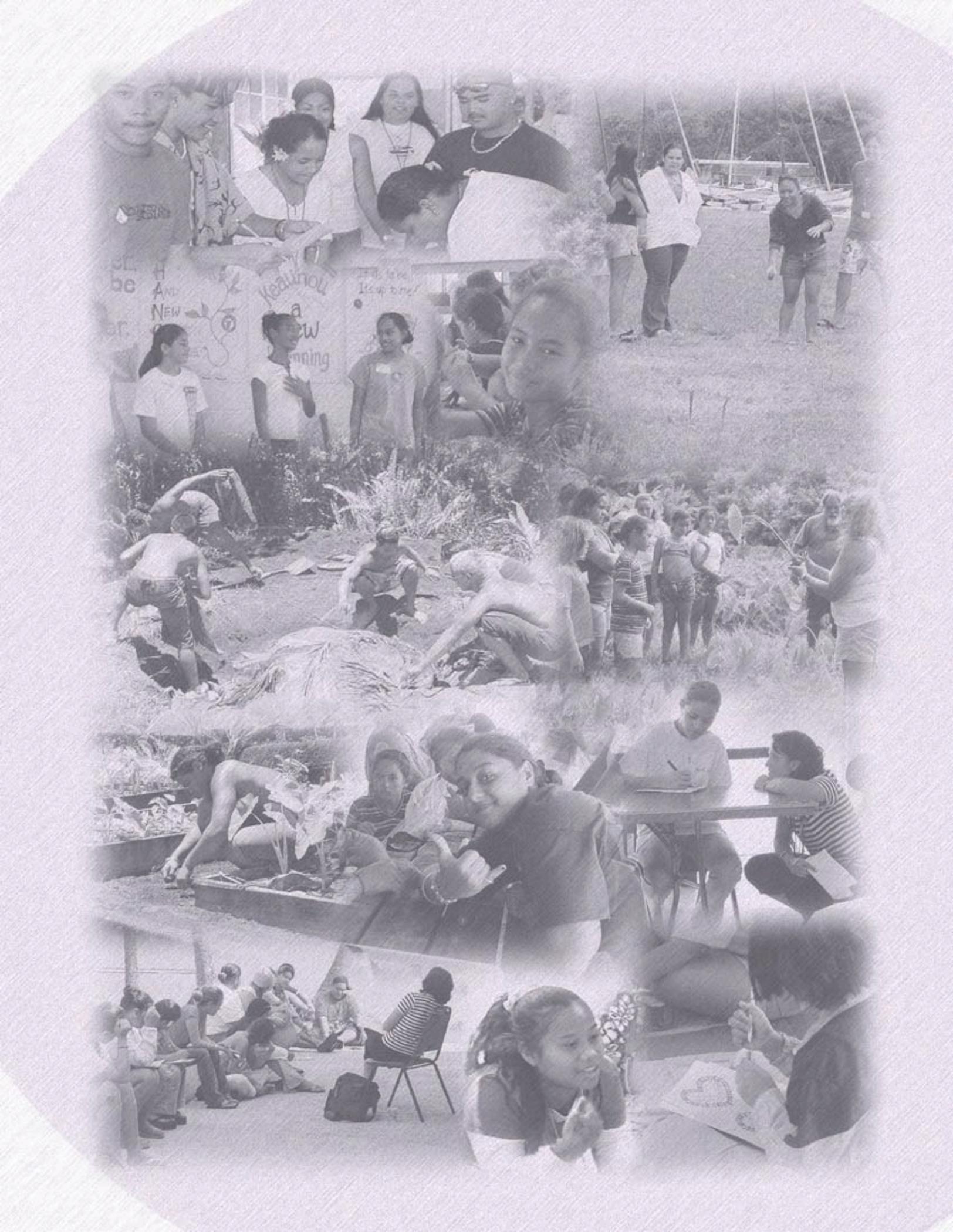


# Office of Youth Services

## 2003 Annual Report



State of Hawaii



*Aloha,*

The Office of Youth Services (OYS) plays a vital part in the delivery of services for the youth of Hawaii. The role of the OYS is to help children succeed in transitioning into adulthood with effective life skills and healthy attitudes within safe and secure environments. The following pages illustrate the many good things that happened during Fiscal Year 2003 as the result of programs funded through the OYS.

The OYS vision is for "a safe, healthy and nurturing community that values youth as productive and contributing members and provides opportunities for the actualization of their highest potential." With this vision in mind, the OYS has offered a wide range of program funding and support to cover an array of services from prevention to incarceration and transitional programs. These programs and delivery of services are dependent upon agencies that provide localized, professional opportunities for youth.

Changes were made administratively in the State and in OYS during 2003. With that came a philosophy regarding change that will be evident in future annual reports. Each step along the way is a building block for what the OYS is to become in the impending years. The future role of OYS will be to go beyond our mandates, to be active partners with communities and to be positive role models and leaders in the lives of all youth.

Through the efforts reflected here, we move forward with a renewed commitment to serve all the children of Hawaii.

*Mahalo,*



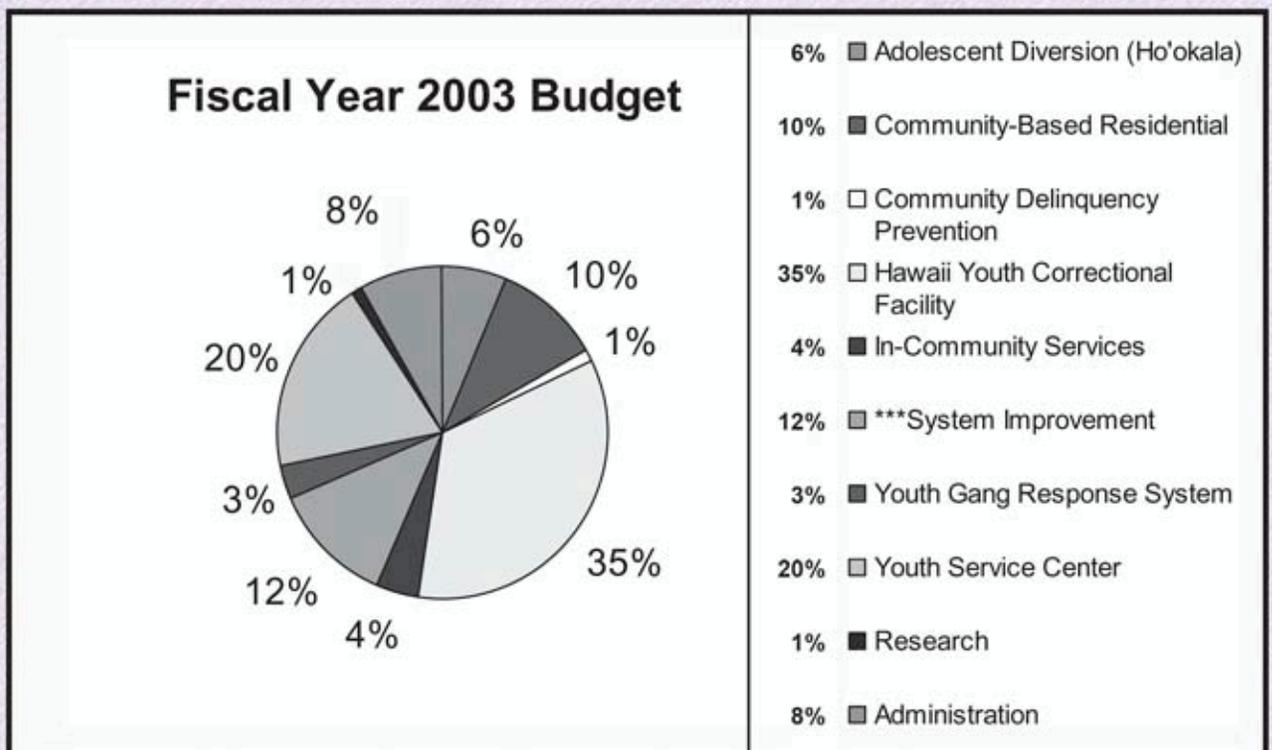
Sharon L. Agnew  
Executive Director

## Background

Established in 1989 by the Hawaii State Legislature and administratively attached to the Department of Human Services (DHS), the OYS is responsible for:

- ♦ coordinating the delivery of services,
- ♦ providing a continuum of programs and
- ♦ establishing a clear sense of responsibility and accountability for youth in the State of Hawaii.

The OYS is committed to providing a wide range of services statewide to benefit Hawaii's youth, especially those who are at risk. While a core responsibility is to manage and operate the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility, the OYS places great emphasis on providing and supporting "front end" services in prevention, diversion, and intervention in order to prevent delinquency and reduce recidivism.



## Programs

The OYS provides a continuum of services for at-risk youth throughout the State of Hawaii to help them reach successful endpoint transitions. Through an array of procured services, the OYS provides programs in the community for preventing, diverting and intervening youths' involvement in delinquent behaviors. For those youth who pose a public safety risk, the OYS manages the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility.



In FY 2003, the OYS served **17,806** youth throughout the State.

In FY 2003, the OYS administered \$10,277,318 of General Funds and \$5,118,546 of Federal Funds for a total of \$15,395,864. Funds were allocated for the following services:

	<b>FY 2003</b>
Adolescent Diversion	980,327
Administration	1,220,838
Community-Based Residential	1,610,630
Community Delinquency Prevention	208,859
Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility	5,250,668
In-Community Services	650,000
Research & Training	175,906
System Improvement	1,831,357
Youth Gang Response System	511,381
Youth Service Center	2,955,898
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,395,864</b>



**The following are brief descriptions of the programs and services provided by the OYS during FY 2003.**

### **YOUTH SERVICE CENTERS**

A cornerstone of the OYS' focus on prevention, the Youth Service Centers (YSC) provide safe environments where all youth, particularly those at risk for developing delinquent behaviors, may foster resiliency and achieve a successful transition to young adulthood. YSC services and activities demonstrate a balance between the interests and the needs of at-risk youth, as well as the general youth population. YSC services include community-based outreach, a case management system, positive alternative activities, educational development activities, and mentoring. These programs are intended to engage the youth from a holistic approach in developing their physical, intellectual, emotional and social wellbeing.

YSC are envisioned to serve as a "one-stop shop" for youth services and create a welcoming environment for youth and their families. In addition to providing positive alternative activities, the YSCs provide youth and their families with access to more intensive services.

### **YOUTH GANG RESPONSE SYSTEM**

The Youth Gang Response System (YGRS) was created to address the problem of youth gangs through a coordinated effort. The YGRS provides the state with a vehicle to implement an effective gang response program that includes government agencies working with community-based providers to provide social and economic opportunities for youth at-risk for gang involvement or currently involved with gangs.

The YGRS serves to facilitate the following:

- sharing of law enforcement and gang intelligence
- increased training and community awareness
- provision of school and community-based prevention and intervention programs
- research and evaluation

## ADOLESCENT DIVERSION (HO'OKALA)

Ho'okala, which means to "free or release," is a statewide diversion program that the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council and the OYS began in 1993 to insure that juveniles are not inappropriately secured in police lock-ups. The program was implemented to maintain compliance with three of the four federal mandates of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, as amended (jail removal, deinstitutionalization of status offenders and sight and sound separation). More importantly, the program aims to divert juveniles from further involvement with the juvenile justice system and to provide immediate intervention at the point of arrest.

Ho'okala provides status offenders and non-violent law violators who have been arrested and who would otherwise be securely confined in police lock-ups, with 24 hour access to immediate crisis intervention, assessment services, referrals, linkages and case management services.

## COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Recognizing that the majority of our troubled, abused, and neglected youth can benefit from intervention services, the OYS has sought to build a network of services for youth in their communities. Community-based programs are generally more cost-effective than institutional care and have shown to be more effective at reducing offender recidivism than correctional institutions. Youth who benefit from these services are those in transition from incarceration at Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility back into the community, and youth who may be at risk of incarceration or further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Through purchase of service contracts, the OYS provides community-based services for youth. These services may include assessment/diagnosis, intensive supervision, individual, group and family counseling, cognitive restructuring, anger management skill development, independent living, coping and social skill building, self-concept development, alternative educational services and substance abuse education. Family strengthening activities are also provided as part of an overall effort to successfully maintain the youth in their families.

Sometimes the conflict between the youth and their family is so great that alternative residential services are needed for the youth. The OYS contracts with providers on each of the islands for teen shelters, so that youth can remain close to family and in his/her community.



## HAWAII YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The primary purpose of the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) is to provide secure custody of juvenile offenders who pose a threat to the community. Situated in Windward Oahu, the facility includes two secure facilities (high and medium security) one for boys and one for girls.

The HYCF provides a variety of counseling, treatment, and educational services within the facility to aid in the redirection and rehabilitation of each youth. It is intended that all staff members be a part of this effort to provide guidance and opportunities for positive changes in the behavior of the youth.

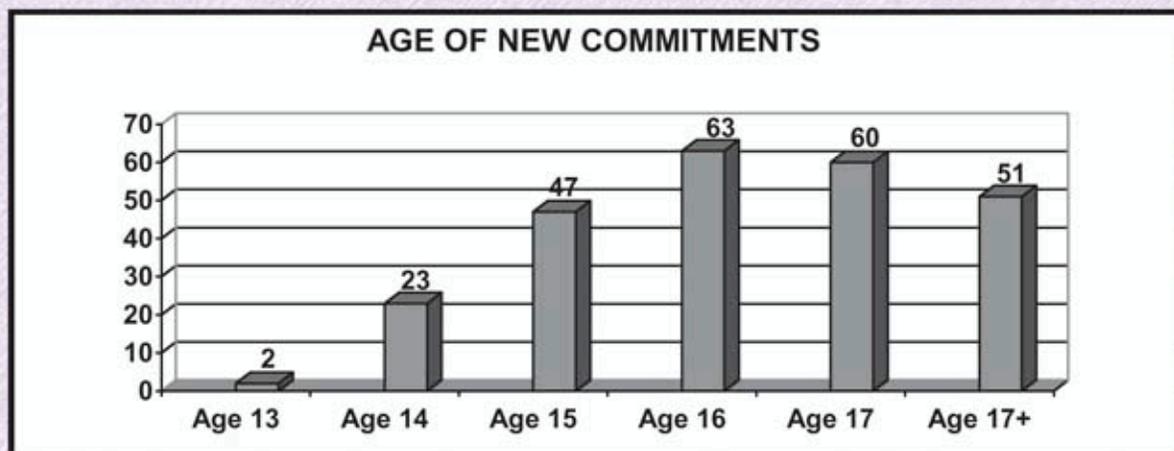
HYCF programming includes a vocational training program to help the youth learn good work ethics, social skills, and pre-employment skills to help youth to gain and retain employment. Youth who are in the vocational training program can gain experience in the areas of aquaculture, hydroponics, automobile mechanics, food services, and building maintenance.

During FY 2003, there were 241 new youth admitted into the facility.

Of the 241 youth admitted to HYCF, 78% were males and 22% females; 11% were admitted for minority commitments (up until the age of 18, 19, or 20), 73% were admitted for short-term commitments (less than 365 days).

New commitments to HYCF originated from the following judicial circuits [data includes parole returns]:

1 <sup>st</sup> Circuit/Oahu	2 <sup>nd</sup> Circuit/Maui	3 <sup>rd</sup> Circuit/Hawaii	5 <sup>th</sup> Circuit/Kauai
160 (66%)	25 (10%)	35 (15%)	21 (9%)



## FEDERAL GRANTS PROGRAMS

Federal grants provide important funding that enables states to improve the juvenile justice and educational systems, and/or implement local programs and services for youth. For FY 2003, the OYS administered **\$5,118,546** of federal funds for youth programs and services (listed by the federal agency).

### **U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention**

- ◆ **Title II, Formula Grant Program**  
Assists states to meet and maintain compliance with the three mandates of the JJDP Act (Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders, Jail and Lock-up Removal, Sight and Sound Separation) and to support delinquency prevention efforts and improvements to the juvenile justice system.
- ◆ **Title II-Part E, Challenge Activity Grant Program**  
Provide incentives to States to develop and improve policies and programs in one or more of ten specified State Challenge Activity areas to improve their juvenile justice systems. During the past year, the JJSAC and OYS supported initiatives in the area of gender-specific services and alternatives to school suspension and expulsion.
- ◆ **Title V, Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Program**  
Administered similar to a block grant program through local units of government, Title V is intended to reduce delinquency and youth violence by supporting communities in identifying, planning, and implementing delinquency prevention programs.
- ◆ **Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant**  
Provides funds to states and units of local government to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. Accountability, for the purpose of JAIBG, is defined as assuring that as a result of their wrongdoing, juvenile offenders face individualized consequences that make them aware of and answerable for the loss, damage or injury perpetrated upon the victim.

### **U.S. Department of Education**

- ◆ **Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act State Grants Program**  
Supports local initiatives to meet the National Education Goal that, by the year 2000, every school in the United States will be free of drugs, violence, and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol. While 80% of Hawai'i's grant is allocated to the Hawai'i State Department of Education, 20% of the grant is designated as the Governor's Program and administered by the OYS.

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

- ◆ **Title XX Block Grants**  
Provides services to youth at risk and youth in need of foster care. The purpose of the funds is to increase the youth's level of self-sufficiency and prevent their institutionalization.

## Research Statistics

- ♦ The number of children and youth (ages 5 to 19 years) targeted by OYS is 248,880\*
- ♦ The number of programs and service sites funded by OYS in the continuum of services for youth is 120\*
- ♦ The number of youth actively involved in OYS programs and services is 17,806\*
- ♦ The number of at-risk youth (arrested once) is 9,219\*
- ♦ Hawaiian, Samoan, African-American and Filipino youth are arrested, detained, adjudicated, incarcerated and referred to Family Court in significantly greater numbers than their proportion in Hawaii's youth population.
- ♦ Hawaiians and mixed/other are more likely to be petitioned rather than informally adjusted
- ♦ Once adjudicated, Hawaiian and Samoan youth are more likely than others to be confined at the HYCF.
- ♦ In Hawaii, one out of three youths arrested is female; in the U.S. as a whole, one out of four youths arrested is female.
- ♦ In Hawaii, delinquent girls are sentenced for less serious offenses and given longer sentence periods than boys. Additionally, girls are cited more severely for misconducts than boys in the youth correctional facility.
- ♦ Well over one in three arrests of youth are for status offenses (runaway, curfew violation, truancy).

*\*Note: These numbers represent the 75% of the contract closeouts for FY 2003.*

## Partnerships

**Child Welfare Services Branch Advisory Council (CWSBAC)** serves in an advisory capacity to assist the Department of Human Services' Child Welfare Services Branch with the implementation of its program. The CWSBAC advocates for the development and utilization of a continuum of child welfare services to ensure safety and permanency of Hawaii's children who are at risk for abuse and neglect.



**Conversation on Forgiveness for Youth (COFFY)** is a coalition of public and private agencies and individuals that is exploring how forgiveness can be utilized as an effective life skill for youth. COFFY sponsored a workshop, *Forgiveness in Action*, featuring the Tariq Khamisa Foundation, a San Diego, California organization that provides forgiveness-based services in schools to deter gang membership, promote violence prevention and provide alternative peaceful approaches to conflict.

**Keiki Caucus** is chaired by Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland and Representative Dennis Arakaki and Representative Mark Takai. It includes members of the Hawaii State Legislature and representatives from the public and private sector who serve as advocates for children and youth in the State of Hawaii. The Keiki Caucus develops legislative priorities and measures that address the issues and concerns facing our children and youth each year and submits its recommendations to the legislature.

**Hawaii Children's Campaign** centers its activities on the month of October when the Campaign sponsors several programs and events in celebration of Children and Youth Month. The Campaign is represented by members of the public and private sector and is led by key leaders of the Hawaii State Legislature, in particular, Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, and Representative Dennis Arakaki and Representative Mark Takai.



**Hawaii Children's Trust Fund (HCTF)** was created in 1993 by the Hawaii State Legislature to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. HCTF has provided over 3 million dollars in funding for community-based prevention programs during the past 10 years.

**Hawai'i Girls Project (HGP)** is guided by a statewide committee that is committed to working to increase the availability of gender-specific



programs and services for girls and to ensure that all girls have access to a full range of services. During FY 2003, the HGP focused its efforts in the provision of technical assistance to Youth Service Centers for the development or enhancement of gender-specific programs for girls, the printing of a Directory of Resources for Girls and Young Women, and the development of an assessment tool for program administrators and monitors to evaluate the

gender-specific elements of programs.

Hawaii Network of Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention Funding and Technical Assistance Agencies (**HI-Net**) focuses its efforts on improving the coordination of substance abuse prevention services, sharing information, planning and coordinating joint projects and activities, reviewing and updating Hawaii's substance abuse prevention plans, and reviewing methods and developing protocols to collect standardized data in order to analyze and measure the performance and impact of State prevention programs.

**Hawaii Teen Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention Council** is a network of public and private agencies as well as individuals dedicated to providing public information and inter-agency communication surrounding issues of teenage pregnancy and parenting. The Council promotes policies and programs that prevent adolescent pregnancy and it also provides optimal support of pregnant and parenting teens.



**Hawaii Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Committee (HSAPAC)** is an appointed committee of diverse individuals representing public and nonprofit agencies and the community. HSAPAC is responsible for developing a state strategy to guide Hawaii's youth substance abuse prevention efforts. In addition, the HSAPAC guides the implementation of the State Incentive Grant (SIG) by the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division (ADAD) of the Department of Health. The goals of the SIG are to coordinate, leverage, and redirect substance abuse prevention funds in Hawaii and to develop a comprehensive prevention strategy for substance use and abuse by youth in Hawaii.

**National Network of Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (NNSDFSC), By-Laws Committee** shares information, provides technical assistance, and advocates for continued resources for establishing and maintaining programs and services to implement legislation regarding drug abuse and violence prevention for youth and families.



**Title IV-B/2 Statewide Planning Committee** aims to promote family strength and stability, enhance parental functioning, and protect children through funding a capped entitlement to States to provide family support and family preservation services. Title IV-b/2 funds are available to the states on a 75% federal 25% state matching basis for family preservation. Programs and services are designed to help families alleviate crises that might lead to removal and out-of-home placement for children and provide family support services which are community-based preventive activities designed to alleviate stress and promote parental competencies to increase the ability of families to nurture their members.

**The YGRS Working Committee** maintains a coordinated statewide collaboration of resources committed to addressing youth gang activity, violence, and delinquency through information sharing, training, and community awareness. The YGRS Working Committee is made up of public and nonprofit agencies, community organizations, law enforcement agencies, and others interested in actively responding to youth gang issues.

**The YGRS Statewide Law Enforcement Gang Task Force (SLEGTF)** brings together law enforcement professionals from around the state whose purpose is to address gang/youth gang issues through information sharing and collaboration. The SLEGTF meets on a quarterly basis to share the latest gang/youth gang intelligence and information, discuss updated training opportunities; and, increase awareness in the law enforcement community about gang/youth gang issues. The SLEGTF includes the four county police departments and prosecutor's offices for Honolulu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii (Hilo and Kona), the Department of the Public Safety, the Probation Division of the First Circuit Court, the Hawaii Paroling Authority, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, the U.S. Federal Probation, the DEA, and the Military/Department of Defense.

## Service Providers

### **Youth Gang Response System**

City & County of Honolulu Parks & Recreation  
City & County of Honolulu Police Department  
Department of Education  
Hawaii County Police Department East Hawaii  
Hawaii County Police Department West Hawaii  
Kauai County Police Department  
Maui County Police Department  
University of Hawaii Center for Youth Research

### **Youth Service Centers**

Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii  
Family Support Services of West Hawaii  
Hui Malama Learning Center  
Hui Malama Ohana Youth Services  
Paia Youth & Cultural Center  
The Salvation Army  
YMCA of Honolulu

### **Youth Diversion Project**

Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Maui Youth & Family Services  
The Salvation Army

### **Adolescent Day/Evening Services**

Hilo High School  
Spectrum Health Systems, Inc.



### **Youth Diversion Project**

Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Maui Youth & Family Services  
The Salvation Army

### **Intensive Community Based Services**

Child & Family Services  
Community Assistance Center  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hale 'Opio Kauai, Inc.  
Maui Youth & Family Services  
The Maui Farm, Inc.  
The Salvation Army

### **In Facility & After Services**

Catholic Charities Hawaii  
Goodwill Industries of Hawaii  
Hale Kipa, Inc.  
Hawaii Alcoholism Foundation  
The Salvation Army

## Getting Ready for Change

Clearly the subject of where we are today builds upon the successes and careful planning of the past. A glance back at the original Strategic Plan submitted to the 1991 Legislature by then OYS Director Wayne Matsuo, reflects a broad vision of what could be accomplished. Even today, the efforts of OYS are based upon the original plan. While some parts were never fully implemented, the basic vision remained sound. Changes in population, risk and protective factors, community needs, and the economy have all contributed to a need for an update of the strategic plan in the future.

The OYS was established before the HYCF was moved from the Department of Corrections. The transition and subsequent reorganizations merged two diverse entities (corrections and programs) under the umbrella conceived by the original plan. In theory this made good sense, but in reality, some areas were weakened by the merge. The OYS still grapples with the responsibility for the correctional facility, its role in providing youth service centers statewide with inadequate funding, and the challenge of leading the state in prevention services for youth.

While a continuum of services exists on paper, in reality programs and implementation are in need of refocus and updated planning. In the coming year, the OYS will address programming that is adjusted to the needs of the types of children served, community programs that provide capacity building and support to address the needs of children in the juvenile justice system, and broader areas that address the needs of children statewide. Guiding principles are being developed that include the following:

- We support communities to help children find multiple opportunities to learn how to be good citizens.
- We will assist troubled youth in the redirection of delinquent behaviors.
- We will build a continuum of prevention and juvenile justice services that exceeds the needs and nurtures the wellbeing of Hawaii's children.
- We will increase performance standards at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility through the improvement of policies and procedures and the implementation of best practices in programs.

These are just a few of the many steps we are taking to move the OYS forward to a better future for Hawaii's children. We plan to increase resources, funding support, community mobilization efforts, and collaboration with non-profit partners and other departments within the state. We remain committed to advancing local communities in meeting the needs of Hawaii's children.

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