



Hawai'i Homelessness & Housing Conference

NOVEMBER 3–4, 2023

Nov. 3: Homelessness Awareness, Ko'olau Ballrooms

Nov. 4: Housing Solutions, Hawai'i Convention Center



DAY 1 - PROGRAM

- 7:30 AM Registration Opens
- 8:30 AM Opening Plenary
- Laura Thielen, Partners in Care
 - Governor Josh Green, State of Hawai'i
 - Mayor Rick Blangiardi, City & County of Honolulu
- 9:45 AM Breakout Session 1
- A. Mending the Pukas: Outlining the Gaps Within Youth Services
 - B. Growing up Houseless in Hawai'i
 - C. Encounters with Mental Health and Homelessness
 - D. Educational Stability & Unstable Housing
- 11:00 AM Breakout Session 2
- A. Decriminalizing Houselessness
 - B. Reducing the Harm of Loss: Grief and Resilience
 - C. Outreach on the Streets
 - D. Updates with DHS & MedQuest
- Noon Lunch
- 1:15 PM Keynote: "Pūpūkahi i Holomua — Unite to Move Forward"
- Elliot Zans, Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention
- 2:00 PM Breakout Session 3
- A. Collaborative Resilience: Bridging the Gap between Emergency Management and Homeless Service Providers
 - B. Healing, Housing & Hope: The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness
 - C. Continuum of Care Grants Management — Dos and Don'ts
 - D. Building Connections — Making the Most with your HMIS Data
- 3:15 PM Closing Plenary: What's Happening in Your Continuum of Care?
- Heather Lusk, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
 - Brandee Menino, HOPE Services Hawaii
- 5:00 PM Pau Hana (21+)

DAY 1 - SESSIONS

Opening Plenary

- Governor Josh Green, State of Hawai'i
- Mayor Rick Blangiardi, City & County of Honolulu
- Laura Thielen, Partners in Care

Our welcome plenary session will address the issues faced daily by homeless service providers and those who they work to support, as well as and the lack of affordable housing, and the collaborative efforts to find solutions to these problems at both the state and county levels.

1A: Mending the Pukas: Outlining the Gaps Within Youth Services

- Efen Berrones, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
- Maddison Moliga, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
- Malia Packer, Hale Kipa/YO!

Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center and Youth Outreach (YO!), run by Hale Kipa and Waikiki Health, will provide a brief outline of the vital services that they are currently providing to at-risk and houseless youth, while providing insight into the gaps that they see in their day-to-day work within the community.

1B: Growing up Houseless in Hawai'i

- Kekai Makepa-Kapahu, Pu'uuhonua O Wai'anae
- Evol "BJ" Sahle, Pu'uuhonua O Wai'anae

Learn from our youth as they share what life has been like for them growing up "houseless." Although houseless, they live in a supportive and structured environment that has gifted many of them with the opportunity to live "normal" lives or better when compared to other youth their age. Learn about what other communities can do to support their houseless youth, and to give them an opportunity to thrive. It really does take a village.

1C: Encounters with Mental Health and Homelessness

- Chiyo Churchill, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
- Rena Pascual, Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Mental health and homelessness will always be intertwined. We must consider people, social determinants, relationships, physical health, substance use and mental health when working to house individuals and families. This panel will provide an overview of homelessness on the leeward coast, and share a Photovoice project by participants in Catholic Charities' "Kupuna to Kamali'i" program.

1D: Educational Stability and Unstable Housing

- Sara Alimoot, DOE, Education for Homeless Children and Youth
- Toby Portner, DOE, Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Educational stability is critical for children and youth—most especially those experiencing unstable housing. Education can help prevent future homelessness, and high school graduation is linked to other indicators of overall well-being. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program works year-round to identify and support youth and families to attend and fully participate in school by removing barriers, including poor health, hunger, a lack of supplies and clothing, transportation, frequent mobility and other challenges.

2A: Decriminalizing Homelessness

- Taylor Brack, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
- Wookie Kim, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i

Being criminalized based solely on the grounds of being homeless is unconstitutional, inhumane and unjust. Learn what the ACLU of Hawai'i has been doing to fight against the criminalization of homelessness, what others are doing, and what you can do to help fight against and end the criminalization of homelessness as we look to more humane solutions to end homelessness.

2B: Reducing The Harm of Loss: Grief and Resilience

- Heather Lusk, Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center

Trauma is experienced every day by those struggling with houselessness, and those who work to support them. Loss often becomes a collective experience, with higher-than-average rates of death among those on the streets. The unsheltered experience loss of autonomy, of material possessions, and of connections to loved ones. This can lead to challenges with mental health, substance use, violence and other issues. Finding ways to talk about loss can help both those trying to access housing and their supporters navigate the complex process of grief.

2C: Outreach on the Streets

- Austin Ajimura, H.O.M.E. Project
- Castro Masaniai, Institute for Human Services
- Teresa Schiff-Elfalan, M.D., H.O.M.E. Project
- Kaimbrea Vance, Partners in Care

Learn how IHS, CORE and HOME Project does outreach. What kind of preparation and training does each organization do ahead of outreach? What kinds of outreach methods are most effective? What are some ways people not part of a community group or organization can assist in outreach? Panelists will also share stories from those with lived experience as to what worked and didn't work for them.

DAY 1 - SESSIONS

2D: Updates With DHS and MedQuest

- Jon Fujii, Hawai'i State Department of Human Services MedQuest
- Representative, Hawai'i State Department of Human Services

In a world of uncertainty, don't let your clients access to needed supports and resources be one of them. Learn about the newest updates to the Hawai'i State Department of Human Services and MedQuest systems to provide your client with the support and resources they need.

Keynote: "Pūpūkahi i Holomua — Unite to Move Forward"

- Elliot Keawe Juanita Zans

Drawing from their background in housing navigation and case management, Native Hawaiian, multi-racial, and genderqueer speaker, activist, and advocate Elliot Zans understands the challenges faced by providers in data entry and emphasizes the importance of quality data for quality client care. Elliot's approach centers around unity and prioritizing relationships to transform Continuums of Care from systems of oppression to systems of compassion. Leveraging the Collective Impact framework, they guide communities in advancing their efforts to end homelessness in Indianapolis.

3A: Collaborative Resilience: Bridging the Gap between Emergency Management and Homeless Service Providers

- Jennifer Walter, Honolulu Department of Emergency Management
- Aveli Weltman, Honolulu Department of Emergency Management

In an increasingly uncertain world marked by natural disasters, extreme weather events, and other emergencies, the vulnerabilities of our houseless neighbors are often overlooked. This interactive talk will address the critical need for emergency managers and homeless service providers to work hand in hand before, during, and after disasters to safeguard the well-being of our community's most vulnerable populations.

3B: Healing, Housing & Hope: The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Homelessness

- Ella Mojica, Domestic Violence Action Center

Housing insecurity can be an unwieldy challenge for many survivors of abuse. Without options and support, survivors often remain or return to dangerous situations. The Domestic Violence Action Center will share information about the intersections of domestic violence and homelessness and the work the agency does to help survivors achieve safe and secure housing.

3C: Continuum of Care Grants Management — Dos and Don'ts

- Rebecca Borja, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Mark A. Chandler, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Brian Johnson, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Woodrow “Woody” Moore, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Stephanie Kaimana On, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

This session will cover Continuum of Care (CoC) grants management methods and practices designed to prevent common issues that can impact grantee performance, and result in disallowed grant costs, as well as requirements that the grantee repay funds to the U.S. Treasury. Areas covered will include, but are not limited to, CoC grant file structure, financial management, match documentation, and common monitoring issues.

3D: Building Connections — Making the Most with your HMIS Data

- Joshua Fuentes, HMIS
- Aubrey Pellicano, HMIS
- Pixel Richardi, HMIS
- Josh Roach, HMIS
- David Wilkie, HMIS

Join the HMIS team for an engaging presentation designed to showcase power of Oahu's Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) as a tool for project data, and to make the system more approachable for all stakeholders. We'll tackle common challenges faced by HMIS users, explore the disconnects between the community and HMIS data culture, and take some time to review existing federal and local data requirements and priorities. Discover how building common agendas, developing shared measurement systems, and reinforcing activities collaboratively can empower data to touch people's lives for the better. Together, let's make HMIS more transparent, less daunting, and a more valuable tool for addressing homelessness on O'ahu.

Closing Plenary: What's Happening in Your Continuum of Care?

- Heather Lusk, Chair, Partners In Care – O'ahu Continuum of Care
- Brandee Menino, Chair, Bridging the Gap

This closing session with Heather Lusk and Brandee Menino will provide an update of what's coming next for both Partners In Care and Bridging the Gap. Lusk and Menino will provide a review of each Continuum Strategic Plan, and go over how we can all be a part of the solution to end homelessness. Join us for this closing session to learn more about how to stay connected and engaged with post-event training and learning sessions.