Hā Kūpuna
National Resource Center for Native Hawaiian Elders

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Assuring the transmission of “hā” (breath) from older to younger generations
Overview

Hā Kūpuna speaks to the transmission of hā, or breath of life, from older to younger generations. In Native Hawaiian culture, kūpuna (elders) traditionally are recognized as the major sources of wisdom and the transmitters of knowledge and training to younger generations. In order to provide kūpuna with the opportunity to pass hā to younger generations, we must consider ways to promote their well-being, health, and access to long-term care.

Goal

The goal of Hā Kūpuna is to improve access to and delivery of services to Native Hawaiian elders and their caregivers through the development and dissemination of knowledge around health and long-term care.

Main Activities

♦ Provide training and technical assistance to organizations serving Native Hawaiian elders in the areas of long-term care and family caregiving.

♦ Conduct research on Native Hawaiian elders and their caregivers to articulate patterns and preferences for long-term care.

♦ Disseminate knowledge and information on Native Hawaiian elders.

For a list of current projects, please visit our website: manoa.hawaii.edu/hakupuna

Advisory Councils

Native Advisory Council

Comprised of renowned Native Hawaiian leaders, the NAC provides guidance on cultural competence.

♦ The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka (Honorary Chair), Senator, US Congress

♦ Claire Hughes, DrPH (Co-Chair), Retired nutritionist, Hawai‘i State Department of Health

♦ Kekuni Blaisdell, MD, Emeritus Professor, John A. Burns School of Medicine

♦ J. Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula, PhD, Assistant Researcher, John A. Burns School of Medicine

♦ Shawn Malia Kana‘iaupuni, PhD, Director, Policy Analysis & System Eval., Kamehameha Schools

Partner Organizations Advisory Council

Comprised of representatives of organizations serving elders in Hawai‘i, the POAC ensures that we are anchored in community-driven priorities.

♦ John Tomoso, MSW (Chair), Executive on Aging, Maui County Office on Aging

♦ Kealoha Takahashi, BA (Vice-Chair), Executive on Aging, Kaua‘i County Agency on Elderly Affairs

♦ May Fujii Foo, MPA, Grants Manager, City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division

♦ Sister Alicia Damien Lau, MPH, Director, King Lunalilo Home

♦ Wesley Lum, MPH, Specialist, University of Hawai‘i Center on Aging

♦ Elizabeth Meahl, MPH, Director of Elderly Services, Alu Like, Inc.

♦ Karen Miyake, MS, Executive on Aging, City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division

♦ Alan Parker, BA, Executive on Aging, Hawai‘i County Office of Aging

♦ Sally Wehrsig, CNA, Caregiver Information and Assistance Specialist, Hawai‘i County Office of Aging

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