment Center, RYSE Homeless Shelter, Kinai Eha Vocational Program, and Kupa Aina Farms. The KYFWC will incorporate trauma-informed care, family engagement, gender responsiveness, culturally sensitive services for at-risk youth and families involved in various youth-serving systems of care, including child welfare, mental health, homeless and juvenile justice.



## 11) Federal Grant Programs

OYS oversees and manages various federal grant programs from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). These programs intend to improve juvenile justice and education systems and narrow the path to detention and incarceration. In 1974, Congress enacted the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act to protect and promote safe conditions for youth and address their physical and emotional needs in the juvenile justice system. Sections 571-32(k) and 352F-5(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), place the administration of the JJDP Act with OYS. The State's compliance with the core requirements of the JJDP Act results in funding for juvenile justice programs from the OJJDP (see chart below). Compliance with the JJDP Act protects the State from civil suits related to conditions of confinement, as courts have found that jailing juveniles violates the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment (against cruel and unusual punishment) and the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (due process) of the Constitution.

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

Core Requirements of the JJDP Act	Compliance Status
<b>Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)</b> Juvenile Charges with status offenses, offenses which would not be criminal if committed by an adult, shall not be placed in secure detention or secure correctional facilities. Status offenses include but are not limited to truancy, running away, and minors in possession of alcohol.	The State is in full compliance with the DSO requirement.
<b>Jail and Lockup Removal (JLR)</b> No juvenile shall be securely held in adult jails or lockups. Under the Reporting Exception, accused law violators may be held for up to six hours for identification, processing, interrogation, transfer to a juvenile facility, or while awaiting release to parents/guardians.	The State is in full compliance with the JLR requirement.
<b>Sight and Sound Separation (SSS)</b> During the temporary period that a juvenile may be held securely in an adult jail and lockup, the adult environment	The State is in full compliance with the SSS requirement.

must prohibit sight and sound contact between the juvenile and adult inmates or trustees.	
<b>Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)</b> The state must identify and analyze data on race and ethnicity at decision points in the juvenile justice system to determine which points in the system create racial and ethnic disparities among youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system. The State must ensure that youth in the juvenile justice system are treated equitably based on gender, race, ethnicity, family income, and disability.	Based on the RED plan submitted to the U.S. OJJDP from the OYS, Hawaii is currently in compliance.

Since 1996, Hawaii has made significant improvements in meeting the federal mandates for Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Jail and Lockup Removal (JLR), and Sight and Sound Separation (SSS), and Hawaii continues to be compliant with the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) requirement. For 2019, Hawaii continued to comply with the JJDP Act and comply with all four core requirements of the JJDP Act for the past five (5)-year period from 2015 through 2019. The data below compares the number and rate of violations for DSO and JLR for the five (5)-year period, with no violations for SSS:

***Comparison of Number of Violations from 2015 to 2019***

Compliance Violations from 2014 to 2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	1	0	0	3	0
Jail and Lockup Removal	2	1	0	0	0

***Comparison of Rate of Violations from 2015 to 2019***

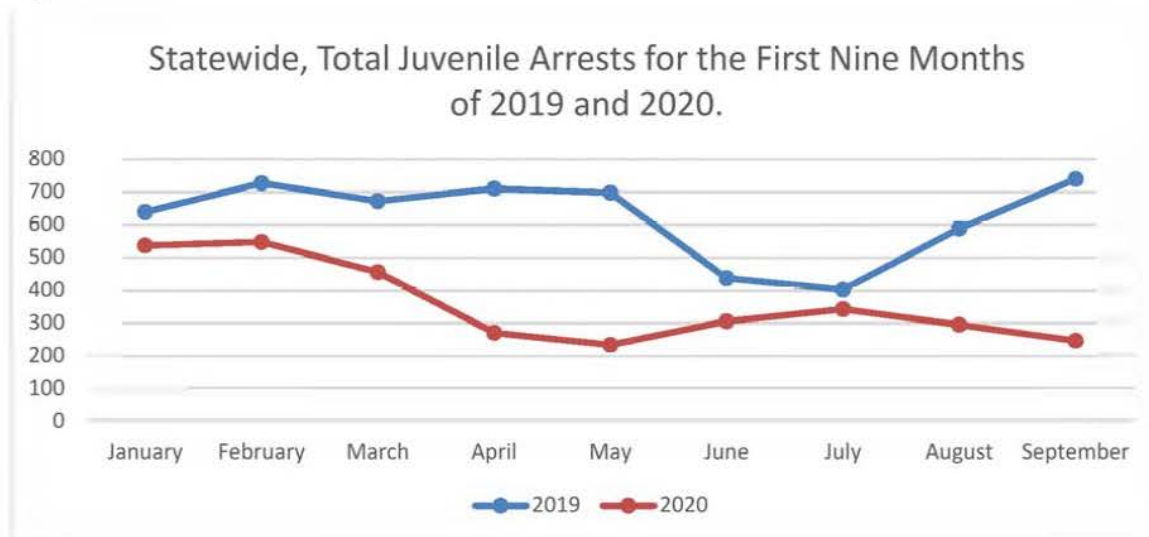
Core Requirements	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.098	0.00
Jail and Lockup Removal	0.66	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

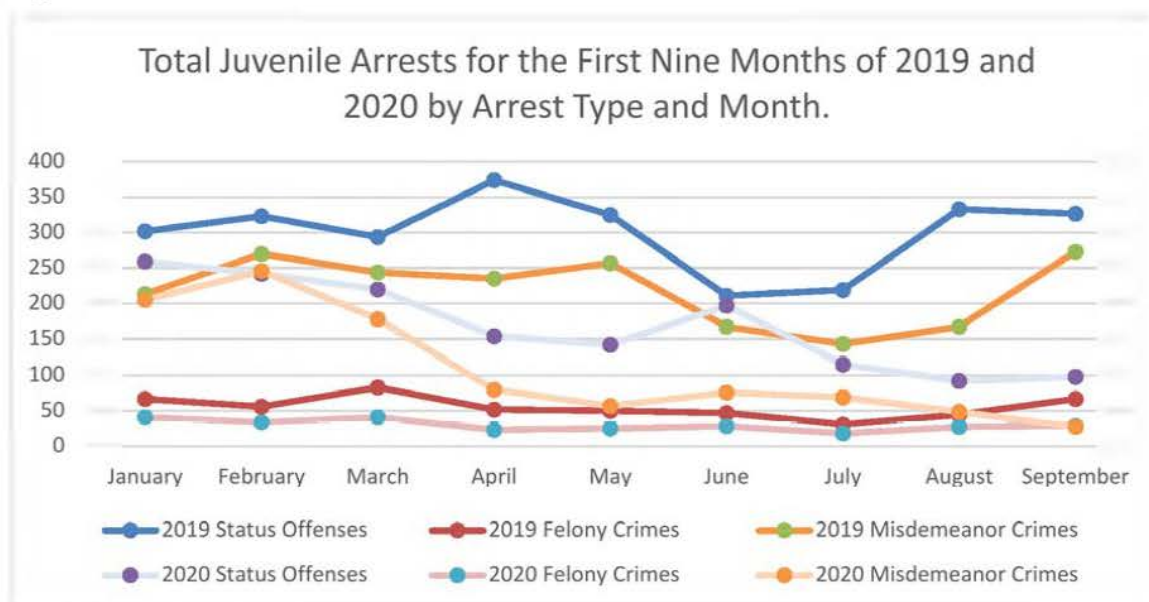
## Effects of COVID-19 on Juvenile Crime Rates and OYS Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged juvenile justice systems and services. Efforts to "flatten the curve" has affected everyone's day-to-day routines and the ability for programs to continue services, with non-essential out-of-home services suddenly suspended on several occasions. Even then, opening services to youth safely continues to challenge all aspects of the system. While pandemic orders to stay home and socially distanced have reduced contact with peers and opportunities for crime, these COVID-19 mitigation efforts have also increased parents' and caregivers' monitoring and supervision. Data shows that delinquency and criminal behaviors have decreased during the pandemic thus far, as shown in Figures 6 and 7 below.

**Figure 6**



**Figure 7**



In addition to pandemic response lockdowns and safety protocols, these lower juvenile arrest rates have resulted in few referrals to OYS services from the family court. However, lower referrals have not reduced the need for OYS services. Youth and families continue to struggle during this pandemic. OYS has responded by increasing collaborative efforts with providers and working towards creative solutions to provide services to youth and families in need that are safe and in compliance with changing safety protocols unique to county jurisdictions. Many services during FY2020 have needed to move to a virtual platform. Working virtually has provided unique challenges, and interestingly has resulted in thoughtful discussion and problem-solving.

### **OYS Achievements in FY 2020 System Improvement:**

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

The policies contained in Act 201 (SLH 2014) advance priorities in three areas:

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

Limit space at expensive secure facilities to the most serious juvenile offenders to help Hawaii produce more significant public safety benefits from the juvenile justice system. Also, providing certain youth adjudicated for low-level crimes with the opportunity for early interventions will ensure that they are held more accountable and that resources are put to their best use.

- *Strengthen community supervision and probation practices*

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

- *Sustain effective practices and cultivate stakeholder collaboration*

Regular collection and analysis of data and outcomes continued to improve and maximize public safety returns. Act 201's increasing avenues for collaboration across agencies promoted efficient system management and case planning, enhancing decision-making and resource allocation. During FY20, OYS convened regular meetings

with the Judiciary to sustain practices and continue improvements regarding the implementation of Act 201.

### **Community Collaboration:**

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

- **Hawai'i Island**

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

- **O'ahu**

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

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

OYS participated in a collaborative planning effort with Lili'uokalani Trust's (LT) initiative to expand resources and services for Native Hawaiian and other youth-/young adults-at-risk. The planning process included a wide range of stakeholders to assure a comprehensive approach and began services in the downtown Honolulu area in 2020.

- **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 the DOE and serves youth, including youth under the age of 11 who are chronically absent from school or at risk for expulsions.

- **Kaua'i**

OYS continues to provide funding support for the Kaua'i County Office of the Prosecuting Attorney's Teen Court Program. The diversionary program is an alternative process to hold youth accountable through a peer-driven approach, rather than the Family Court system. OYS also continued to fund intensive monitoring services for youth on probation in collaboration with Family Court. OYS is also seeking to expand services to youth on probation in 2021.

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

- **Department of Health**

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

## **Training**

OYS provides training opportunities to strengthen skills and collaboration for providers and partners in juvenile justice and other systems of care. Many training and collaborative efforts moved to a virtual platform and increased attendance overall. During FY20, OYS supported the following training activities:

- OYS continued collaborating with DHS to provide forgiveness training workshops conducted by Fred Luskin, Ph.D., Director of the Stanford University Forgiveness Project. The workshops focused on teaching forgiveness methods as a life skill that can be learned and applied in professional and personal settings and integrating the workplace's forgiveness approach. Also, OYS added training workshops to learn how to facilitate forgiveness training.
- OYS continued training sessions statewide with Dr. Thao Le, professor at the University of Hawai'i, in skill-building for mindfulness as a promising intervention in working with at-risk youth. Staff from private and public agencies representing various youth and family services attended training on the mindfulness approach. Attendees included staff from the Department of Health, Judiciary, Department of Education, County Police Departments, and Human Services.
- OYS, through its program monitor, continues to oversee compliance with core requirements of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (re-authorized by the 2002 U.S. Congress) and provided training for 45 hours of training to 66 police officers between October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020.

OYS collaborated with the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i to provide training for the youth and family-serving community partners.

- Training sessions included topics to expand awareness of effective practices, strengthen strategic planning and resource development for the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder community.
- Restorative Justice training for DOE schools to implement practices and principles.
- LGBTQ conference training for the juvenile justice and youth-serving system on the latest developments, issues, and best practices related to working with LGBTQ youth;
- Training on connecting and engaging youth who are challenging to work with through Aloha based methods; and
- Training with Roy Sakuma, presenting on resiliency and the power of authentic acceptance and relationships.

## **OYS Focus in 2021**

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

reducing delinquency behavior, and criminal recidivism. Conversely, reducing these programs can have a detrimental impact on positive outcomes, ultimately leading youth deeper into the juvenile justice system.

OYS will continue to focus on enhancing services and programs to meet the needs of adjudicated youth on probation, prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system, reduce recidivism, and maximize youth opportunities to become productive and responsible citizens.

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

between stakeholders such as Family Court, CAMHD, DHS-CWS, and OYS through meetings hosted in each Circuit.

- Collect outcome data to improve program performance and youth success.
- Prioritize youth needs and enhance fiscal responsibility to ensure that funds are directed to meet the youth's most serious needs.
- Continue to improve services and programs at the HYCF. Participate in the Performance-based Standards (PbS) quality control process and the VERA Institute's initiative to End Girls' Incarceration.
- Provide leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and training opportunities for providers and partners, including the areas of Forgiveness, Aloha Spirit, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.
- Continue to explore partnerships with public and private funding resources to maintain and enhance service capacity for the community. Participate with Lili'uokalani Trust's initiative to expand services and resources for Native Hawaiian and other youth-/young adults-at-risk.