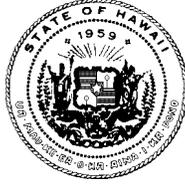


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**DEPT. COMM. NO. 203**

**CATHY BETTS**  
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

Dir 23.91

December 26, 2023

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

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

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

Enclosed are the reports submitted by the Office of Youth Services as required by:

- PROVISIONS OF SECTION 352D-6, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES ACT 151, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 1991, ANNUAL REPORT OF HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY,
- JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 1974, SECTION 223 (A)(3)(D)(II), AS AMENDED 2002, AND REAUTHORIZED 2018,
- SECTION 367D-8, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES, GENDER RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE ADJUDICATED YOUTH, 2006,
- Act 130, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2022, SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH PILOT PROGRAM,
- House Concurrent Resolution 71, 2023, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES, DEVELOP A PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH PROGRAM LIST, and
- House Concurrent Resolution 72, H.D. 1, 2023, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES, COLLABORATION WITH THE FAMILY COURT TO IDENTIFY STRATEGIES FOR PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

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

Sincerely,



Cathy Betts  
Director

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)

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE 2024 IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE:

- PROVISIONS OF SECTION 352D-6, ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES ACT 151, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 1991, ANNUAL REPORT OF HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY,
- JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 1974, SECTION 223 (A)(3)(D)(II), AS AMENDED 2002, AND REAUTHORIZED 2018,
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OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
December 2023

## History of the Office of Youth Services

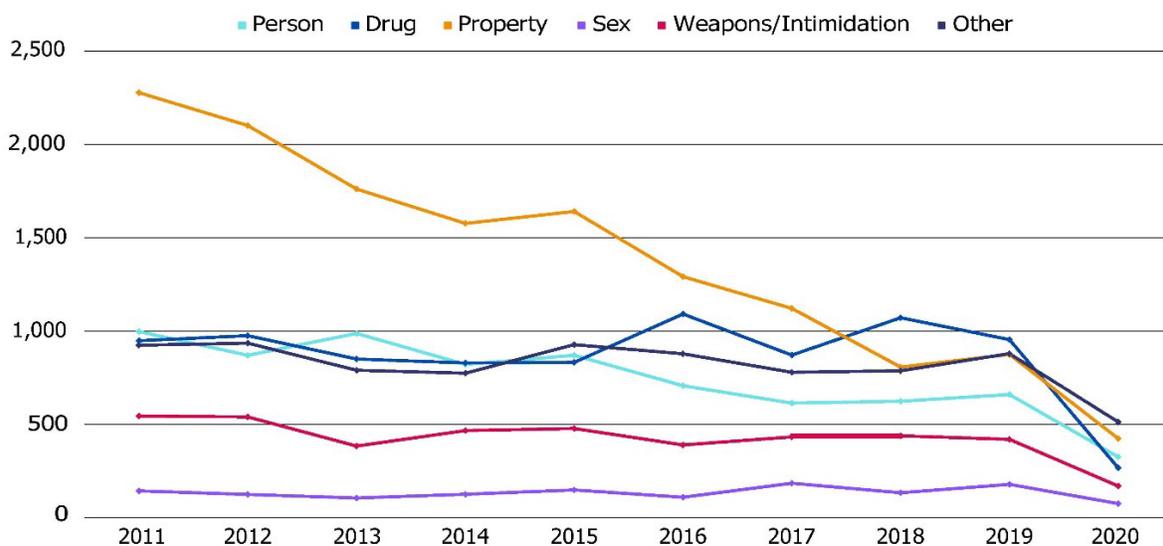
Established in 1865 on Oahu, Hawaii's first youth institution, the Hawaii Industrial School, housed youth as young as six. The Industrial School operated under the doctrine of *Parens Patriae*, allowing the Kingdom of Hawaii to exert parental authority over the youth when the natural parents were deemed unworthy. In 1928, the Territory of Hawaii established two training schools, the Kawaihoa 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.

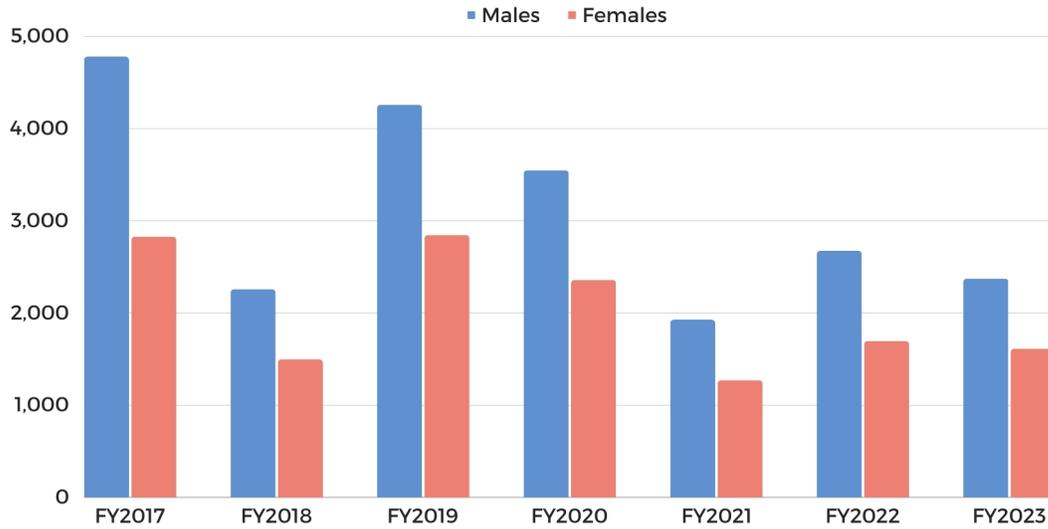
In 1989, the Legislature established the Office of Youth Services (OYS) to separate minor offenders from adult offenders, bringing a new era for juvenile corrections in Hawaii. Section 352D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), also tasked the OYS to provide and coordinate a continuum of services and programs 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

Total Juvenile Law Violation Arrests Statewide, by Selected Offense, 2011-2020



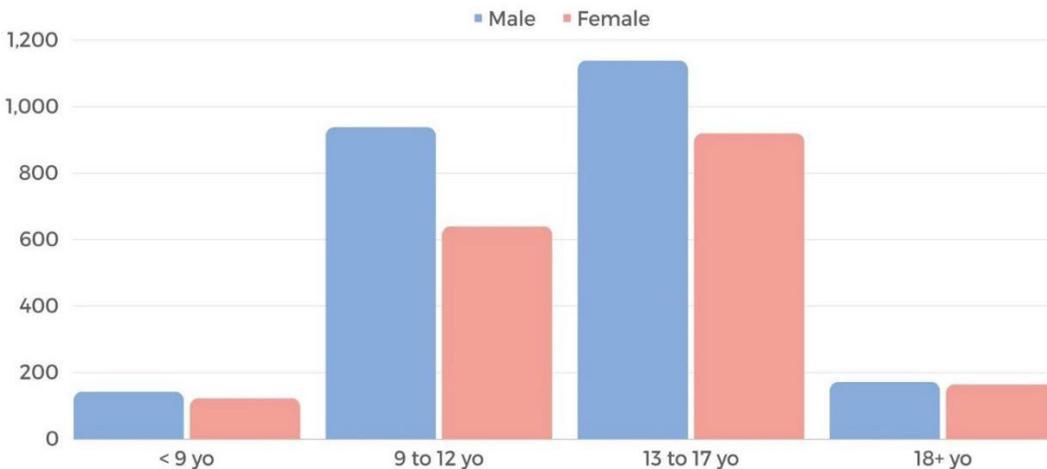
**Total Juvenile Arrests by Gender Statewide, 2017-2023**



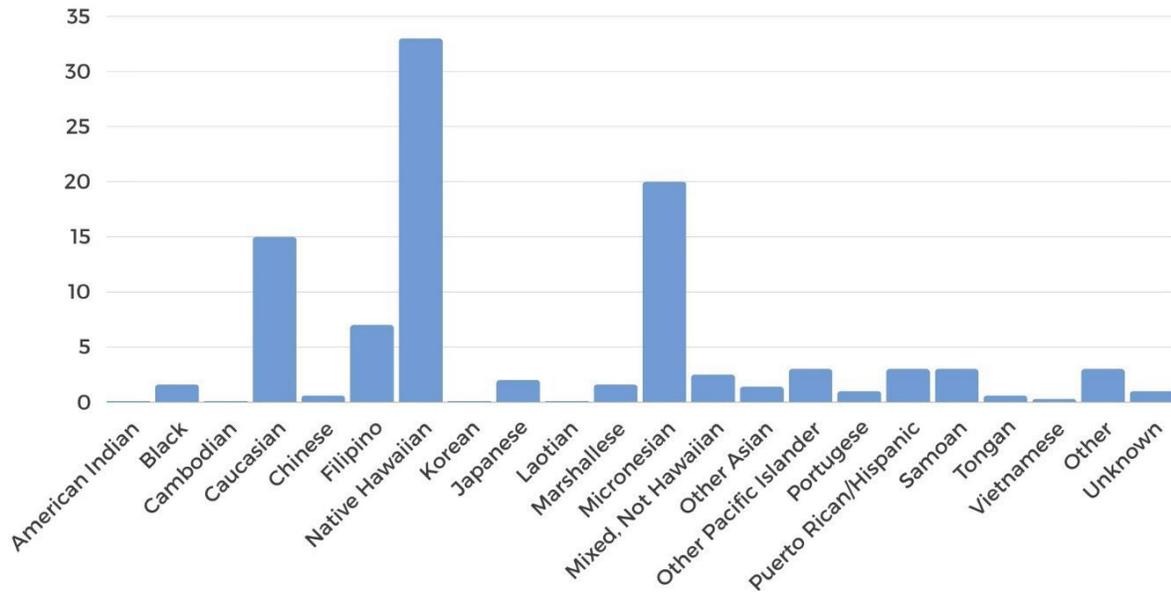
**Programs & Service Areas**

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, 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 OYS considers and embraces the Aloha Spirit statute. During FY23, OYS served over 4200 youth in community-based contracted programs.

**NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED BY AGE AND GENDER, OYS CONTRACTS FY23**



**PERCENT OF YOUTH SERVED BY ETHNICITY, OYS CONTRACTS FY23**



OYS served youth in the following program areas:

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

The PYD programs target youth involved or at high risk for involvement with the juvenile justice system. Programs are designed to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors for youth, families, and communities through various services that promote positive youth development and resiliency.

**2) Project-Based Cultural Programs**

Native Hawaiian project-based cultural programs provide learning environments that immerse youth in their values and heritage and provide hands-on opportunities and experiences. The premise for culturally competent programs and services is the belief that continued learning and practicing of a native language and culture are fundamental prerequisites for nurturing healthy and responsive citizens and contributing to the growth and harmony of the community. In addition, identifying with one's culture is considered a protective factor that helps promote positive health and an increased sense of self and identity; protective factors increase resiliency and decrease risky behaviors.

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

In collaboration with the Department of Education (DOE), OYS offers services to enhance school engagement and performance to promote educational success for at-risk youth and their families. These programs focus on youth ages 10 to 18 at risk for truancy and chronic absences.

Six (6) funded agencies provided services and activities for approximately 230 youth that encouraged attendance, attachment, and achievement to promote educational success.

#### **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 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 youth 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, Session Laws of Hawaii 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 with the Aloha Spirit Statute as a foundation for developing communication and leadership skills with 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.

## **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, Music, Health, Guidance, Physical Education, 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 chess tournaments, sports events, art and music exhibitions, and cultural days. Students can also participate in job training and internships on and off campus.

### Teens Outreach Program (TOP)

HYCF staff facilitate the 9-month program 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 facilitate 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)

VIC is facilitated by HYCF staff and is designed to provide a victim's perspective in 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; victimization causes a ripple effect throughout the community. By meeting with victims, juveniles can change their thinking and behavior; juveniles must make amends to their victims directly or indirectly. The goal for the community is to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles being re-committed to adult corrections and gaining empathy for the crimes they committed against their victims.

### Mental Health Support Services

The Family Court Liaison Branch (FCLB) is a part of the Department of Health'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.

### Hoku Group Services

Ho`ōla Nā Pua provides Hoku Group Services and meets with the youth weekly, providing skills, knowledge, and connection in a safe space. Youth who participate in this program have multiple risk factors and vulnerabilities, and many have been identified as victims of exploitation. Hoku sessions are meant to be fun and engaging, to empower and build resilience. The sessions include psychoeducational activities focused on increasing self-worth, developing emotional and physical safety, exploring identity and purpose, gaining knowledge to better oneself, and promoting self-empowerment. Ho`ōla Nā Pua uses the PEER (Prevention Education Empowerment and Resilience) Group curriculum to teach youth the importance of keeping them safe from exploitation and trafficking and doing so in a way that is appropriate for their age and culture. The lessons are designed to engage the youth in conversations. The topics include an overview of trafficking and exploitation; it provides factors of commercial sexual exploitation and what makes a person vulnerable, and the terminology of the game or the life and the empowerment that comes from understanding the language of a culture. Provides an overview of recruitment tactics and characteristics of recruiters, including how recruitment happens between peers and the dangers to look for. It also explores safe ways to use social media and online platforms. The lessons also examine the impact of media on societal views of attractiveness and the normalizing of sexual violence. The classes also look at the commercial sex industry in the supply and demand model and how the criminal enterprise operates as a business. Lastly, it explores healthy and unhealthy relationships and signs of an unhealthy relationship.

### Starfish Mentoring Program (SMP)

This Ho`ōla Nā Pua program provides care to youths between the ages of 11-24 years of age who have been exploited by matching them with a trusted adult mentor. The program provides meaningful activities that guide the youth toward self-efficacy and empowered living. SMP serves males, females, and LGBTQI youth, regardless of their disclosure. SMP mentors meet with their youth in their communities, foster care, or in a facility. Mentors provide a consistent and healthy relationship with their youth throughout their healing journey. Mentors are 21 or older and can meet their youth anywhere on the island. Mentors do activities like hiking, going to the beach, visiting museums, or sharing a meal. Mentors are required to meet their youth at least 2 hours a week for a minimum of 1 year. Mentors maintain contact with the youth if they transition home for neighbor island youths.

### Girls Pre-Transition Program

The Pu'a Foundation program provides a six-session program to educate girls involved with the juvenile justice system about transitioning back into the community. These meetings occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Youth will receive a certificate of completion. The sessions are: 1) Where you came from; the youth would create a vision board. 2)The youth shall complete a life map and identify their life goals while transitioning back into the community. 3)The Session will include the youth explaining what they have now and discussing values and loyalty. 4) Youth will learn more about financial freedom. 5) Youth will learn more about healthy relationships, life goals, and community resources. 6)Youth shall receive an individual plan for themselves and their certificate of completion from the program.

### 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 offered 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 facilitated by a Hale Kipa staff. Forward Thinking assists youth in the criminal justice system in making positive changes to their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Youths apply the information presented in the Interactive Journals to their lives to help achieve their goals for responsible living. The facilitator completes a pre-test and post-test with the youth to assess if the youth has

received and retained the information regarding this approach. The Interactive Journals cover topics such as - *It's Up to Me, An Opportunity for Change, My Journey, My Top Three Issues, Positive Attitudes for Successful Change, What are my hot spots, and Where I can go from here.* Upon completing the program, Hale Kipa develops a transition plan for the youth, assists youth in transitioning back into their community, and offers post-release supportive services to facilitate success.

#### TIFFE Substance Abuse Program – (HYCF)

The Institute for Family Enrichment (TIFFE) program, run by Child & Family Service and contracted by the Department of Health, provides substance abuse counseling to youth committed at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. TIFFE 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 promotive factors can reduce the negative effects of trauma.

#### Employment Services

Lanakila Employment Services, contracted by the Department of Vocation Rehabilitation, 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 the facility that supports operations such as maintenance, auto mechanic, farm & 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. 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 (vital documents, low-income verification, 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.

### Employment & Training Program Work Experience (WEX)

This Alu Like program provides year-round employment and training opportunities for Native Hawaiian, Native American Indian, or Alaska Native youth at HYCF. The youth program services involve outreach, assessment of skill levels, career opportunities, counseling, tutoring, on-the-job training, supportive and school services, financial literacy education, cultural job readiness/employment preparation, educational incentives, follow-up services, etc. Youths are assessed through a qualification process (vital documents, low-income verification, education credentials). The program is funded through the US Department of Labor, Division of Indian and Native American Programs (DINAP), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Title I.

### Financial Literacy

Hawaii USA Federal Credit Unit 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 1 below shows youth admissions to HYCF between FY08 through FY22. As a result of juvenile justice reform and increased program services, inter-agency coordination, and system improvements, commitments to HYCF have been reduced by 89% from 2009 to 2022.

Figure 1.

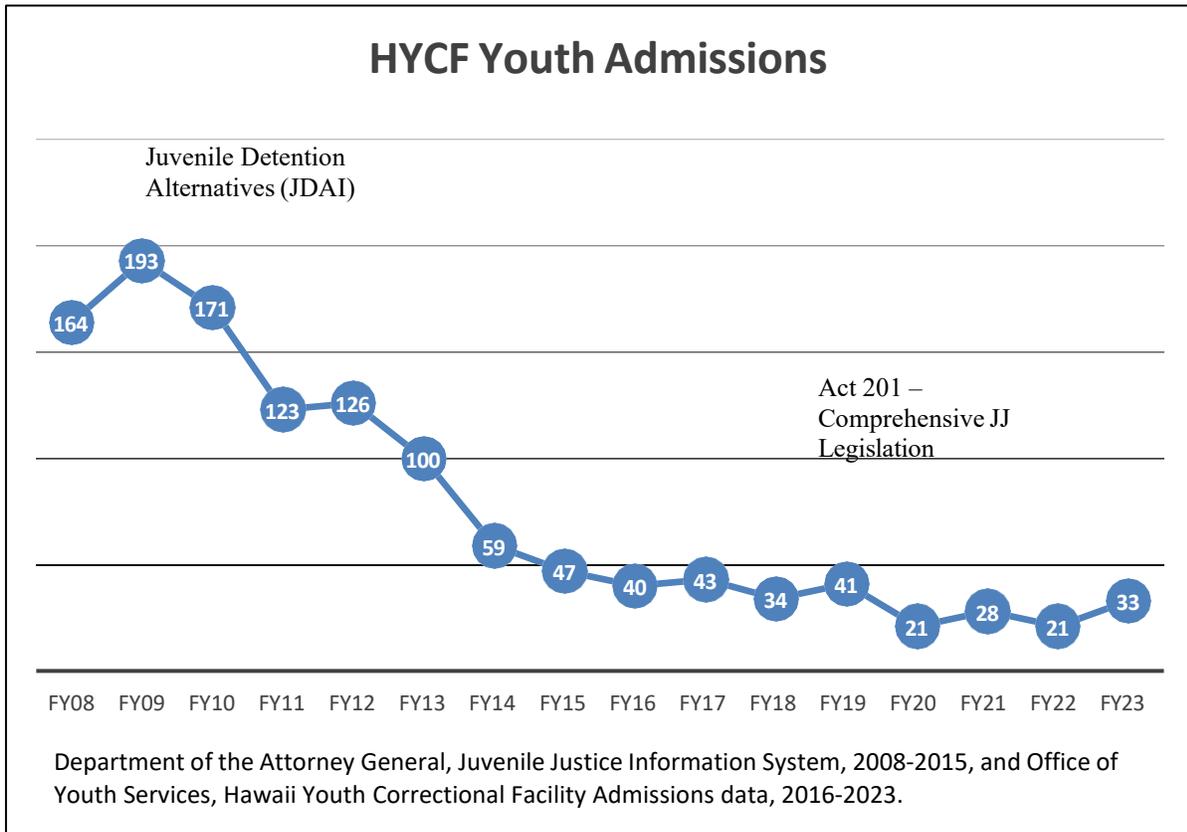


Figure 2 shows the recidivism rates of minors re-adjudicated as minors 12 months after release from HYCF. The data shows an average recidivism rate of 19.8%, 12 months post-discharge. Recidivism rates at the juvenile level decreased from 2016 through 2018 but increased again in 2019. The reason for this is unknown.

Figure 2.

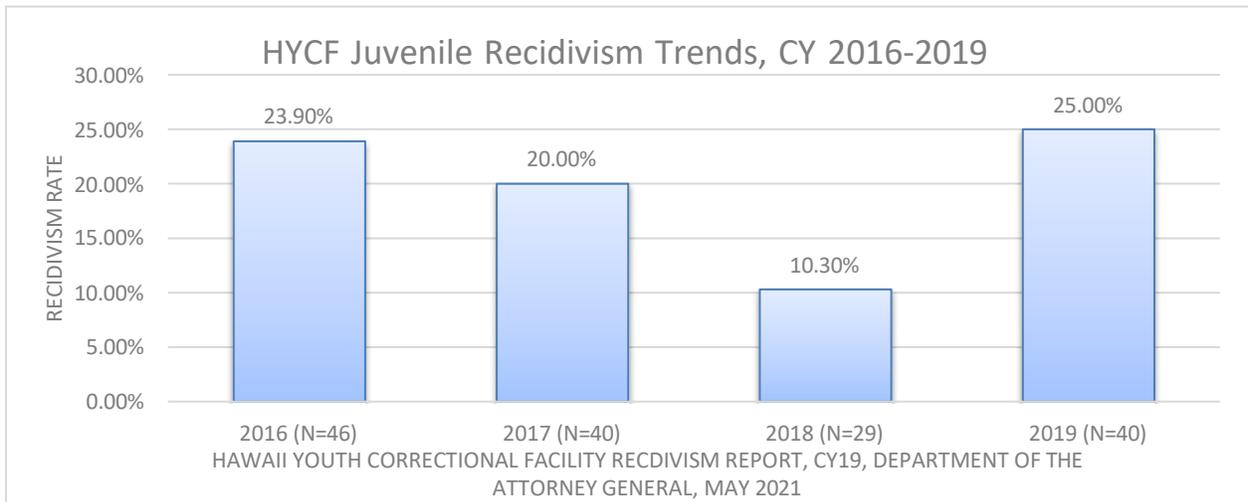
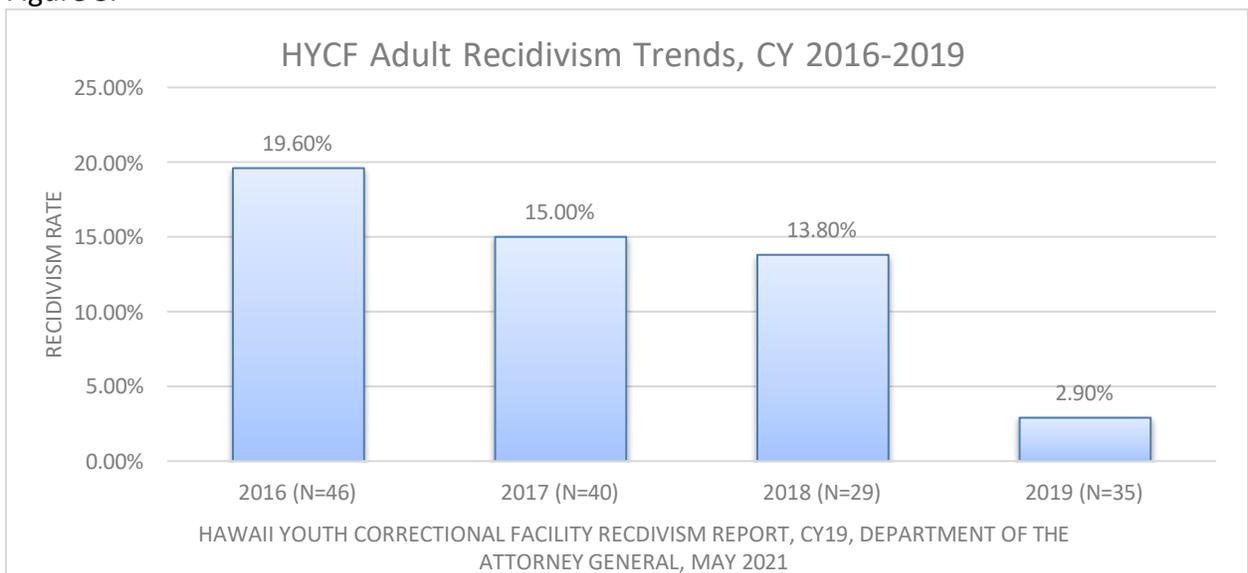


Figure 3 shows the recidivism rates of minors released from HYCF who recidivated as adults 12 months after release. The data shows an average recidivism rate of 12.8% at the 12-month follow-up. Recidivism rates at the adult level decreased from 9 in 2016 to 1 in 2019, an 88.9% decrease.

Figure 3.



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

Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014 (Act 201), initiated Hawaii's juvenile justice system reform. In 2018, Act 208 established the Kawaiiloa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) at HYCF as the next step in the State's effort to transform the juvenile justice system away from punitive justice models to a system that heals and leads to improved community safety. The HYCF Administrator, who manages KYFWC, created a collaborative campus of both public and private youth-serving organizations with objectives:

1. Supporting State Judiciary Diversionary Programs,
2. Ending Institutionalization for Hawaii's Youth,
3. Ending the disparate treatment of Native Hawaiians within the juvenile justice system,
4. Keep Youth and young adults out of adult prisons,
5. Engagement of Youth families and communities,
6. Empower Community efforts in aftercare and re-entry,
7. Recognize and provide for youth and young adults with specialized needs and
8. Collaborate on effective community-based programs.

KYFWC has successfully convened key organizations that provide on-site services on its 500-acre campus. In the past four years, KYFWC 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 and building training hubs to offer opportunities for staff to support the growth and sustainability of programs within the juvenile justice, youth mental health, and child welfare systems. Below is a list of the programs on the KYFWC Campus.

Program	Services Provided at KYFWC
1. Hale Lanipōlua Assessment Center (HLAC)	This program provides emergency shelter for commercially sexually exploited youth up to age 19 who need a place to stabilize, develop tools, and set goals before moving to supportive programs. Hale Kipa is currently providing this service.
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, establishing positive relationships with themselves, and learning vocational trades for permanent careers and life skills. Kinai 'Eha is currently providing this service.

Program	Services Provided at KYFWC
3. Hale Apuakea	Temporary, transitional shelter for homeless street youth ages 18-24. Includes a daily drop-in center for homeless minors and provides mental health, healthcare, and vocational opportunities. RYSE is currently providing this service.
4. Kupu `Āina	Kupu `Āina is an on-site five-acre natural farm that uses Aloha `Āina ("love of the land") as an intervention to heal youth, families, and communities. Kupu `Āina gives the harvested produce to KYFWC partners and the community. Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) is currently providing this service.
5. Olomana School	Olomana School provides public, alternative education within the Department of Education and serves the daily public education needs of youth committed at HYCF. The Department of Education runs this.

## 12) Federal Grant Programs

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) plays a crucial role in overseeing and managing federal grant programs from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). These programs are designed to enhance both the juvenile justice and education systems, aiming to divert youths from detention or incarceration.

The federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act, enacted by Congress in 1974, safeguards and supports the well-being of youth in the juvenile justice system. OYS, designated by sections 571-32(k) and 352F-5(b), HRS, is responsible for administering the JJDP Act, ensuring the State's adherence to its core requirements for funding from OJJDP. Compliance with the JJDP Act secures funding for juvenile justice programs and shields the State from civil suits related to confinement conditions.

The funding derived from the JJDP Act, including Title II, Formula Grants Program, empowers the State to meet the JJDP Act's core requirements. These resources aid in delinquency prevention, intervention efforts, and enhancements to the juvenile justice system. The JJDP Act's core mandates focus on deinstitutionalization of status offenders, keeping law violators separate from jails, eliminating contact between juveniles and adult offenders, and reducing the disproportionate involvement of ethnic minority youth in the legal system. Furthermore, federal law also mandates adherence to the standards set by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The four core requirements and Hawaii's status are provided in the graph below.

Core Requirements of the JJDP Act	Compliance Status
<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	The State is in full compliance with the DSO requirement.

secure detention or secure correctional facilities. 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.	Hawaii is presently adhering to the Racial and Ethnic Disparities plan as submitted to the U.S. OJJDP by OYS.

OYS has undertaken significant enhancements to fulfill federal mandates, including Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO), Jail and Lockup Removal (JLR), and Sight and Sound Separation (SSS), and consistently meets the requirements of the Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) mandate. A designated Compliance Monitor within the Office of Youth Services ensures and sustains compliance, overseeing facility certifications, statewide inspections, monitoring, compliance training, and technical assistance. Throughout Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023, Hawaii maintained compliance with the JJDP Act and its core requirements, showcasing adherence from 2019 to 2023. The data below compares the number and rate of DSO and JLR violations over the past five years, with no instances of SSS violations.

**Comparison of Number of Violations from 2019 to 2023**

Compliance Violations	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	0	0	3	3	0
Jail and Lockup Removal	0	0	0	0	1

**Comparison of Rate of Violations from 2019 to 2023**

Core Requirements	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders	0.00	0.00	0.098	1.0	0.00

Core Requirements	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jail and Lockup Removal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

### **Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council**

Executive Order 91-4, succeeded by Executive Order 91-2, establishes the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council (JJSAC) as an advisory body to the OYS, tasked with implementing the mandates outlined in the amended Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974. The Office of Youth Services, in collaboration with the JJSAC, assumes the responsibility for addressing the prevention and treatment needs of youth involved in the justice system, ensuring compliance with JJDP core requirements, and providing education to the Governor and Legislatures on juvenile justice reform and best practices.

The JJSAC comprises vetted professionals from government, private/non-profit sectors, and youth. Guided by foundational values, strategic partnerships, and research-based knowledge, the JJSAC has established five sub-committees to focus on specific areas, including juvenile justice delinquency prevention, intervention, addressing racial and ethnic disparities, and ensuring an equitable system for youth.

The Office of Youth Services and the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council (JJSAC) have identified the following purpose areas and goals in the 2021-2023 Three-Year State Plan: Planning and Administration, Compliance, State Advisory Group (SAG), Alternatives to Detention, and Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED).

OYS & JJSAC FY2021-2023 Goals	Progress
Goal #1- Develop and fund school-based diversion programs to prevent truancy and delinquency prevention, including vocational-educational programs to improve psycho-educational outcomes, including positive youth development, self-esteem, and useful career/life-skill building opportunities to prepare youth to become productive members of the community.	Continuing throughout the fiscal year 2023, OYS intends to secure contracts for all areas in the upcoming year.
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.	Continuing throughout the fiscal year 2023, OYS has met with partnering agencies and participated in policy group discussions.
Goal #3- Address inaccuracies/missing data at key decision points such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisiting how race/ethnicity is identified at each decision point.</li> <li>• Hold discussions on whether departments/agencies across the system use the same protocol for identifying and documenting.</li> <li>• Develop strategies and make recommendations on accurate identification and recording of race and ethnicity.</li> </ul>	Continuing throughout the fiscal year 2023, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJSAC) R/ED sub-committee and prevention committee, in partnership with OYS, has taken on this task.

OYS & JJSAC FY2021-2023 Goals	Progress
<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 would provide alignment in addressing the needs of youth and reducing disparities at each stage of the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Continuing throughout the fiscal year 2023, all partnering agencies continue to advocate for change in policy at a legislative level.</p>
<p>Goal #5- Collaborate with non-profit/private community partnering agencies and government agencies to heighten diversion efforts statewide.</p> <p>Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Define/develop a statewide definition of diversion.</li> <li>ii. Create evaluation methods and processes to monitor outcomes.</li> <li>iii. Develop diversion programs in communities where disparities exist.</li> <li>iv. Focus on policy implementation, practice, and system improvements.</li> <li>v. Revisit and update past MOU/MOAs between juvenile justice leaders to produce a cohesive way of reporting data elements.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing for the next fiscal year.</p>
<p>Goal #6- Identify Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities who experience disproportionate social factors that are associated with poverty and homelessness. Research and literature indicate communities associated with poverty, housing, low employment, and mediocre healthcare generally have higher rates of crime. OYS will reach out to partnering agencies in collaboration to address these social factors.</p>	<p>Ongoing for the next fiscal year.</p>
<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>	<p>Ongoing for the next fiscal year.</p>

The Title II State Advisory Group (SAG) allocation supports the work of the JJSAC and its Sub-committees. 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 email 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 healthy, safe, and accessible. 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.

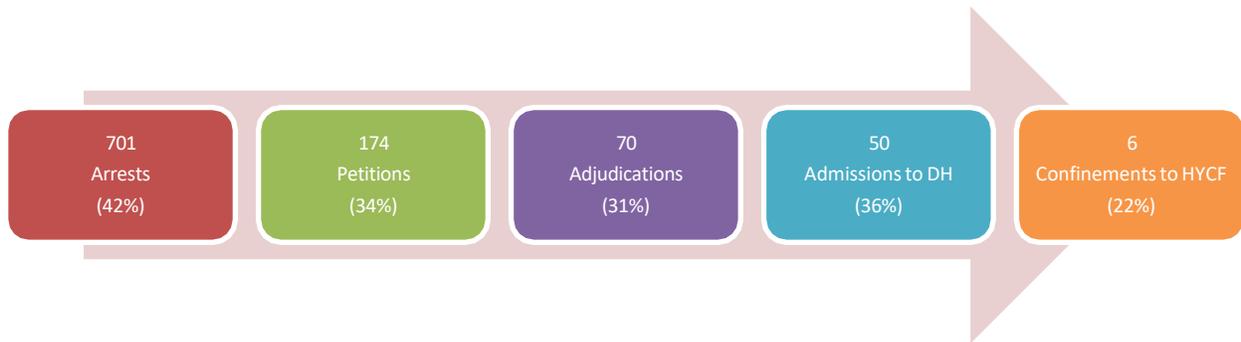
### System Points Map for Girls

The systems maps below show a significant decline in girls involved in the juvenile justice system between 2016 and 2021. The implementation of juvenile justice reform, diversion programs, and gender-responsive program services have made a significant impact on reducing this population.

## Statewide - 2016



## Statewide 2021



When siloed services and case managers do not get the complete picture of a young person's trauma history and are not aware of the available resources, girls and gender-expansive youth fail to get the proper support and services they need to exit system involvement and heal. Instead, they spiral deeper and deeper into the justice system.

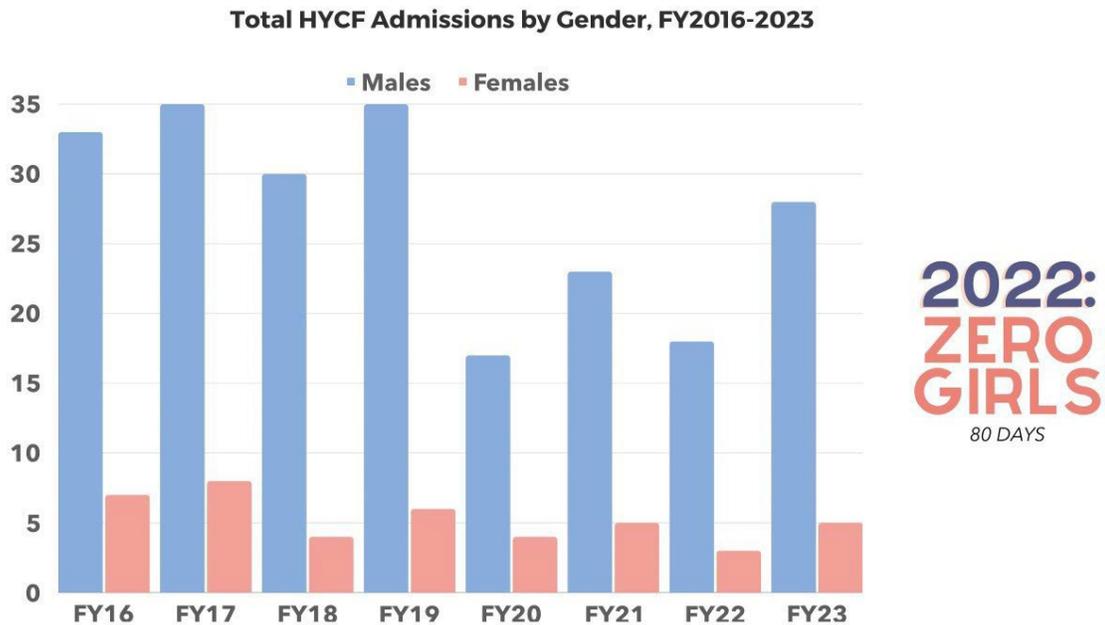
A proposed solution to the lack of coordination is a gender-responsive service coordination hub or a "system navigator" program that serves as the primary point of contact for girls with identified complex needs upon contact with any government system. Program goals would be to identify the most vulnerable girls at the earliest point and bring systems and resources together to serve young people more effectively.

The system navigator would serve as a coordinator, supporting girls and their families as they navigate multiple systems and supporting case managers to align case plans, identify available gender-responsive services, and efficiently use available resources. Ideally, the system navigator program will have access to a flexible funding pool or appropriate agreements to make necessary services available, including residential services. Additional resources and programs may be required to provide a young person with the necessary financial assistance to support the transition from any residential program. Using a youth-centered, trauma-informed approach, navigators will advocate with and for young people to develop holistic case plans that help them meet their self-identified needs and goals.

The system navigator program would track and monitor gender-responsive community-based resources across systems, including cultural-based programming. Having real-time information about available community resources will reduce or eliminate the youth's time in detention while case managers search for a more appropriate setting. In addition, filling available beds and program spots will improve the use of publicly funded programs and provide necessary data to support additional resources. The program would create the infrastructure and mechanisms and pursue funding to ensure that girls have access to the full range of services they need when they most need them, preventing deeper involvement in the justice system. The navigator would also serve as a centralized hub to track data and outcomes for Hawaii's most vulnerable girls across all state systems, developing a feedback loop for state agencies to improve programs and services. In this way, the system navigator program would be a model

for future innovation of sharing information and funding across agencies to allow access to the full range of services across the state, regardless of system involvement.

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. Beginning in 2004 with the establishment of Girl’s Court under the innovative leadership of Circuit Court Judge Karen Radius (ret.). This historical accomplishment can be traced back to 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 Office of Youth Service and Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, Department of Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, and Department of Human Services Child Welfare Services Branch administrators, in addition to many community-based organizations and other partners.



In FY23, 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, the Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program**

Safe Spaces for Youth Pilot Program (Act 130, SLH 2022) created the opportunity for the Office of Youth Services to establish:

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

Participating agencies include, but are not limited to, the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Public Safety, and county police department, and tasked with coordinating the identification of youth who are experiencing homelessness and placement of these youth at a shelter for homeless youth.

The Act authorizes the Office of Youth Services 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 finalize a program framework and implement a plan to accomplish this project.

In 2023, OYS partnered with the Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN) to plan and facilitate the implementation of the National Safe Place (NSP) program in Hawaii. In March 2023, NSP representatives conducted onsite training with HYSN. They participated in a collaborative conference for dozens of statewide government and community-based organization personnel interested in Hawaii's Safe Spaces program. In 2023, meetings and presentations were held with agencies across the state to develop an implementation plan. Due to the magnitude of this statewide project, the initial launch will occur on the islands of Hawaii and Oahu, providing 24/7 response to youth in crisis and needing assistance, whether it be homeless youth needing shelter or youth in crisis needing counseling or support services.

This official launch is scheduled for Spring 2024. HYSN continues to provide advocacy and outreach, plan and develop local print and digital media, and assess resources across the state.

**In response to House Concurrent Resolution 71 (2023), Develop a list of Programs that work with Pacific Islander Youth.**

Finding that Pacific Islander youth are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system and have increased rates of suicide, school dropout, and interactions with the juvenile justice system, the Hawaii State Legislature urged the Office of Youth Services to develop a list and inventory of programs that work with Pacific Islander youth and their families and submit a report to be submitted. OYS' testimony in support of this resolution also noted caution to a lack of capacity to complete and maintain a list of programs. While OYS lacks internal capacity, OYS was fortunate to have a University of Hawaii intern for the Fall 2023 semester, who was able to begin drafting a pamphlet list and inventory for specific programs and services for Pacific Islander youth and their families. OYS will continue to develop the list as resources allow.

**In response to House Concurrent Resolution 72 (2023), Collaboration with the Family Court to Identify Strategies for Partnering with Community Organizations.**

The 2023 Legislature urged the Office of Youth Services and the First Circuit Family Court to collaborate in identifying processes, procedures, and strategies for partnering with community-based organizations to maximize rehabilitation and minimize recidivism. The Legislature also

urged consideration of best practices and lessons from other nations and national jurisdictions and requested the submission of a joint report. Instead of a joint report, the OYS is submitting the below update to report on our historical joint partnerships and current activities to support indigenous practices and opportunities for at-risk youth.

Beginning with the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) in 2009, juvenile justice reform efforts have been underway for several years in Hawaii, using current research and information on best practices for justice-involved youth and their families. Research shows that unnecessary use of detention and incarceration is harmful to youth. Through collaborative community effort, there has been a reduction in the use of detention and incarceration for non-violent youth in Hawaii, without an increase in youth crime, demonstrating that community safety has not been compromised. Efforts to partner with both government agencies and community-based organizations have created meaningful “front-end” prevention and alternatives to detention programs.

In 2014, the Juvenile Justice System Reform in Hawaii (ACT 201, SLH 2014), co-led by the Family Court and DHS with assistance from the Pew Charitable Trusts, brought a paradigm shift from punitive models towards rehabilitation through therapeutic community-based programs and alternative approaches to incarceration. The shift toward diversionary programs and partnerships with community-based organizations has resulted in a large reduction of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Fewer youth are committed to HYCF. Commitments have been reduced by 83% from 2009 to 2023 (193 vs 33).

In 2018, Act 208 authorized the Office of Youth Services to create the Kawaihoa Youth and Family Wellness Center (KYFWC) on the HYCF campus as a central youth service center. The creation of KYFWC was the next step in the State's effort to transform the juvenile justice system from punitive justice models to a system that heals and leads to improved community safety. KYFWC's vision is to be a pu'uhonua for youth who face some of the most severe challenges of our time through services and programs to include but not limited to, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, crisis shelters for homeless youth and victims of human and sex trafficking, vocational training, group homes, day treatment programs, aftercare, family counseling services, educational services and other programs needed to meet the needs of youth and young adults.

Through OYS and Family Courts' shared vision to divert youth from the juvenile justice system, public-private partnerships were entered into in 2018 to provide services and programs to at-risk minors and young adults on the KYFWC campus. Currently, on-campus community-based organizations providing services are RYSE Residential Youth Services and Empowerment, Hale Kipa, Partners In Development Foundation, and Kinai 'Eha.

Continuing working together, this resolution provided for OYS and the Family Court to collaborate to identify processes, procedures, and strategies for partnering with community-based organizations to maximize rehabilitation and minimize recidivism for juvenile offenders. OYS administrators Leanne Gillespie, Mark Patterson, and First Circuit Family Court Judge

Matthew Viola have met several times to discuss this initiative. In November 2023, a team from Family Court, OYS, and the Lili'uokulani Trust attended the convening of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's The Five: Opportunities to Establish Equitable Youth Justice Systems. This allowed our Hawaii team to learn about national innovative approaches to youth diversion, reflect on past and current efforts and begin planning for future joint initiatives for public-private partnerships.

As a result of these efforts, the Family Court, Office of Youth Services, and community-based organization Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) will launch a cultural diversion program. This program will be community-led by PIDF, focusing on youth involved with the Family Court and utilizing Office of Youth Services facilities on the KYFWC campus. This program aims to equip youth with skills and support to reflect on their lives and transform and grow into the best version of themselves. The program will focus on justice-involved or at-risk youth, providing reflection and transformation through a cultural lens of preparing the land to grow food and transform themselves. The program will run every Saturday for six weeks for youth ages 10-18 years.

Leveraging our current relationships and partnerships, the Office of Youth Services and Family Court looks toward 2024 to develop new partnerships and continue discussions in identifying processes, procedures, and strategies for partnering with each other and community-based organizations to maximize opportunities for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

#### **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.

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

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

Limiting space in expensive secure facilities to the most serious juvenile offenders will help Hawaii produce the 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:**

The work of OYS 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. The assessment center offers various services for at-risk youth arrested for status and certain misdemeanor offenses identifies needs and links youth and their families with appropriate services.

- **Oahu**

OYS continued implementing the Ho'opono Mamo diversion 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.

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

- **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.

- **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.

- **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. For example, OYS continues 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), DOH, to provide youth exiting HYCF 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 (CWS) and private community-based agencies, may refer juvenile justice-involved youth for intensive mental health services.

## **Training**

OYS provides training opportunities to strengthen skills and collaboration for providers and partners in juvenile justice and other systems of care. As a result, many training and collaborative efforts moved to a virtual platform and increased attendance overall. During SFY23, OYS focused on supporting staff education with the following training activities:

- Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) – an evidence-based juvenile risk assessment tool used to measure risk, needs, and protective factors – 4 training sessions were delivered to two groups of staff to ensure reliability and validity of assessment scoring.
- Cognitive Skills Training – an evidence-based interviewing technique to assist staff in building rapport and gathering information through effective communication and moving wards through the stages of change – 2 training sessions.
- Excel Training – provided to staff.
- OYS, through its program monitor, continues to oversee compliance with core requirements of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act. The program monitor provided 5 hours of training to 161 program staff and technical assistance to 14 facilities in FY23.

### **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, ultimately leading youth further into the juvenile justice system.

OYS continues to focus on enhancing services and programs. 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 services are holistic to promote positive outcomes and stabilization for youth and their families.

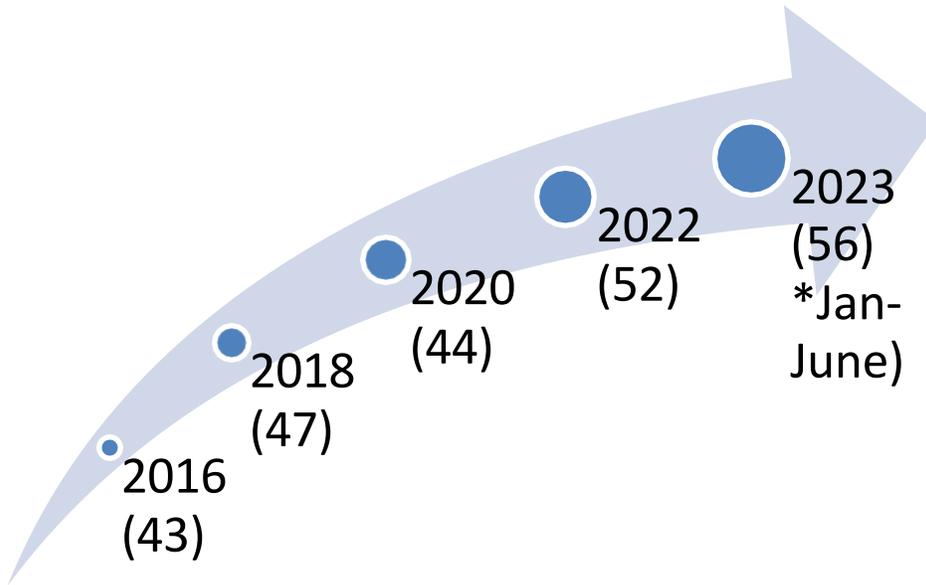
- Increase community-based, family-focused interventions, emphasizing culturally appropriate service delivery.
- Continue to lead the effort to improve services and systems in response to status offenders. Through the Status Offense Reform System workgroup, continue data/information statewide, conduct 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 to address the complex needs effectively 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 SFY24**

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 not eligible for CAMHD services. OYS has seen a steady increase in referrals. In the calendar year 2022, OYS received 52 referrals for services. In only the first six months of 2023 (January - June), OYS more than the 2022 total, 56 referrals.



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**N=242**

**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 an immediate responses 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 will continue to meet in SFY22 to address and 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.

### **Kellogg Foundation Racial Equity 2030 Challenge Partnership**

On September 21, 2021, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation announced a Hawaii-based project to replace youth incarceration among ten finalists for the Racial Equity 2030 challenge, an open call for bold solutions to drive an equitable future for children, families, and communities across the globe. In October 2022, the Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) was awarded \$20 million over eight years. This project, *Kawailoa: A Transformative Indigenous Model to Replace Youth Incarceration*, supports youth to find their roles as healers and community contributors by replacing youth incarceration with a Native Hawaiian restorative system that empowers communities, trains youth healers, and shifts resources to community-driven and culturally grounded pu'uhonua, sanctuaries of support, for at-risk youth.