



ACEs are Adverse Childhood Experiences

Even though bad things happened to me when I was a kid, I can thrive.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are traumatic events or unstable environments children experience before age 18. These stressful incidents can harm social, cognitive, and emotional functioning and undermine the safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments keiki need to thrive.

Impact: ACEs disrupt a child's sense of safety, stability, and bonding, and can have lasting effects on health and well-being. ACEs often occur together; can result in toxic stress; and are associated with many adverse outcomes, including substance use, suicide, overweight/obesity, lower education and earnings potential, and chronic disease.

Maui County

140

Number of confirmed child abuse & neglect victims in 2023

20%

of youth do not have a supportive adult they can talk to

80%

of teens do not get the mental health help they need



Nearly 1 in 5 (19.8%) adults in Maui County have 4+ ACEs before age 18



7 OUT OF 10

ACEs are linked to child welfare issues, which add further challenges for our communities

*Youth Behavioral Survey 2023

ABUSE



physical



emotional



sexual

NEGLECT



physical



emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



mental illness



incarcerated family



intimate partner violence



substance abuse



divorce, separation

Learn More About ACEs



Impact

More ACEs = More negative health risks



Risks Linked to ACEs

BEHAVIOR



addiction



missed work



depression



suicide

MENTAL HEALTH

PHYSICAL HEALTH



obesity



diabetes



STDs



heart disease



stroke



cancer

In Hawai'i: ACEs are reported widely. A survey conducted by the CDC and other agencies shows that over 60% of adults in Hawai'i have experienced at least one ACE, with a substantial percentage experiencing multiple ACEs, directly increasing the risk of health issues and social challenges.

Cultural and Social Impacts: For Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, historical trauma can worsen ACEs impacts, creating cycles of poverty, substance abuse, and mental health issues across generations.



Protective Factors

Protective factors help buffer the negative impact of ACEs and give keiki a better chance to thrive - even in tough circumstances. Research shows these conditions make a big difference in helping 'ohana overcome challenges and build healthier, more stable lives. Studies show a positive, supportive relationship with one or more adults has the most impact.



Mālama 'Ohana
Create nurturing attachments



How You Stay
Establish strong social connections



Parenting Can Be Hard, But Can
Learn about parenting and child development



First, Make Yourself Pono
Strengthen your own resilience as a parent



Show Keiki Aloha
Help keiki learn social and emotional competence



No Shame
Ask for help in times of need

Protective Factors,
Learn More



Prevention Benefits

Preventing ACEs Leads to Healthier Families and Communities Over Generations.

- **Improved Health Outcomes:** Reduces rates of depression, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and obesity by addressing root causes.
- **Better Life Opportunities:** Leads to higher educational attainment, stable employment, and increased income levels.
- **Reduced Risky Behaviors:** Lowers involvement in substance use, violence, and suicidal behavior.
- **Economic Return:** Every dollar invested in prevention yields up to \$7 in savings through reduced healthcare and social service costs and lower incarceration rates.
- **Break the Generational Cycle of ACEs:** Parents with multiple ACEs are more likely to pass trauma to their children, perpetuating poor health outcomes.
- **Stronger Communities:** Builds resilience, fostering healthier families, a more productive workforce, and better preparedness for future crises.

What Can Policymakers do to Prevent ACEs?

Enact Family-Centered Policies that Enhance Economic Security and Boost Protective Factors such as:

- **Increase Economic Resilience:** Support affordable childcare, paid family leave, livable wages, child tax credits, and housing assistance to reduce 'ohana stress and create stable environments.
- **Invest in Prevention Programs:** Allocate funding for parenting education, family support services, mental health care, and early childhood education to address ACEs before they occur or escalate.
- **Strengthen Community Resources:** Expand access to after-school programs, home visiting programs, and substance abuse services so families can build resilience.
- **Integrate ACEs Prevention in Schools and Healthcare:** Equip educators and providers with ACEs training and screening tools to identify and respond to trauma earlier.

About Ho'oikaika Partnership

Ho'oikaika Partnership is a coalition dedicated to preventing child abuse & neglect in Maui County, ensuring that all 'ohana are healthy, safe, & supported. We promote family well-being by building a strong prevention & provider network, strengthening & expanding support systems, fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge & resources, & advocating for policies that prevent child maltreatment. Through our work, we aim to strengthen family bonds, foster resilience, & create a connected, thriving community.

For more information and data sources, please visit hooikaikapartnership.com

PARENTING

Building 'Ohana and Community Resiliency Through Your Vote

As the November elections approach, it's important for everyone to take part in the democratic process. Your participation in civic life matters for many reasons. When you vote or go to local meetings, you help make decisions about schools, parks, and other community services. Taking part in these community events and discussions gives you and your 'ohana a voice in matters that affect your lives. Getting involved in community activities also helps you meet other parents and neighbors, creating a support network. This helps us all feel part of a larger, supportive 'ohana, creating a sense of belonging and well-being for everyone.

These actions build what experts call "protective factors" in our community. Protective factors are conditions that help keep our keiki safe, healthy, and thriving. By strengthening these factors, you help protect your kids from risks like substance abuse and violence. Your involvement sets a powerful example for your children, teaching them the importance of civic responsibility. The more people engage in community affairs, the stronger and healthier our neighborhoods become.

Voting is a powerful way to shape the future for our keiki and ensure our voices are heard. When you vote, you help choose leaders and policies that affect education, healthcare, the economy, the environment, and many other parts of life in Hawaii. By voting, you set a positive example for keiki, encouraging them to be responsible citizens. As parents, teaching our keiki about the importance of voting instills in them a sense of civic duty and pride in our democratic processes. And, your efforts can contribute to creating safer streets, better schools, and more family-friendly neighborhoods.

Registering to vote, attending a county council meeting, understanding local policy issues or even reaching out to an elected official does not need to feel overwhelming or confusing. There are many community resources available to help make navigating democracy easier and more meaningful.

The Ho'oiikaika Partnership is a coalition of community organizations, individuals, county, and state agencies working together to prevent child abuse and neglect in Maui County. For more information, visit www.hooikaikapartnership.com or contact Coordinator Deb Marois at 808-765-7254.

How Can Parents Become Part of the Solution?

- Explain to your keiki why voting is important and how it impacts their future.
- Learn about issues and candidates together as an 'ohana. Encourage questions and discussion. This helps with critical thinking, informed decision-making, respect for others' viewpoint, and solving conflicts.
- Bring your keiki with you when you vote or fill out your vote-by-mail ballot together. Show them how voting is a proud tradition in your family. This helps build a sense of community and belonging.

By taking part in democracy, we ensure that our values and concerns are represented and help create a better future for our keiki and our community. Come together as a community this November and make your voices heard. At the same time, you'll teach our keiki the importance of active citizenship, all while building a stronger, more resilient Maui County and state of Hawaii. So please be part of the solution, vote! Your voice matters!

How to Participate in the Upcoming Elections

- 1. Register to Vote:** Visit the Hawaii State Office of Elections website at www.elections.hawaii.gov/ to register online. You can also mail in a voter registration form. Forms are available at post offices, libraries, and the Office of Elections.
- 2. Learn About the Candidates and Issues:** For comprehensive, non-partisan (neutral) information, check out www.vote411.org and Civil Beat's 2024 Election Guide www.civil-beat.org/2024-elections-guide. Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks! www.speaks.hawaii-can.org provides information on issues, candidates and legislation that affect 'ohana and keiki. It also gives advice on writing testimony or talking to public officials. You can sign up for "action alerts" to get information about the issues you care about.

**HO'OIKAIKA
PARTNERSHIP**

*Working together to keep
our 'ohana safe and supported*



What are Navigation Services?

Helping you find free services in the community that meet your needs.

How to Access Food

Access to Childcare

Child Needs or Services

Prenatal

Healthcare & Mental Health Services

Substance Abuse Treatment

Aftercare Coaching

Access to Utility Assistance

Vital Documents



"I think the best way to describe my experience was almost like talking to a relative. I felt she is a very empathetic and relatable caseworker. I felt like she was speaking to me on my level and not above me."

-Participant

FAMILY STRENGTHENING

- Parenting and life skills coaching
- Aftercare coaching to help heal from trauma
- Child abuse & neglect prevention
- No time limit to services

90% of participants reported that they felt comfortable talking to the Navigator about their families' needs.

"This support came at a critical time. I find a lot of assistance doesn't help until you're already in crisis and I was so relieved to be able to avoid that."

-Participant

86% of participants reported that the items they received helped their family stay out of crisis.



PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Protective factors help 'ohana feel nurtured, stay informed, build social connections, maintain resilience, and access resources when needed.

- ✓ *Mālama 'Ohana*
Nurturing and Attachment
- ✓ *Parenting Can Be Hard, But Can*
Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- ✓ *Show Keiki Aloha*
Social and Emotional Competence in Children
- ✓ *How You Stay*
Social Connections
- ✓ *First, Make Yourself Pono*
Parental Resilience
- ✓ *No Shame*
Concrete Support in Times of Need



You Are Not Alone. We'll Be Your Navigator.

We are Navigators. We will partner with you and your 'ohana to support you through hard times.



We will connect you and your 'ohana to community resources and services.

We can connect families who need help.

There is no limit for how long we can help you and your 'ohana. We will let you lead.



"Programs like these being navigated by the right hearts are a huge blessing to 'ohana that needs the assistance and may not know how to ask. With a grateful heart, Thank you!!"

- Participant

85% of families felt they were able to access the resources they needed to keep their families stable.

NEED KŌKUA? CONTACT THE NAVIGATOR

(808) 242-0900 x244
navigator@mfss.org

NAVIGATION SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
ON MAUI, LĀNA'I, MOLOKA'I



PREVENTING ABUSE & NEGLECT

Ho'oikaika Partnership is a hui that welcomes community members who are devoted to ensuring our keiki and youth grow up healthy, safe and supported. This brochure was made possible through funding from the Hawaii Department of Health - Maui Health District Office.



www.HooikaikaPartnership.com

CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

NO SHAME When You Need Kōkua, Reach Out

We need help paying rent!

How do we find childcare?

Can we get SNAP?

How do we apply?



NAVIGATION SERVICES
FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



HO'OIKAIKA PARTNERSHIP

*Working together to keep
our 'ohana safe and supported*



A HUI DEDICATED TO PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT IN MAUI COUNTY

Who We Are

The Ho'oikaika Partnership is a coalition of community organizations, individuals, county and state agencies dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect in Maui County.

We work together to strengthen supports, foster collaboration, share knowledge and resources, and shape policy to prevent child maltreatment.

What We Do

- Offer training and support to build skills and reduce workforce stress
- Help families navigate the system and access support
- Raise awareness of Protective Factors in a public education campaign
- Advocate for policy changes to better support 'ohana

HO'OIKAIKA PARTNERSHIP

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PROTECTIVE FACTORS

Protective factors help buffer the negative impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and give keiki a better chance to thrive, even in tough circumstances.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Read our children's book "Kalo Boy's Adventure"
Donate to support our work
Learn more at www.hooikaikapartnership.com
Partner with us and join a committee, see below

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Community Engagement
Public Education Advocacy
Seamless Safety Net
Training & Professional Development

CONTACT US

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