

**Mālama ‘Ohana Working Group**  
**Office of Wellness and Resilience,**  
**Office of the Governor, State of Hawaii**

**Virtual Meeting via**  
**Zoom October 16, 2023**  
**1:00pm-3:30pm**

Members Present via Zoom: Laurie Tochiki (EPIC ‘Ohana), Venus Rosete-Medeiros (Hale Kipa), Chiemi Davis (Lili‘uokalani Trust designee), Kayla Samson (Birth Parent), Daisy Hartfield (DHS designee), Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Kinship Resource Caregiver), Kimberly Nabarro (Birth Parent), Lisa Rapozo (DHS designee), Melissa Mayo (Former Foster Youth), Scott Shimabukuro (Trauma Informed Care Task Force designee), Zuri Aki (OHA designee), Amanda Mundon (Kinship Resource Caregiver), Paul Tonnessen (Licensed Resource Caregiver), April Lum (Licensed Resource Caregiver), and Elladine Olevao (DHS designee)

Members Absent: Kacie Lambert (Former Foster Youth) and Ka‘ano‘i Walk (Kamehameha Schools designee)

Guests Present via zoom: First Lady Jaime Kanani Green; CKirby; Cynthia Isenbarger, Dana Matsunami, Kelly Sim, Ke’opu Reelitz, Laura, Marilyn, Melenani Wai’alae, Shana Kukila, Sharon Simms, Nonohe Botelho, Peggy Hong, Jackie Hong, and Noreen Kohl.

Support Staff Present: Rachael Wong (One Shared Future - OSF), Kāwika Riley (OSF), Jessica Kaneakua (OSF), Tia Hartsock (Office of Wellness and Resilience - OWR), Keala Kaopuiki-Santos (OWR), Ally Trest (OWR), Rachel Aquino (OWR), and Lise Vaughan-Sekona (EPIC ‘Ohana).

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS ACTIONS/CONCLUSION</b>	<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>DATE DUE</b>
I. Call to Order	Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.  Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, informed meeting attendees of the deferment of Agenda item III. Working Group: Spirit of and	Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, identified that a quorum of MOWG members is present.		

	<p>Overarching Goals For Decision-Making: Consideration of a Permitted Interaction Group to Design and Plan Listening Sessions to Take Place in 2024</p> <p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, invited attendees to request to join PIG through chat or by email</p> <p>Co-chair, Venus Rosete-Medeiros, welcomed all attendees and introduced special guest, First Lady Jaime Kanani Green, who thanked MOWG for commitment to support Hawai'i families</p> <p>Attendance Sheet dropped in the chat (Google Doc)</p>	<p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, called the meeting to order at 1:04p.m.</p> <p>Meeting attendees asked to fill out attendance sheet in chat</p>		
<p>II. Introductions of Working Group Members and Acknowledgement of Teams and Guests</p>	<p>Co-facilitator, Rachael Wong, led the group in an exercise to open the meeting in an intentional way and then posed the question for all participants: <i>What is my kuleana to improve the well-being of children in Hawai'i?</i></p>	<p>Community members welcomed to answer question in Chat</p>		
<p>III. Working Group: Spirit of and Overarching Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Decision-Making: Consideration of a Permitted Interaction Group to Design and Plan Listening Sessions to Take Place in 2024</li> </ul>	<p>Co-facilitator, Kāwika Riley, reviewed agenda, focus, and goals for this meeting and Working group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working group has a time limit (2025)</li> <li>• Discussion of Designing and Alliance</li> <li>• Share about the responsibilities the Working Group has according to Act 86</li> </ul> <p>Sharon Simms, guest, informed meeting attendees that PIG is not an official term. The official term is Permitted Interaction Group.</p> <p>The following MOWG and community participants expressed their interest in participating in a PIG: Nonohe Botelho, Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez*, Daisy Hartsfield*, Shana Kukila, Kimberly Nabarro, Melissa Mayo*.</p>	<p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, informed meeting attendees of deferment of Agenda Item III.</p> <p>*MOWG members</p> <p>Permitted Interaction Group will be referred to as PIG moving forward</p>		

<p>IV. Vote to Approve the Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2023</p>	<p>Daisy Hartsfield, DHS designee, asked if the MOWG were given access to referenced Google Forms?</p> <p>Co-Facilitator, Rachael Wong, responded: The Google Form was shared to collect any additional contributions to the Designed Alliance after the September MOWG public meeting. Only one response was received, and it was incorporated into what will be shared in the next section.</p>	<p>Venus Rosete-Medeiros, Co-Chair, called to approve September 19 meeting minutes. Paul Tonnessen, Licensed Resource Caregiver, made the motion to approve. Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez, Kinship Resource Caregiver, seconded the motion to approve. All in favor. No opposed.</p>		
<p>V. Working Group Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Decision-making: Affirmation of the Designed Alliance</li> </ul>	<p>Co-Facilitator, Rachel Wong, reviewed the MOWG's Designed Alliance.</p> <p>A Designed Alliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Builds foundation to continue to do this work together</li> <li>• Allows everyone to co-design space in which the WG operates</li> <li>• Allows WG members to choose how they want to <i>be</i> together while executing their charge of Act 86</li> <li>• Ongoing and continuously affirmed agreement between members</li> </ul> <p>Draft MOWG Designed Alliance (compiled from WG and community input):</p> <p>To create a shared, safe space where we can interact and generate meaningful ideas and recommendations, we agree to stay engaged in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to achieving WG goals</li> <li>• Live our values of honesty, respect, inclusion, aloha, empathy, equity of voice, value of lived experience, and ha'aha'a (humility), and kindness</li> <li>• assume good intent, listen deeply, seek first to understand, focus on solutions, avoid blame, and take responsibility</li> </ul>	<p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, called to approve and affirm the Designed Alliance. Chiemi made the motion to approve. Kailene seconded the motion. All in favor. No opposition. No abstentions.</p>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● nurture a trauma-informed, growth mindset, and positive culture of safety, respect, confidentiality, boundary respect, hope, curiosity, learning, and transformation</li> <li>● Respect others’ experiences, stay out of judgment, and look to ‘ike kupuna as a source of guidance</li> <li>● Support each other</li> <li>● Cultivate aloha for one another and connectedness to each other and our communities</li> </ul> <p>Discussion regarding affirmation of the Designed Alliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chiemi Davis, Liliuokalani Trust designee: this is a good depiction of the work ahead and how we want to show up.</li> <li>● Daisy Hartsfield, DHS designee: appreciates that this feels like a “we” and not oppositional.</li> <li>● Laurie: this statement weaves everybody’s ideas together.</li> </ul> <p>Co-Facilitator, Rachael Wong, shared: this is the ‘upena (the net) and we can come back to it with intentionality to hold the container together.</p>			
<p>VI. Discussion on Child Welfare System</p>	<p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, shared the origin story of MOWG and Nā Kama a Hāloa network, in response to community concerns with CWS.</p> <p>Co-chair, Venus Rosete-Medeiros, discussed the importance of coming together as a community group to work alongside CWS to create change. Primary focus of MOWG [during these first few meetings] is to listen, and to listen deeply.</p> <p>Co-facilitator, Kāwika Riley, reviewed Act 86 directions to MOWG.</p> <p>Co-facilitator, Kāwika Riley, reviewed the timeline of MOWG report and dissolution. Statute sets forth the</p>	<p>The exact due date for when the MOWG report is forthcoming. Approximately sometime at the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025 calendar year the report will be due.</p> <p>The exact dissolution date for the MOWG is forthcoming. Approximately the end date is at the end of April 2025.</p>		

	<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MOWG shall submit a report of findings no later than 20 days prior to convening of the regular session of 2025</li> <li>● MOWG shall be dissolved upon adjournment (<i>sine die</i>) of the regular session of 2025</li> </ul> <p>Co-facilitator, Kāwika Riley, posed the following questions for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>What do we hope we will achieve through these tasks?</i></li> <li>● <i>What do we need to understand about the system in order to do this work?</i></li> <li>● <i>What challenges come to mind as you think of this kuleana, and what can we do now so we can address them by our deadlines?</i></li> </ul> <p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, clarified that in Act 86, the language regarding identifying “training, best practices, assessment, criteria and methods” refers to sustaining an effective workforce in the CWS. Clarifies the use of “listening sessions” which are referred to in Act 86 as “informational meetings.”</p> <p>Co-Chair, Laurie Tochiki, discussed the use of PIGs to engage community voices.</p> <p>Daisy Hartsfield, DHS designee, highlighted the importance of understanding the reality of how things are actually done to help us move forward.</p> <p>Zuri Aki, OHA designee, supported PIG and identified that we don’t have a lot of time to do the work. This will be ongoing work.</p>	<p>Due to confusion regarding PIGs, participants are encouraged to review Sunshine Law and statute regarding PIG creation.</p>		
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	<p>Scott Shimabukuro, Task Force designee, agrees that this will be ongoing work.</p> <p>Co-Facilitator, Kāwika Riley, clarified that the public will have notice when a PIG is coming together, the purpose/scope of the PIG and the participants. MOWG will discuss and vote to create PIGs.</p>			
VII. Break				
<p>VIII. Public Comment and Input  <i>(Pursuant to Section 92-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, community members will have 3 minutes to speak or submit written testimony, preferably at least (3) business days before the meeting. See page 1 for the physical mailing address. Email <a href="mailto:malamaohana@onesharedfuture.com">malamaohana@onesharedfuture.com</a> or <a href="mailto:gov.owr@hawaii.gov">gov.owr@hawaii.gov</a> to submit written testimony or comment on agenda items before the meeting.</i></p>	<p>Co-Facilitator, Rachael Wong, welcome attendees back to meeting and invite public and guests to share comments and input, through voice or by chat</p> <p>Co-Facilitator, Rachael Wong, reiterates that the MOWG is under Sunshine Law. Through PIGs, there are opportunities to work with community members in transforming the child welfare system.</p> <p>Nonohe, community participant: expressed concern with employee performance; quality assurance; access to existing data and audits; accountability; and complaint system.</p> <p>Co-Chair, Venus Rosete-Medeiros: What system would our kupuna have created?</p> <p>Rachael: There are good people in the system that are confined by the system.</p> <p>Marilyn, community participant: offered previous national</p>			

	<p>research as a blueprint for a new system.</p> <p>Daisy Hartsfield, DHS designee: highlighted the need for federal funding that supports culturally appropriate programming. Currently, CWS needs evidence to support cultural programming.</p> <p>Co-chair, Lauri Tochiki, thanked the members of the MOWG and understands that it is difficult to hear the comments about the system that is currently in place.</p> <p>Zuri: pointed out that OHA funds, in excess of the cap, should be used to serve culturally appropriate services for Native Hawaiian families engaged with CWS to address the disproportionate representation of Hawaiian children in the system.</p> <p>Shana, community participant: identified the importance of addressing the needs of children with special needs and being made to feel like a bad person as the birth parent.</p> <p>Cynthia, community participant, via Chat: offered suggestions to support education for youth in care including: remedial intervention programs designed specifically to catch them up; and to open alternative schools where children can pick up weekly work packets with drop-in tutoring for each subject area. Another need is a transition program for emancipated teens that cannot find foster care placement to live in a group home or dorm setting that is supervised by adults.</p>			
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IX. Next Steps	<p>Next Zoom meeting is on Monday, November 20 from 1-3:30pm.</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://malamaohana.net">malamaohana.net</a> to view meeting notice and related materials and also to join the mailing list.</p> <p>Affirmation of Well-being: Kimberly Nabarro, birth parent, shared a poem by Portia Nelson “<a href="#">There’s a Hole in my Sidewalk.</a>”</p>			
X. Closing Comments	<p>Co-facilitator, Rachel Wong, prompted participants to complete the following statement in chat: “<i>Well-being means...</i>”</p>			
XI Adjournment	<p>Co-chair, Venus Rosete-Medeiros, extended a mahalo to all participants.</p> <p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, adjourned meeting at 3:20 p.m</p>			





