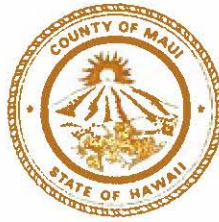


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

LORI TSUHAKO
Director

JESSICA CROUSE
Deputy Director




DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE: (808) 270-7805

October 7, 2025

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

For Transmittal to:



Acting Mayor 10/8/25
Date

Honorable Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Water Authority, Social Services,
and Parks Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sinenci:

**SUBJECT: OVERVIEW ON THE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY
2025 (WASSP-1 (13))**

Thank you for your correspondence dated September 29, 2025, requesting additional information in follow-up to the Committee discussion on the "Community Needs Assessment Survey 2025". Answers to your questions are below.

- 1. Please explain the shift in the Department's priorities over the years regarding: senior services and related programs, and building of infrastructure that support housing for those experiencing homelessness.**

Over the past several years, the single largest shift in departmental priorities occurred as a result of the bifurcation separating the Department of Housing and Human Concerns (DHHC) into the Department of Human Concerns (DHC) and the Department of Housing. Prior to bifurcation, DHHC was actively involved in discussions, including project review and funding recommendations, regarding affordable housing development projects. Since the bifurcation, that responsibility transferred to the newly established Department of Housing. DHC continues to advocate for additional affordable housing units, as the availability of housing is a critical resource to end someone's homelessness.

Honorable Shane M. Sinenci, Chair
Water Authority, Social Services,
and Parks Committee
October 7, 2025
Page 2

- 2. Although Mental Health Kokua is listed in the Department's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, please confirm whether the organization is a current County grantee.**

Yes, Mental Health Kokua is a current County grantee and has two grants funded through DHC for FY2026 for an aggregate funding award of \$287,337.

- 3. Please provide a list of organizations that provide post high school services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For each organization, please include: capacity of clients that can be served, cost per client, types of programs and activities, and availability of transportation.**

Please see attached.

- 4. Please provide the current number of Departmental vacancies, including position titles, per program.**

Currently, there are 26 Departmental vacancies, all of which are in the Human Concerns Program. A list of position titles is attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7805.

Sincerely,



LORI TSUHAKO, LSW, ACSW
Director of Human Concerns

Attachments

Maui County Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Service Providers

Ka Lima O Maui

- Capacity: Please contact Ka Lima O Maui for information regarding their training program and information about the enrollment process
- Cost per Client: Medicaid Waiver Program offered
- Programs: Vocational rehabilitation, job coaching, supported employment, grounds/maintenance crews, life skills
- Transportation: Coordinates with Maui Bus ADA Paratransit and individual arrangements

ARC of Maui County

- Capacity: Five licensed group homes in Maui County; bed numbers vary by home; contact ARC of Maui for updated information.
- Cost per Client: Residential habilitation rates under waiver / state contracts
- Programs: Residential group homes (5 on Maui), Adult Day Health, Community Learning (safety, health, job skills, and money management), Vocational services and training (in-house employment, supported, and community employment).
- Transportation: Agency vans and use of ADA paratransit services

Easterseals Hawai'i – Maui: Adult Home and Community Based Services

- Capacity: Caseloads vary; information available by calling Easter Seals directly
- Cost per Client: Waiver-funded Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS)
- Programs: Independent living skills, employment skills, community integration, day supports, personal and daily living skills
- Transportation: Easter Seals coordinates rides; ADA paratransit is also used

BAYADA – Maui: Habilitation / Behavior Analysis

- Capacity: Dependent on staffing and authorized slots
- Cost per Client: Waiver or managed care billing; depends on authorized hours
- Programs: Habilitation, ABA/behavior support, community skills training
- Transportation: Families typically arrange transportation (if needed).

Transportation Supports

Maui Bus ADA Paratransit (MEO): Provides curb-to-curb service for riders who cannot use fixed route service; Employment Transportation program providing accessible rides to job sites in Central & South Maui.

Transition from High School to Post High School Services

In Hawai'i, students with I/DD begin transition planning with their school's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team by around age 14, and more formal transition goals are typically established by age 16. This planning addresses post-secondary goals such as employment, independent living, community inclusion, and continuing education.

As students reach graduation, families may engage with the Hawai'i Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD). DDD oversees the Medicaid 1915(c) I/DD Waiver, which funds many adult services (e.g. residential supports, day programs, supported employment, habilitation). Once an individual is determined eligible, DDD assigns a case manager who collaborates with the individual and his/her family to develop an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) and to coordinate services with local providers on Maui.

The aforementioned organizations, together with the Hawai'i Department of Health's Developmental Disabilities Division, form the backbone of Maui's post high school service network for individuals with I/DD. Transition planning begins in high school, and through the DDD waiver program, eligible young adults are supported in accessing services that promote independence, meaningful community participation, and quality of life.

Job Profile

Aging And Disability Program Specialist I
Aging And Disability Services Specialist I
Aging And Disability Services Specialist I
Aging And Disability Services Specialist II
Aging And Disability Services Specialist IV
Homeless Program Specialist
Homeless Program Specialist
Immigrant Services Specialist III
Information/Publicity Technician
Nutrition Program Aid
Nutrition Program Aid
Nutrition Program Aid
Office Operations Assistant II
Senior Clerk
Senior Services Aid II
Senior Services Program Assistant I
Senior Services Program Assistant II
Senior Services Program Assistant II
Senior Services Program Assistant III
Senior Services Program Assistant III
Senior Services Program Assistant III
Senior Services Program Assistant III
Senior Services Program Specialist IV
Senior Services Transit Aid I
Senior Services Transit Aid I
Senior Services Transit Aid I
Senior Services Transit Aid II

26 Total Vacancies

WASSP Committee

From: Michelle L. Santos <Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 3:51 PM
To: WASSP Committee
Cc: Cynthia E. Sasada; Didi A. Hamai; Erin A. Wade; Josiah K. Nishita; Kelii P. Nahooikaika; Jessica C. Crouse; kimberly.ferguson@co.maui.hi.us; loriann.tsuhako@co.maui.hi.us; Vanessa Joy B. Domingo
Subject: MT#11246 OVERVIEW ON THE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY 2025
Attachments: MT#11246-WASSP Committee.pdf