

Child Abuse Prevention in Maui County: Weaving A Safety Net of Support for All Our 'Ohana

Water Authority, Social Services and Parks Committee Briefing

*Presented by Deb Marois, Ho'oikaika Partnership Coordinator
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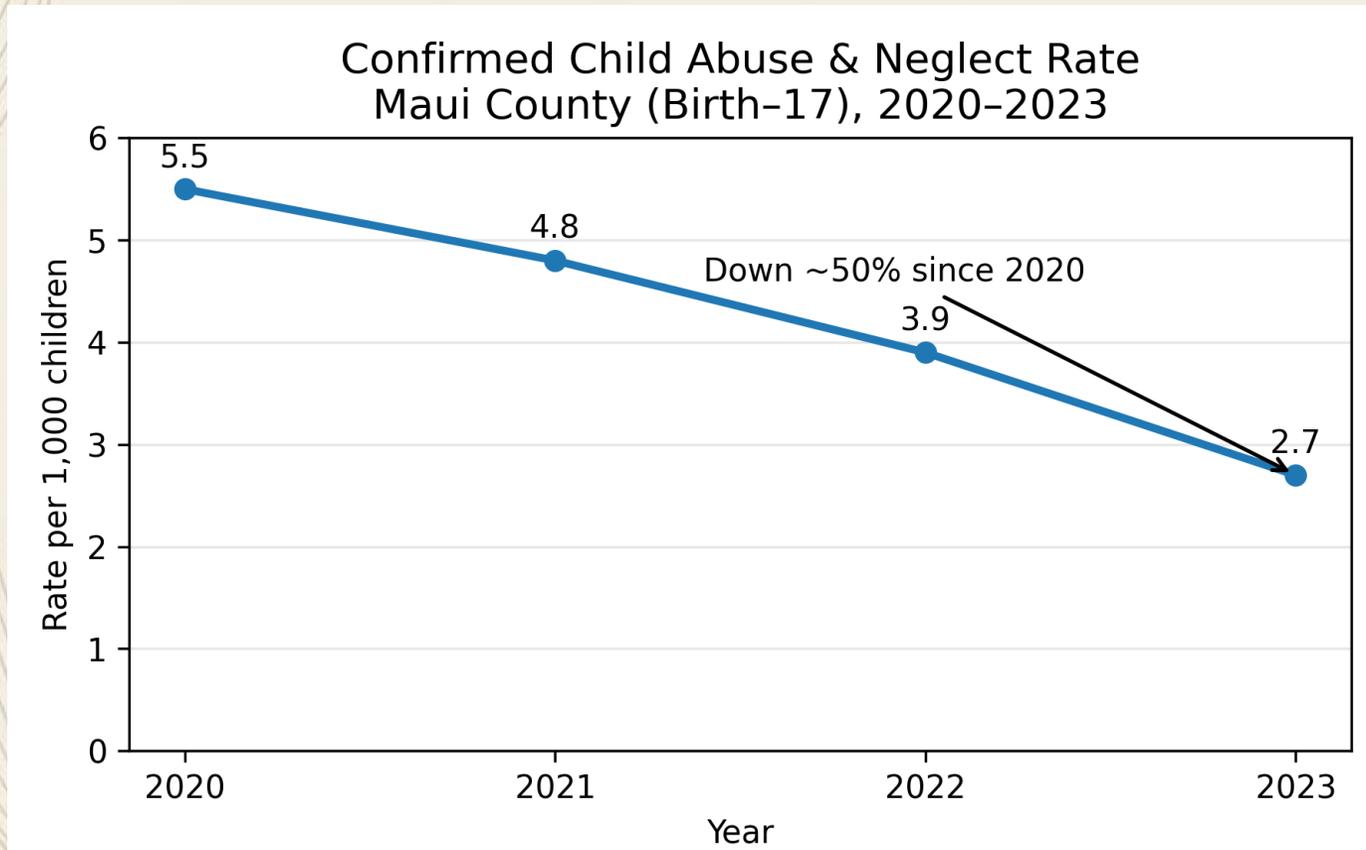
**HO'OIKAIKA
PARTNERSHIP**

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



Child Abuse in Maui County

Trend reflects fewer confirmed cases, *not reduced need for prevention*



- Nearly **1 in 5 adults** have **4+ Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**
- **140 confirmed** child abuse & neglect victims (2023)
- Confirmed CAN rates **declined by nearly half** since 2020
- Due to underreporting, the **actual number may be more than double** official reports.
- Wildfire impacts unknown

Adverse Childhood Experiences: Why Prevention Matters

Types of ACEs

ABUSE



physical



emotional



sexual

NEGLECT



physical



emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



mental illness



incarcerated family



intimate partner violence



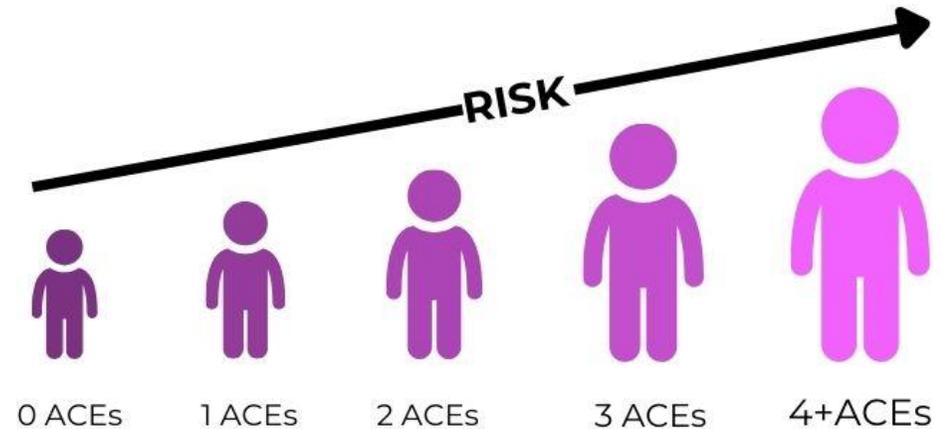
substance abuse



divorce, separation

Impact of ACEs

More ACEs = More negative health risks



Risks Linked to ACEs

BEHAVIOR



addiction



missed work

MENTAL HEALTH



depression



suicide



obesity

PHYSICAL HEALTH



diabetes



STDs



heart disease



stroke



cancer

Ho‘oikaika Partnership: Who We Are



- Countywide child abuse prevention coalition established in 2008
- A growing, cross-sector network
- Community-based organizations, government agencies, philanthropy, educational institutions, and more
- Providers of health & human services, early childhood educators, and others
- Grounded in Hawaiian values and Protective Factors framework

95+

Unique
Individuals

up from 87 in 2024

58

Unique
Organizations

up from 48 in 2024

42

Official
Partners

Leadership Hui: Strategic vision, coordination, and sustainability



HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTHY PEOPLE - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - HEALTHY ISLANDS



CAMHD





VISION

**Our 'ohana are healthy,
safe, and supported**

MISSION

Strengthen and expand the system of supports in Maui County by building a strong prevention and provider network that supports collaboration, shares knowledge and resources, and shapes policy to prevent child maltreatment

Ho'oikaika Partnership Strategic Goals 2021-2026

1. Create a seamless safety net of services to support children and caregivers
2. Strengthen the prevention and provider workforce
3. Successfully educate and advocate for policy, program, and systems changes needed to prevent CAN
4. Engage the community in CAN prevention
5. Strengthen the foundation of HP

What We Do: Weave a Seamless Safety Net



- **Strengthen protective factors** in families and the health and human service workforce across Maui, Molokaʻi, and Lānaʻi
- **Integrate multiple functions** under one coordinated effort
- **Address urgent social service needs collectively**
- **Build long-term resilience** for both families and the workforce.

Leadership Hui & Coordination

Relationship-building • Communications • Data • Sustainability

Weaving a Seamless Safety Net

Our Navigation Services provided a critical lifeline for 161 families across Maui County.

527 total people served

38% of families identified as Hawaiian/Part-Hawaiian

~3,800+ people reached through 13 community outreach events

- **11%** from Moloka'i; **1%** from Lāna'i
- **208** instances of assistance provided

Top Assistance Requests Reflect Rising Cost of Living





Community-Level Prevention & Outreach – 2025

- 13 outreach events including annual 'Ohana Fest
 - 3,827 people reached
 - 1,001 prevention and basic-needs items dispersed
- Distributed 1,004 "Kalo Boy" books and 50 "Talking is Teaching" posters on county buses to promote protective factors and early literacy.
- Delivered 300 "Aloha at Home" kits to give parents practical tools for family nurturing.

Public Education Campaign & Protective Factors Framework

THE PROTECTIVE FACTORS HELP CHILDREN FEEL NURTURED AND HELP ADULTS PADDLE SMOOTHLY THROUGH THE WATERS OF PARENTHOOD.

- " MĀLAMA 'OHANA" NURTURING & 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 SUPPORTS IN TIMES OF NEED



When it comes to parenting,
Who's in your canoe?



USE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PROTECTIVE FACTORS



“We can’t pour from an empty cup.”



Strengthening the Prevention Workforce

- **Monthly Meetings:** 98% report increased understanding of community resources
- **Annual Ho‘oikaika conference:** 190 providers from 50 organizations
 - Nearly 90% gained tools to build protective factors
- **Healing the Healers:** 170 providers convened for monthly support (post wildfire)
 - 90% report stronger peer connections and learned self-care strategies
- **Protective Factors Framework training:** 93 participants from 31 agencies (2024)
 - 29% earned a completion certificate

CAN Prevention is a Strategic Investment

Prevention Challenges

- Community need is outpacing resources, exacerbated by the “eligibility gap” and federal cuts
- Inconsistent funding creates service gaps
- Providers’ time & capacity are stretched thin
- A fragmented system is a risk factor for CAN

Prevention Benefits

- Strengthens keiki, ‘ohana, and community resilience
- Improves health and economic outcomes for children and youth
- Reduces involvement in child welfare, healthcare, and emergency systems
- Saves money
- A connected system is a protective factor

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Mahalo!

For more information:

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<https://www.hooikaikapartnership.com/>