

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

**Virtual Meeting via  
Zoom September 18,  
2023  
1:00pm-3:30pm**

Members Present via Zoom (15/17): Laurie Tochiki (EPIC ‘Ohana), Venus Rosete-Medeiros (Hale Kipa), Chiemi Davis (Lili‘uokalani Trust designee), Kayla Samson (Birth Parent), Daisy Hartfield (DHS designee), Kacie Lambert (Former Foster Youth), Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Kinship Resource Caregiver), Ka’ano’i Walk (Kamehameha Schools designee), Kimberly Nabarro (Birth Parent), Lisa Rapozo (DHS CWS), Melissa Mayo (Former Foster Youth), Scott Shimabukuro (Trauma Informed Care Task Force designee), Zuri Aki (OHA designee), Amanda Mundon (Kinship Resource Caregiver), and Paul Tonnessen (Resource Caregiver).

Members Absent (2/17): April Lum (Licensed Resource Caregiver), and Elladine Olevao (DHS CWS)

Guests Present: Dana Matsunami, Jonathan Huang, Joshua Franklin, Kelly Sim, Laura Miller, Marty Oliphant, Nonoh Botelho, Peggy Hong, Sarah Antone, Shana Kukila, Stacy Ferreira, Tim Hitchens, Tina Shibata, Ke’opu Reelitz, and ChunkB.

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/CONCLUSIONS</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 p.m. Co-facilitator, Kāwika Riley informed meeting attendees of the attendance sheet in chat.			

<p>II. Introductions of Working Group members and acknowledgement of teams and guests</p>	<p>Co-chairs, Laurie Tochiki and Venus Rosete-Medeiros, expressed their gratitude to working group and community members.</p> <p>Co-facilitator, Rachael Wong, provided an overview of One Shared Future.</p> <p>Co-facilitator, Kāwika Riley, led a centering exercise: 30 seconds of quiet contemplation.</p> <p>Co-facilitator, Rachael Wong, facilitated introductions of working group, guests, and community members.</p>			
<p>III. History and Intent of Act 86 <a href="http://www.malamaohana.net">www.malamaohana.net</a></p>	<p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, shared the history of the creation of the Mālama ‘Ohana Working group.</p> <p>Co-chair, Venus Rosete-Medeiros, shared the intent of Act 86.</p>			

<p>IV. Working Group process, including Standards of Conduct and Introduction to Sunshine Law</p>	<p>Co-facilitator Kāwika Riley provided an overview of Sunshine Law. Four major points of Sunshine Law: Meeting Notice, Agenda/Openness, Public Comment, and Records.</p> <p>Co-chair, Laurie Tochiki, explained the creation of Permitted Interaction Groups (referred to as “Piglets”) that could include community members. Melissa Mayo (Former Foster Youth) asked if there could be more than one “Piglet”. Co-Chair, Lauri Tochiki, responded, “Yes.”</p> <p>Co-facilitator, Rachael Wong, shared the importance of Designing an Alliance to co-design a space in which the working group operates and posed to the Working Group members and guests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “What are the values of the working group?”</li> <li>● “How do you want the working group to feel?”</li> <li>● “How do you want the working group to behave when things get difficult?”</li> <li>● “What will help the working group to thrive?”</li> </ul> <p>Co-facilitator, Rachael Wong, shared a sample Standards of Presence and invited community contributions via Google Form which will be posted on the MalamaOhana.net website</p>	<p>Please refer to google form for complete list of responses.</p> <p>Please refer to google form for complete list of responses.</p> <p>Please refer to google form for complete list of responses.</p> <p>Please refer to google form for complete list of responses.</p>		
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	from 9/19/23 to 9/30/23.			
<p>V. Public Comment &amp; 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, invited community comment and input. She explained that each speaker will have three (3) minutes to share in a safe space. At the end of three minutes, the speaker will be muted.</p> <p>Co-facilitator, Kāwika Riley, re-emphasized that the meeting is being recorded.</p> <p>Discussion centered around who and what should be the focus of the working group.</p> <p>Nonohe Botelho discussed the importance of a focus on the birth parents (makua) and parental rights. She shared her concern that keiki are excluded from their family of origin.</p> <p>Chiemi Davis (MOWG designee from Lili’uokalani Trust) discussed that her organization focuses on the keiki. She also expressed the need to make sure that the language the working group uses is clear and understood by all.</p> <p>Peggy Hong discussed the importance of focusing on the laws (Ch. 587A), policies, procedures, supervision and internal structure of CWS as these impacted her family. She elaborated that the system’s definition of family is nuclear which excludes extended family and kinship.</p> <p>Laurie Tochiki (MOWG EPIC ‘Ohana) asked the working group to really take time to understand the what/who of the Child Welfare System and what are the policies and procedures. She shared that the working group’s focus could take a broad or narrow view of CWS’s work. Ke’opu Reelitz appreciated Laurie’s perspective and added the inclusion of prevention into the system.</p> <p>Venus Rosete-Medeiros (MOWG Hale Kipa) shared that the</p>			

	<p>focus on the keiki (child) as the center also includes the makua (parents) because the center is the ‘ohana (family). Ke’opu Reelitz agreed with Venus comment and added that “Ohana is the piko.”</p> <p>Shana Kukila shared concern that families are pitted against each other and asked if family court judges are on the working group because they are the ones who decide these cases. Laurie responded that they are invited to participate as community members.</p> <p>Paul Tonnessen (MOWG resource caregiver) shared that the system is intimidating, difficult to understand, and inaccessible to birth fathers.</p> <p>Kimberly Nabarro (MOWG Birth Parent) expressed the need to help communities be able to help each other. Removing the shame and stigma of asking for help and having the resources to receive help. Mandated supporting.</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (MOWG Kinship Caregiver) shared how family caregiving can implode a family. She would like to see open dialogue with the family so that they can support the birth mom and avoid CWS involvement.</p> <p>Ke’opu Reelitz offered that the focus shift from individual accountability to shared accountability with community and state.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (OWR) shared that OWR is taking on the 'workforce wellness' piece for the state as one of the main functions of the office of wellness and resilience. Peggy responded “great.”</p>			
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VI. Next Steps	The next Working Group meeting will be on Monday, October 16 on Zoom. A meeting space with Zoom connection will be provided. Each meeting will have a unique zoom link. The zoom link for the next meeting will be provided on the meeting notice, and the meeting notice can be found on the state calendar. The MalamaOhana.net website will include posting of the Google Form, meeting notice, and related materials.			
VII. Closing Comments	Co-chair, Venus Rosete-Medeiros, shared an affirmation of well-being. She shared the bowl of light from <i>Tales From the Night Rainbow</i>  Every attendee was invited to finish the sentence “Ohana means...” in Chat.			
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm			

