

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

Mental Health Association in Hawaii- Maui County Budget Committee Testimony 4/16/2026

ADVISORY BOARD

John Boyd
Peter S. Ho
Timothy Johns
Patti Lyons
Sherry Menor-McNamara
Jerry Rauckhorst
Roy Sakuma
Jeffrey Watanabe

PRO BONO LEGAL COUNSEL

Paul Alston

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Pat Waterhouse,
President
Nolan Hong,
Vice President
Adam Coles,
Secretary
Kimberly Miyoshi,
Treasurer
Maricel Blackwell
Phyllis Dendle
Andy Downes
Laura Brucia Hamm
Jaclyn Kaina
Ryan Kusumoto
Mary Beth Lohman
Ann Mahi
Elizabeth Naholowa'a Murph
Sherry King Niethammer
Andrew Park
Sandra Simms

Dear Budget Committee Chair and Budget Council Members,

Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and state affiliate of a nationally recognized organization, has served Hawai'i for nearly 80 years. Guided by our mission to promote mental health and wellness through education, advocacy, and service, we work toward a vision of mental wellness for all. Since 1942, MHAH has played a key leadership role in expanding mental health awareness, preparedness, and access to resources across the state. Our efforts focus on reducing the stigma associated with mental health conditions through education and empowerment for those living with mental challenges and support for their loved ones. We have now been serving Maui County residents for over 50 years and through our programs, we aim to positively impact at least 9,280 residents in Maui County through the following initiatives:

- Provide suicide prevention trainings, including the safeTalk, Suicide Prevention 101, Mental Health First Aid, and the Youth Suicide & Bullying Prevention program
- Offer a daily telephone assistance, connecting callers to help they may need for mental health problems
- Support the Maui County Police Department in their Crisis Intervention Trainings
- Advocating for better mental health care at the state legislature

In Fiscal Year 2025, MHAH's Maui Office achieved the following outcomes:

- 898 youth were trained in self-care, bullying, & suicide prevention
- 280 Maui County HODOE staff were trained in Suicide Prevention 101
- Over 200 community members were reached through our free education programs, Mental Health First Aid, safeTalk, ASIST, & help calls
- Nearly 2,000 Maui County residents were reached through community outreach events

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 04/16/2026



200 N. Vineyard Boulevard, Suite A200
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
P 808.521.1846
mentalhealthhawaii.org

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

- 62 Maui Police Officers were provided with personal testimonies of lived experience during their Crisis Intervention Training.

In conclusion, Mental Health America of Hawai'i–Maui continues to prioritize accessible support, advocacy, and resources for those affected by mental health challenges. Mahalo to the Maui County Council Budget Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Bryan Talisayan
Executive Director
Mental Health America of Hawaii
200 N. Vineyard Blvd Ste A200
Honolulu, HI 96817