

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

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

**Members Present via Zoom** (16): Laurie Tochiki (EPIC ‘Ohana), Venus Rosete-Medeiros (Hale Kipa), Kacie Lambert (Former Foster Youth), Melissa Mayo (Former Foster Youth), Kayla Samson (Birth Parent), Kimberly Nabarro (Birth Parent), Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Kinship Resource Caregiver), Amanda Mundon (Kinship Resource Caregiver), Paul Tonnessen (Licensed Resource Caregiver), April Lum (Licensed Resource Caregiver), Ka‘ano‘i Walk (Kamehameha Schools designee), Daisy Hartfield (DHS designee), Lisa Rapozo (DHS Child Welfare Services Branch), Elladine Olevao (DHS Child Welfare Services Branch), Scott Shimabukuro (Trauma-Informed Care Task Force designee), and Stacy Ferreira (OHA).

**Members Absent** (1): Chiemi Davis (Lili‘uokalani Trust designee)

**Guests Present** (14): Chasity Cabral, Christine Montague-Hicks, Dana Matsunami, Deza-Rae, Jackie Hong, Kristina Shibata, Lisi Ferguson, Marilyn Yamamoto, Nonohe Botelho, Elise Dela Cruz Talbert, and Parker’s Otter Pilot.

**MOWG Support Staff Present** (10): Rachael Wong (One Shared Future - OSF), Kāwika Riley (OSF), Jessica Kaneakua (OSF), Tia Hartsock (OWR), Keala Kaopuiki-Santos (OWR), Rachel Aquino (OWR), Ally Trest (OWR), Delia Ulima (EPIC ‘Ohana), Anastasia Neumann (EPIC ‘Ohana), and Lise Vaughan-Sekona (EPIC ‘Ohana).

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>PERSO N(S) RESPO NSIBLE</b>	<b>DA TE DU E</b>
I. Call to Order	Laurie Tochiki (MOWG Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. Quorum established.			

<p>II. Introduction of Working Group Members and Acknowledgement of Teams and Guests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Opening Remarks by Venus Rosete-Medeiros (MOWG Co-Chair)</li> <li>• Rachael Wong (Co-facilitator) invited members of the Mālama ‘Ohana Working Group to introduce themselves by answering the following check-in question: “I offer/My gift to keiki is _____.”</li> </ul>	<p>Participants encouraged to answer prompt in CHAT</p>		
<p>III. Today’s Agenda, Focus, &amp; Goals and Mālama ‘Ohana Working Group’s Purpose and Activities (Venus Rosete-Medeiros and Laurie Tochiki, Co-Chairs; Rachael Wong (Co-Facilitator)</p>	<p>Rachael Wong (Co-Facilitator) asked attendees who could not stay for the duration of the meeting, if they would like to comment on the agenda at this time.</p>	<p>No comment from attendees.</p>		
<p>IV. Vote to Approve the Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laurie Tochiki (MOWG Co-Chair) asked for any corrections, deletions, and comments to the November minutes: no comments or changes were made.</li> <li>• Laurie Tochiki (MOWG Co-Chair) called for a motion to approve Meeting Minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion: Paul Tonnessen (MOWG)</li> <li>• Second: Amanda Mundon (MOWG)</li> <li>• By a show of hands: Majority in favor.</li> <li>• Abstained from vote: Daisy Hartfield (MOWG) and Stacy Ferreira (MOWG).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>November 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes approved.</p>		
<p>V. Working Group Process: Reminder of Sunshine Law, Spirit of Mālama ‘Ohana Working Group, and the Designed Alliance</p>	<p>Kāwika Riley (Co-facilitator) reviewed.</p>	<p>MOWG Designed Alliance is accessible on <a href="http://malamaohana.net">malamaohana.net</a></p>		

<p>VI. Permitted Interaction Groups:  - Review Creation of Six PIGs:  i. Group 1 - Keiki &amp; ‘Ōpio (Children &amp; Youth)  ii. Group 2 - Makua &amp; ‘Ohana (Parents &amp; Family)  iii. Group 3 - Lawe Hānai (Caregivers)  iv. Group 4 - Hui Kaiāulu (Community Groups)  v. Group 5 - Hui Ho‘opūlama (System Supports)  vi. Group 6 - Kanaka &amp; Po’e Pasifika (Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders)  - Discussion: PIGs scopes and membership [see posted Decisions Making Item 23.2]  - Introduce: Seventh PIG for Informational Meetings</p>	<p>Rachael Wong (Co-facilitator) reviewed the timeline for the work of the MOWG.</p> <p>Kāwika Riley (Co-facilitator) reviewed what a PIG is, the scope of a PIG’s work, and the duration of a PIG.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PIG scope of work is limited</li> <li>- PIGs are not decision making bodies, they are investigative and report back to the working group. The working group holds the decision making responsibility</li> <li>- MOWG members cannot participate in a PIG that they are not assigned to nor talk to those PIG participants about their PIGs work</li> <li>- PIG membership is locked in, meaning additional members cannot be added later</li> <li>- PIGs terminate once they make their report to the working group</li> <li>- There are no organizational restrictions to the PIGs membership, meaning that more than one member from an organization can be on a PIG together</li> </ul>	<p>Public and MOWG Q&amp;A to clarify understanding of PIGs.</p> <p>Public and MOWG members invited to add their names to the PIGs.</p> <p>Public and MOWG members asked to reach out to their community and let them know about the MOWG and PIGs.</p>		
<p>VII. Decision-Making:  1. 23.3: Approval of Permitted Interaction Group scopes  2. 23.4: Approval of Permitted Interaction Group on Informational Meetings</p>	<p>Laurie Tochiki (MOWG Co-Chair) asked the MOWG if there are any objections to defer PIG decision making of agenda items to the next meeting.</p>	<p>No objections. PIG agenda items were deferred to next meeting.</p>		

<p>VIII. Identification of Financial Support for the MOWG</p>	<p>Laurie Tochiki (MOWG Co-Chair) affirmed the transparent spirit of Mālama ‘Ohana and identified the organizations that have provided financial support to cover the costs of the MOWG. Act 86, which established MOWG, did not provide the working group with a budget. Therefore, the co-chairs’ gratitude goes out to the following organizations for stepping up to support this work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kamehameha Schools - \$55,0000</li> <li>• Hawaii Community Foundation - \$55,000</li> <li>• Casey Family Programs - \$38,000; pledged an additional \$40,000 for next year</li> <li>• Annie E. Casey Foundation pledged \$50,000 for next year.</li> </ul>			
<p>IX. Focus of the Day: Expanding Our Lens towards Empathy</p>	<p>Rachael Wong (Co-facilitator) asked participants to expand their awareness and lenses to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Step into others’ shoes</li> <li>• See the system as whole</li> </ul> <p>Rachael Wong (Co-facilitator) reviewed the MOWG’s definitions of what ‘ohana means from an earlier meeting</p>			

<p>X. Presentation: Keiki &amp; ‘Ōpio (Children &amp; Youth) Perspectives, Hopes for Mālama ‘Ohana Working Group, and Recommendations for Improving the Child Welfare System presented by Melissa Mayo and Kacie Lambert, Anastasia Neumann. Moderated by Delia Ulima.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anastasia Neumann made the following recommendations: (1) youth should be involved in their case early on; and (2) youth should be provided with community supports after adoption/permanency.</li> <li>• Kacie Lambert made the following recommendations: (1) provide youth with peer support early on and often; (2) every youth deserves peer support, regardless of the categories of need they fall within; (3) provide youth with stronger support when they exit care and well before they age out so that they have time to prepare; (4) educate providers about resources and deadlines; every resource unknown and missed is a lost opportunity for the youth.</li> <li>• Melissa Mayo made the following recommendations: (1) Foster care should be the last resort, community support early on would have made a big difference for her; (2) CWS staff need support; supporting them supports the families they serve; this means lowering case loads, sufficient staffing, and sufficient training; (3) legal and relational permanency should be achieved for all youth.</li> </ul>			
<p>XI. Break</p>	<p>Deferred to accommodate Q&amp;A for presenters.</p>			

<p>XII. 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>Rachael Wong (Co-facilitator) invited public comments on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoughts on working group kuleana</li> <li>• Questions or comments regarding discussion</li> <li>• Other mana‘o related to meeting or agenda</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tia Hartsock (OWR) recommended that a cheat sheet be provided as an ongoing shared document to define the words/concepts we are using in these meetings like: kako`o, ohana, stakeholder, MOWG, people with lived experience, peer support, HI HOPES, etc).</li> <li>• Nonohe Botelho (Guest): Asked presenters about their experience speaking with the judges. Kacie Lambert (presenter) shared that at age 16, she spoke to her judge and it was helpful. Anastasia Neumann (presenter) shared that she was made aware that she could speak with her judge at age 17 and that was a great help knowing that she could advocate for herself. Melissa Mayo (presenter) shared that at age 16 she was told that she could participate at court and she continued to go to court after she knew that she could advocate for herself.</li> <li>• Marilyn Yamamoto (Guest) shared that she appreciated that those with lived experience were stakeholders as well and that you don't need professional letters after your name to be a stakeholder.</li> <li>• Jackie Hong (Guest) recommended that Papa Ola Lokahi be included to address substance abuse.</li> <li>• Ka'ano'i Walk (MOWG) encouraged members of HI HOPES to join the PIGs.</li> <li>• Scott Shimabukuro (MOWG) was interested in</li> </ul>	<p>Public comments were made orally and via Chat</p>		
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	the learning aspect for social workers and CWS from youth feedback on the care they received.			
XIII Next Steps	<p>Kāwika Riley (Co-facilitator) informed attendees of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Next meeting is on Zoom: 1-3:30pm, Monday, January 22</li> <li>2. Visit <a href="http://MalamaOhana.net">MalamaOhana.net</a> website to view meeting notice and related materials and also to join the mailing list</li> </ol>			
XIV. Closing Comments	<p>Elladine Olevao (MOWG) shared one of her favorite childhood stories, <i>The Little Red Hen</i>. She thanked the attendees for their participation in this work because, unlike the little red hen, we are sharing this vision and work together.</p> <p>Rachael Wong (Co-Facilitator) invited all to participate in a check-out activity by completing the statement: “I am grateful for _____.”</p>	Participants encouraged to answer prompt in CHAT		
XV. Adjournment	Laurie Tochiki (MOWG Co-chair) adjourned the meeting at 3:22 pm.			



