



**Parents And  
Children Together**

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

# **Sex Trafficking in Maui County**

Cayla Kutaka, Maui County Program Director

# Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000

“The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the commercial sex act, where the act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18 years of age.”



# In one year...

**80,000**  
online ads  
posted

**150**  
high-risk sex  
trafficking  
establishments  
in operation

**1,500-2,500**  
victims  
exploited

**23.7%**  
lived on Maui

## in Hawai'i alone.

*Data cited to Imua Alliance & Arizona State University's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research*



# Vulnerable Populations

**Average  
age of first  
event**

11.3 years old

**69.1%**  
reported  
being  
homeless

Nearly **25%**  
were trafficked  
by a family  
member

All reported  
high rates of  
**ACEs**

**In recent study, 64% identified as Hawaiian.**

*Data cited to Imua Alliance & Arizona State University's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research*



# Contributing Factors



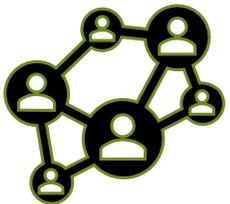
## **Demand & Commercial Platforms**

The robust online sex market facilitates trafficking recruitment and exploitation, with traffickers leveraging social media, dating apps, and classified sites.



## **Tourism & Transient Populations**

Hawaii's large tourism sector and military presence increase the pool of potential buyers, minimize detection, and complicate enforcement.



## **Economic & Social Vulnerabilities**

High cost of living, housing insecurity, and limited resources increase vulnerability to exploitation.



# Legal Framework

## State Law

Sex trafficking is a **Class A felony** in Hawai'i, punishable by up to **20 years in prison** and significant fines.

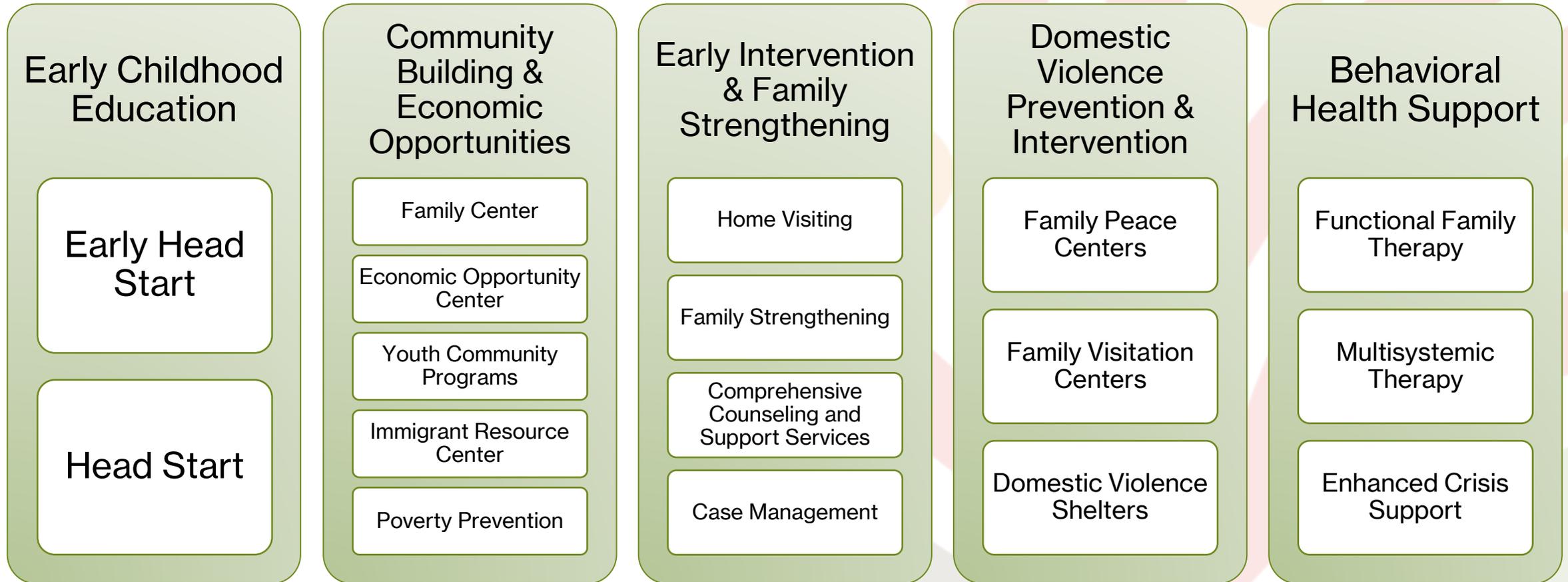
## Prosecution Challenges



## Investigation Barriers

Cases often go unreported due to **victim safety concerns, high evidentiary standards, limited specialized investigatory resources, and increasingly hidden, digital nature of crimes.**

# Parents & Children Together



Prevention

Intervention

# Direct Services Available

## Statewide

Child Welfare  
Services Hotline

Trafficking Victim  
Assistance Program  
(TVAP)

## Maui

H.O.M.E. Team  
facilitated by Children's  
Justice Center

Community Training &  
Outreach by PACT

## O'ahu

Trafficked Youth Shelters

Ho'ōla Nā Pua

Hale Kipa

Imua Alliance

Heart & Soul Program by PACT





**Parents And  
Children Together**

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

# **Sex Trafficking in Maui County**

Cayla Kutaka, Maui County Program Director