

Transcript of the proceedings of the Community and Policing panel discussion held at the East Hawai'i Cultural Center on May 20, 2023

Link to video: <https://cablecast.naleo.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/10285?channel=1>

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Text on screen:

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This program was funded by a grant from the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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*Community and Policing
May 20th, 2023
East Hawai'i Cultural Center*

[0:00:38]

CAROL WALKER: Aloha mai kakou. I'm Carol Walker, Executive Director of the East Hawai'i Cultural Center. On behalf of all of us at EHCC, welcome and thank you for coming.

You may wonder why a cultural center primarily known for our gallery exhibitions, art education, and performing arts programming is hosting a discussion on community perspectives on policing.

It's because, as many of you know, our facilities served as the police station, jail, and courthouse between 1932 and 1975.

EHCC is part of a larger community of museums and related institutions that share ideas and aspirations.

One such aspiration, that is gaining more and more credence, is that we need to acknowledge the untold stories that are part of our past, not just the romanticized tales.

Slave labor made many beautiful estates in the antebellum South possible. Chinese immigrants built much of the railway system that spans the American continent. Indigenous peoples were forced to cede the lands where many prominent institutions stand today.

Telling everyone's stories, including some that may be difficult, can only enrich our shared sense of justice, history, and humanity. Knowing the past informs the present, and leads us to a better future.

So what does that mean for EHCC? For us, it means harnessing our past as a police station and courthouse as a springboard. We can use our history and our resources to help create a communal understanding of the role and impact of policing and where that role should go.

We know that sometimes joyful things have happened in the building we occupy today. A proud student got her first drivers' license, a beloved son followed in his father's footsteps to join the police force. And sometimes mundane things happened – a citizen paid a speeding ticket, officers directed traffic around road repairs.

And sometimes it was tragic. A family court ruling tore apart a family. After a terrible mistake in judgment, a young adult was sentenced to years of incarceration. Traumatized victims had to tell and retell their stories.

Today's event is just a first step towards EHCC's long-term goal of seeking out such stories and telling them in context. Today we hope to see how community police relations have changed from the time that our facilities housed the police, illuminate what they are like today, and perhaps point to directions we should head toward in the future.

One last note before I turn the floor over to UH Hilo students – you may have noticed that the title of this event is "community and policing," not "community and police." That was a deliberate choice of language, because "community and police" sounds like these are two separate entities.

They are not. The police themselves are just as much a part of the community as are those who never have any reason to think about policing. Those who are victimized by crime are part of the community. Those who are justice-involved individuals making their way back into society are part of the community.


The UH Hilo students I am about to turn the floor over to are aware of that – they included police in their survey, and they asked all participants if they had past experience with the police or incarceration. I'd now like to introduce Caitlin Peil, Amy Black, Jake Villa and Rosenet Timius to give you an overview of their survey results. [Applause]

[0:04:49]




AMY BLACK: Hello ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for joining us here today. My name is Amy, and I'm joined by Caitlin, Jake and Rosie and we are here tonight to share with you the results of a survey conducted by the University of Hawai'i on behalf of East Hawai'i Cultural Center, concerning community attitudes around policing here in East Hawai'i. The survey was created and distributed by UH students under Assistant Professor of Sociology Ellen Meiser as part of a Criminology class. So without further ado, I will pass it off to Caitlin so she can open up the presentation and tell you guys a little bit about the goals of our study.


Our Goals




Goal # 1
Gain insight into the communities perspective of safety in East Hawai'i



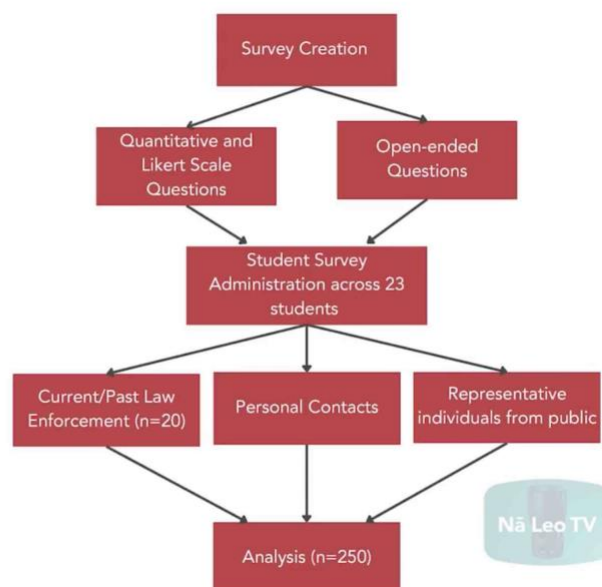
Goal # 2
Discover how policing has impacted the community (in East Hawai'i specifically)



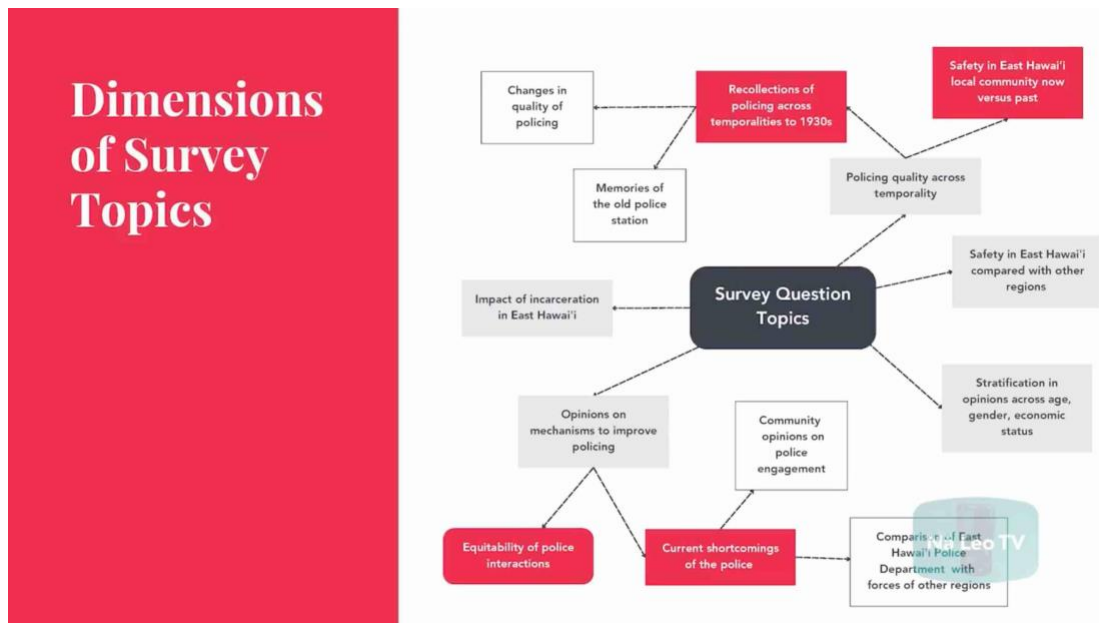
Goal # 3
Provide UH Hilo students with community-based research experience



CAITLIN PEIL: Aloha. So, we chose a multifaceted approach led by UH Hilo students to articulate emotions of safety as well as perspectives on police, in a present and historical context, in order to generate data-backed recommendations for reforms. Amy, would you like to talk about our methods?



AMY: Yes, thank you. Our survey employed a mixed-method approach that combined qualitative data through more open-ended questions with quantitative findings. Surveys were administered in person. To collect these data, students administered these in person to a wide range of individuals in the community, including 20 law or former members of law enforcement. In total, we surveyed 250 respondents of diverse multicultural backgrounds, with a skew towards older individuals in order to properly measure opinions of policing over the decades. Now I'll pass it off to Jake so he can give you guys some details about the dimensions of our survey.

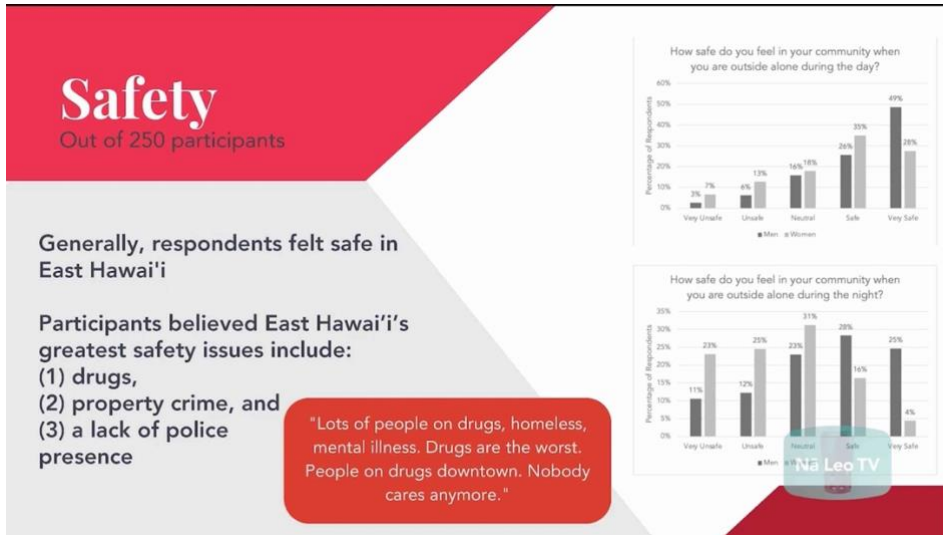


JAKE VILLA: The dimensions of our survey are solely focused on the opinions on policing in East Hawai'i. As you can see, we have many branches of categories all leading back towards our objective of policing.



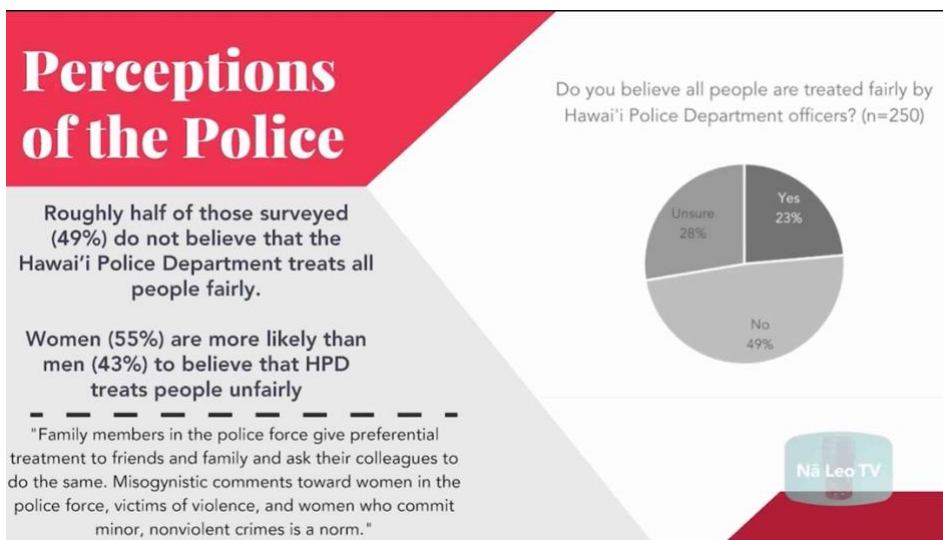
JAKE: This ranges from a variety of topics such as the quality of policing, safety perspective of the community, beliefs and opinions across gender, age and economic status, potential improvement, and incarceration. As these are major subcategories, it will branch off based on how one answers the survey.

ROSENET TIMIUS: Thank you. Community attitudes towards the Hilo police department are shown in our key findings.



Although respondents generally feel safe in the East Hawai'i community, our graphs show that there is gendered difference, as most of our male and female respondents feel very safe in the community during the day, but this sense of safety drops one-third at night time. While 53 percent of males reportedly feel very safe in the community at night, about only 20 percent of females feel the same way at night time. Based on the responses that we received, we see that there is great concern among community members regarding safety issues due to excessive use and distribution of drugs, property crimes, and lack of police presence in the community. While many believe that this was a policing issue, some believed that this could be rooted in a lack of preventative measures and community involvement. I shall pass it on to Caitlin to speak on perceptions of police.

[0:08:08]



CAITLIN: All right, so, four out of five persons (80 percent) are comfortable reporting a crime to the police. However, nearly half of those polled (49 percent) do not believe the Hawai'i Police Department treats all people fairly. Women (55 percent) are more inclined than males (43 percent) to feel that HPD treats people unfairly; according to qualitative results, these discrepancies may be due to the effect of anecdotal experiences from other members of the community and news broadcasts about police unfairness, which affect overall unfavorable attitudes towards police officers. And now Rosie will go into community perspectives further.

[0:08:49]

Perceptions of the Police

Of those who reported having interactions with HPD in the past 5 years (roughly 150 people), over three-quarters (78%) note that their interactions were fair and equitable.

Did the interaction(s) with the police officer feel fair and equitable? (n=144)

Response	Percentage
Yes	78%
No	22%

"They act fair in the involvement of every case. Giving fair chances and making their presence known."

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ROSENET: Although there is a negative perception of police in general, we found that over three quarters of those who had recent interactions with law enforcement within the last five years or so reported feeling as though their interactions were fair and equitable. Therefore, we are seeing an inconsistency in beliefs, because even though half of our respondents reported a distrust of police, a majority felt that their personal interactions were just. Passing it on to Jake.

Historical Perceptions of Policing

What type of relationship did the police have with the East Hawai'i community back then? (n=34)

Response	Percentage
Positive	73%
Unsure	18%
Negative	9%

What type of relationship does the Hawai'i Police department have with the local community? (n=250)

Response	Percentage
Neutral	56%
Positive	32%
Negative	12%

In line with past data which shows that 80% of individuals (in the 1980s) used to approve of the job of policing.

"It was a safe environment - Husband was a police officer, he retired in the 1960s. He was well-liked and respected. His priority was to keep the children out of jail."

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JAKE: From here we sought to understand how attitudes towards police may have morphed across time. When asking about opinions on police relationships, while only 32 percent of respondents had a positive view today, 73 percent previously had a positive view when we look back from 1930 to 1970s. Notably, this lines up with a study conducted in the 1980s, as per our literature review, which noted that 80 percent of individuals approved of the job of police. Qualitative data emphasized that individuals felt much closer to police in the past due to well-developed community relationships. Now I will be passing it on to Caitlin to talk about impacts on incarceration.



CAITLIN: One out of five individuals (19 percent) report being impacted by incarceration directly or within their family. This is actually significantly lower than the national rate of one in two adults (50 percent) being impacted by incarceration, a statistic found by researchers at Cornell University in 2018. Even though this is a lower number in comparison to the mainland, incarceration still significantly impacts Hawai'i residents. Now Jake will speak on community recommendations.



[0:10:59]

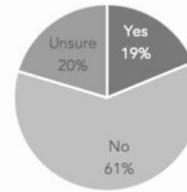
JAKE: Next, we'll begin going into community recommendations.

Community Improvements

When asked how the Hawai'i Police Department could improve, almost one-third of respondents (29%) recommend that HPD should increase staffing with qualified personnel. Several believe that doing so would decrease response time to community calls.

"Faster response times. In all of my experiences with them, they have always taken a long time to come."

Do you feel there is an adequate number of police officers to assist the East Hawai'i community? (n=250)



In comments to UH Hilo students, HPD recognizes the need for more officers.

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During our survey, we asked the community perspectives on how East Hawai'i policing can be improved. For example, one of our most said responses was related to increasing staffing with qualifications. There are also more than 50 percent of individuals who believe that there isn't an adequate number of officers here in East Hawai'i. Meaning that out of 250 individuals, 150 of them believed we don't have enough officers to assist East Hawai'i. As we have discussed with the police commissioner, we estimated that the police force is 150 short of personnel. Now I will pass it over to Rosie.

[0:11:47]

Additional Community Improvements

"The keyword in this question is "Hawaii" and as an Island, I feel the police department should play a big role in bringing the community together. I know that it's only their job to 'Protect the community,' but there are other ways of doing so by helping the people come together."

About one in five (18%) suggest providing "better" training, as well as building more empathetic connections with the community.

ROSENET: About 1 in 5 or 18 percent of our respondents urge the Hilo police department to provide better training for officers, especially in regards to how they engage and build a connection with the community. By engaging with the community, respondents feel that the Hilo Police Department shows that they are involved with and listening to the people of East Hawai'i. One respondent stated that by

“helping the people come together” they are serving their duty to protect the community. Amy, please tell us about our limitations, please.

[0:12:26]

Limitations

- Surveys were conducted in a wide-range of environments and surveyor-respondent relationships differed across individuals
- Lack of previous data on the topic (particular to East Hawai'i)
- Difficulty accessing:
 - Older folks
 - Law enforcement
 - Incarcerated peoples

Additional issues:

- Past perceptions may be impacted by a "Rose Colored Glasses" effect
- Time constraints
 - Limited time available to compare findings on race/ethnicity and income

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AMY: As with any study, we did face a handful of obstacles in collecting data. Some of these limitations included a lack of preexisting data on the topic, difficulty accessing different demographics and what we’ve referred to as the “Rose Colored Glasses” effect, which denotes people’s tendency to forget or ignore negative memories in lieu of “the good old days.” Our limited window of time was also a major obstacle and because of it we weren’t able to compare our findings on race and ethnicity with income to see if there were any significant patterns there, however Professor Meiser does plan on further investigating this relationship further over the coming months.

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HILO

Questions?

Email: emeiser@hawaii.edu

Website: www.easthawaiipolicingstudy.com

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AMY: In closing I do want to remind you all that what was presented here tonight is just a small subset of the data we collected. If you wish to learn more about how we conducted our study or to see a complete set of the data collected, we welcome you to visit our website at www.eastHawaiiPolicingStudy.com. Finally, I want to thank Carol Walker and all of those here at EHCC who made this study possible as well as all of you for sharing your time with us today. So if there are any questions then Professor Meiser will be available during the Q&A session following the panel discussion.

CAROL: Thank you Caitlin, Amy, Jake, and Rosenet.

That was very illuminating. And now we'll have the panelists come up. A note to everyone while they're being seated, we will have Q&A after all panelists have a chance to deliver an opening statement, and then you can ask both the panelists and the students any questions you have.

So before I introduce our first panelist, I'd like to note that there is much that could be said about each of them – they are all accomplished individuals who have interesting life stories.

In the interest of time, I am only going to give a short intro for each person, but you will be able to read their full biographies on the EHCC website, at ehcc.org. To find information on the website quickly about our community and policing activities, just type "policing" into our search box. And that should quickly lead you to more information and links that we will be posting following this event.

It is now my pleasure to introduce our first speaker, Elroy T. L. Osorio Jr. [appreciative shout from audience]. He was born and educated on the Big Island, then went on to graduate from Northwestern University and the FBI National Academy. Here on the Big Island he served 30 years in the Uniformed Patrol division, two in criminal investigation services, and three in administrative services. Thank you for taking part today, Elroy.

[0:15:31]

ELROY OSORIO: Aloha. Thank you for being here. I've been asked to provide a historical perspective on policing on the Big Island, and this is appropriate because with the graduation of my recruit class which was the [unintelligible – twenty second and two?] class in the department, the department was finally able to staff 24-hour service around the island, and this was a start of a new era in policing for the island of Hawai'i. Prior to that the only districts that offered 24 hours service were Hilo and Kona.

The other thing is this building here, this is where I was sworn in downstairs and where I first worked when I was transferred back into town after serving now some years in country stations. I could spend all day just telling stories about this building and most of them were – well, they'd be amusing anyway [laughter]. On the other hand, I feel ill-equipped and I hope I'm not expected to offer any solutions to the problems that we're facing today.

The starting salary at that time was \$612 per month, which was a lot of money. The application process, the first thing there was you signed up to take a test but before they allowed you to take a test you had to stand up to a mark on the door jam because there was a minimum height and weight requirement in effect at that time, which was later found to be unconstitutional. Then you took the written exam. If you passed high enough you were invited back to take, well not invited, you were directed to take a physical exam by the county physician and if you passed that there was an agility test which was not really rigorous but you know, they were some, uh, if you had any physical limitations it would be found out. And then finally there would be the interview and following the interview, you were either selected or you weren't.

My date of hire was November 1st, 1971. The training was very brief – it was only 12 weeks, 3 months, not nearly enough to prepare us for the job that we were required to do. We were really expected to learn on the job. The other thing that was important to note about that time when I started, and I think even for Jimmy, who is in the audience, is we didn't immediately have – there was no union representation, so some of the policies and procedures and restrictions on officers were very harsh and there was no appeal. You could be dismissed really without cause at any time.

Department personnel was primarily local born and raised, many with military experience, many former high school athletes, many from families with prior history of police service. In my case, both my mother and my father had worked for the police department in the Fifties and Sixties. We had a brown and taupe uniform, trousers and a uniform cap which had to be worn at all times out of doors.

We had a Model 15 Smith and Wesson revolver, 6 shot revolver. We were issued 12 rounds and expected to account for all 12 rounds at all times. My first duty station was North Kohala and I started there February 1st, 1972. It was a requirement in the department at that time that all patrol officers had to reside in the districts in which they worked, which I think was a good idea at the time. So that meant that my wife and I had to pack up our young infant son and move to Kohala. We lived in a house there that we rented, a home on Kinsley Road. I really enjoyed my time there, it was a great place to start. The community was very cosmopolitan, adults who did not have family businesses worked for either Kohala Sugar Company or Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. Police officers were not only highly respected but appreciated. Community members initiated contact with officers, people would come to my house and invite me to the wedding of their children, of one of their sons or daughters, stuff like that, because I was a policeman.

In terms of the island as a whole, it has always contained eight districts. Each district had many communities and the population was largely agrarian. They may not have been actual farmers but most people worked in agricultural production primarily for one of the many sugar companies. But there was also coffee and mac nut farms, cattle ranches and dairies, [unintelligible – flower?] production, and even a thriving fishing industry.

Only on the west side was there development and employment primarily based on tourism. So there was a strong sense of community. Pepeekeo people were distinct from those in Papaikou, as they were from those in Honomū as they were in turn from Hakalau, and so on, completely around the island. But when the plantations began to shut down those communities splintered and some even vanished completely.

One of the constants about our job is that it was constantly changing; policies and procedures change rapidly and [unintelligible – keeping?] the societal changes which were and are ongoing. This meant that we were always receiving training both in service and on the job and in some instances we traveled to train.

As far as how the world has changed in respect to policing, it would largely be that people increasingly did not want to be policed. There is a quote I would like to share which will reflect directly back on the opening remarks. This is from Sir Robert Peel who was a prime minister of the United Kingdom and is considered the founder of modern policing. This is from the early 1800s: "The police are the people and the people are the police." That was his vision of how policy should work.

The only way policing can be successful is with the cooperation and support of the public. Early on in my career this was the case but as time passed, I began to see a separation of interests. I think this was congruent with the change in community values which reflected the change in the community itself. No longer was this a place where everyone knew the officers in uniform because we had all grown up together. In the 70's and 80's there was almost no place I could go where, while people may not have known I was a cop, if I mentioned my last name they knew my family – so I behaved accordingly [laughter]. But this is a very brief and simplistic appraisal. I haven't mentioned the devastating influence of drugs or increase in emotional disturbances which happens because you know, there's so many more people here now and more arriving every day. If you want to know why there's dissatisfaction with policing, ask yourself this: Would you want to be a cop today? I would have to say no I wouldn't. I'll leave you with this:

Aia mākou i ka wa'a ho'okahi, pono mākou e hana pū – We are all in the same canoe, we gotta work together. Thank you. [Applause]

[0:23:13]

CAROL: Thank you for that, Elroy. Our next speaker is Chief of the Hawai'i Police Department Benjamin Moszkowicz, who was appointed in January of this year after serving 22 years with the Honolulu Police Department. He most recently served as a Major in the Traffic Division and previously in every bureau in the department with assignments ranging from patrol commander, to overseeing the Police Mountain Bike Team, to managing the Information Technology, Human Resources, and Criminal Investigation Divisions. Thank you for joining us today, Chief Ben. [Applause]

BEN MOSZKOWICZ: All right! And that's it ... that's all I have. [Laughter] Elroy first of all, thank you very much for your service and sharing that glimpse into the not-so-distant past. Listening to some of the things that you mentioned, about having a height requirement and having a revolver with 12 rounds in it, having taupe pants and having to wear your hat outside, I think I would have a mutiny if we switched back to some of those things, but certainly there have been a lot of advancements at least administratively, at least with union protections and being able to afford these hard-working women and men some protection out there on the road. I also think I would get a mutiny if I made people live in the district especially because of the, you know, the short staffing situation that we're in today.

I wanted to share a little bit about – you know, I've been in the job for four months and everyone has been extremely hospitable and I've gotten a lot of welcome. I have a fan club here already that I've hired to come in and clap for me today and I've had an opportunity to go out and talk to a lot of different groups, whether it be academic groups or community groups, school groups, religious groups, all kinds of people. I've taken all kinds of appointments and had a chance to talk with a vast variety of people in the department and in the community. And the one thing that I got asked last week or the week before is what keeps me up at night. And the one thing that keeps me up at night the most, is because there's a big job and there's a job, is the fact that we are so significantly understaffed.

Now when you compare our staffing levels to other staffing levels in the State or in the United States, we're actually doing better than a lot of places.

[0:25:39]

Right now as of today I have 484 sworn positions. If every one of those spots was full, I'd be at 100 percent. I have 410 people who are actually working. By "actually working" I mean actually employed. So you subtract from that, right, and see some things haven't changed, you subtract from that people who are on injured leave, right, the job that these women and men do is dangerous and sometimes

leads to industrial injury. Subtract people who are on family leave; subtract people who are on military duty; we're proud to support the Reserve and Guard of our country in supporting them by giving them some staffing, so once you start eating away at that, that 410 is actually much lower.

There are – there is some hope on the horizon that I want to talk a little bit about – but realistically if we're talking about 484 police officers to protect and serve this entire 4,027 square mile island we live on, I don't think it's enough. I don't think it's enough if I were 100 percent staffed. I think realistically, and it's very wonderful timing that the mayor just happened to walk in cuz I'm going to lay it on you right now, we'll talk next week in your office [laughter]; I think we really need to be closer to 550 officers to be honest. We haven't been adjusted nearly as much as the population and the demand has increased. But the challenge though is this, right: So how do I as an administrator with four months in the department, with 410, 417 people counting my recruits, how do I get from there to 550?

So the County Council is actually extremely supportive, in fact a lot of conversations that I've had the last couple weeks before the budget, during the budget cycle, they actually want to add positions. The challenge for me is, if I'm 67 people short today and you add 50 positions, now I'm 117 people short. So what we've done is we've kind of used these last couple of months to go through this process where we sort of retooled the recruiting and application process.

[0:27:37]

Prior to this past Sunday, prior to Mother's Day, in order to join the police department as a sworn officer you had to apply during one of two 10-day periods. There was one in February and then there's one in August, and as long as you hit one of those two 10-day windows and put in your application, then you could go through the process.

If, for example, you're a senior at University of Hawai'i Hilo or you're graduating from HCC and you want to go out and join the Police Department, and if you graduate in April or May, well good luck – You're going to have to wait until August or September to apply, then after that starts the 6 month timeline of all the background checks we need to do to make sure that we're selecting the right people to join the police department.

So, in essence if you graduate in May it could be a year for you to get into the police department and get hired to where you could start earning money. So what happens in the meantime? You find another job, you move off Island, you join the military.

[0:28:33]

We're losing a lot of our local resources in terms of young women and men. Instead of joining the police department, they're finding other careers, and this is without even addressing the challenge that you brought up a minute ago, about if policing is even something that people would entertain. So what we've done is we've kind of streamlined that process so that now, starting again this past Sunday on Mother's Day, people can apply to the department on a continual basis. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You can go online right now, in fact I encourage many of you to do this, and apply to take the test. What happens is we've been able to work with the County human resources to develop a system where they're going to offer the Civil Service Entrance Test once every 30 days, once a month, so January – oh my goodness *June 26th*, that week will be the first written test. In the 30 days after that we'll do an agility test. And as we're doing the agility test on July 19th, DHR is now offering the next written test, so there's more of a continuous flow, hopefully, of applicants coming into the department. So that makes it more efficient for us, because we're able to look at people in smaller batches, which helps to facilitate that whole bureaucratic administrative nightmare of sending out all

these reference letters and checking with everybody's past employers and checking everybody's criminal history.

What we hope is that by making the process more efficient and more comfortable for people to apply, that people who are inclined or might be inclined to apply will get through the process faster.

[0:30:00]

That being said, we're also being very cautious not to lower our standards right? So we right now on a scale of 1 to 10 I feel like we, our, our system is designed to hire people who are 8s, 9s and 10s, because that's what it takes to be a police officer. Right, there's a whole huge – we could talk for hours about what it takes – but we're hiring 8s, 9s and 10s. I want to be very careful that by changing the process and making the process more efficient, that we're maintaining the same standards. So that being said it remains to be determined whether our experiment will be a success or not. I don't think it will hurt anything if it makes things more efficient and a little bit easier, then I guess that's better, certainly in getting people into training.

And kind of the other thing we are looking at changing again with cooperation of the County Department of Human Resources, is we're adopting an early hire program. So under the old method when you applied during one of those 10-day periods and you got all the way to the end of the process which includes a medical exam, a psychological exam, an interview process, a polygraph test, in addition to an agility test and a personal history questionnaire. At the end of that whole process once we had enough people accumulated who had finished the process then we started a recruit class.

[0:31:14]

So now what we're going to be able to do is when we get people who finish that entire process, I'm going to hire them, or I am at least going to offer them a position. We're going to create a new civil service position called Police Recruit Trainee. I think we added the word trainee in there to make it distinct and that will allow me to pay people at the same rate that they'll get when they're on recruit school but it gives them time now to adapt to, you know adjust to, the Department's culture, to hopefully find a mentor somewhere in the department when I have them out working in different parts of the community. And that also alleviates some of the administrative burden on the things that are going on around the department. So hopefully it's a force multiplier for these county districts to get through this backlog of paperwork and transportation and just logistical challenges that we have. So again, the idea also is that while they're in this early hire program they have a chance to work out physically with the recruit class and so that first week of recruit training is not maybe such a shock and awe kind of campaign. Again, we're not going to lower the standards you need to graduate but we're trying to do is to make the process a little bit easier, to kind of navigate from beginning to end, and a little bit more efficient both for the applicants and for the department and ultimately for the community. Thank you. [Applause]

[0:32:37]

CAROL: Thank you, Chief Ben. Our next presenter is Amanda Alvarado, who currently works with the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney as a Restorative Justice Project Coordinator. Prior to that she worked as a counselor for the Victim Assistance Unit. She has volunteered as a facilitator for roughly seven years and worked as a therapist for YWCA's Sexual Assault Program, where among other roles she ran support groups for victims of assault and brought support services to inmates at Hawai'i Community Correctional Center. Thank you for joining us today, Amanda.

[0:33:18]

AMANDA ALVARADO: Thank you, Carol. So, I was trying to figure out how to start with why I'm here today, and as I was thinking about that I kept reflecting on my community back in Illinois. I was going to school for Administrative of Justice trying to answer questions of "why?" And my family was justice-involved as victims and incarcerated, trying to answer why – why is my house, why is our home being broken into, why are my neighbors' cars getting broken into, why are my family members incarcerated?

So I figured Administrative of Justice would figure that out. And about two classes in, my teachers told me that I was asking too many questions. [Laughter.] That Administrative of Justice is for remembering statistics and finding out data and that I should go into counseling so I can find out why. I did become a Police Dispatcher. I was a Community Service Officer over in Illinois and then kind of realized yeah, I want to kind of work with the community in another way, and still answer those questions.

So I began researching working in Oregon with sex offenders, juvenile and adult. I also did research on violent crimes and then flipped back to working with victims of violent crimes; specifically with foster youth in Oregon and human trafficking victims. So I've had this pattern in my life of going back and forth from working with offenders then back to victims, and I felt like this gave me a unique perspective, that at the end of the day, they're all community members. We're all in it together. And coming out to Hawai'i about 11 years ago now, I've been able to work again with both victims and offenders.

I started working at Teen Court. I was the coordinator and then director of our Teen Court program, working with our juvenile first-time offenders out here for about 8 years. And during that time, I worked over at HCCC and volunteered my time as a yoga instructor, as well as teaching how to fill out job applications, how to do job interviews and financial literacy. As I continued to do that, funding was taken away during Covid, so I switched over to working with the Victim Assistance Unit, back to working with victims.

As a therapist I worked with juvenile victims of human trafficking and during Covid again, I kind of had to take a break from that as it became pretty stressful. But at my role at the Victim Assistance Unit I was able to work mainly with property crime and then I was fortunate enough that the position for Restorative Justice Coordinator had opened up. And secretly, I had been volunteering there for 8 years, so I really wanted to get in there. I really wanted that job and I'm really blessed and fortunate that I am in that position because with Restorative Justice, even though we're victim-centered and victim-focused, we're bringing those victims with the offenders and having those tough discussions.

Because what we've learned is there's not a magic bullet or a magic solution to any of these issues. And a lot of the times that I'm talking with my victims I'm like, "Great, so the offender went to court, they got a citation, and now they have a record. How did that help you?"

And a lot of the times it doesn't. They are still mad at their neighbor, they're still mad at their teacher, they're still mad at their sister or their brother. And so with the Restorative Justice Program we take it outside of the courtroom and if it's successful, which typically it usually is right now, the charges are dropped and it's like it didn't happen. Which I really like this model, that's what we did with Teen Court. If our teenagers fulfilled their duties and completed their contracts, I got to shred their police report. And I think that there's no better justice than that, than having another chance.

[0:37:29]

And being able to work with the victims, specifically, and hear their voice because it's interesting to see what victims actually want sometimes. You think that they might want an apology and they don't; they

want their fence rebuilt or they want their neighbor to keep their dog on a leash and not let it go back in their yard. They don't want the apology and I think that being able to hear the victim's voices is extremely important and for them to get the perspective of the offender, because nobody wakes up one day saying, "I want to commit crime." Nobody wakes up one day and says, "I want to hurt this person." It's something that starts very small and kind of evolves, and I know that we are echoing a lot with what the students found and what you guys have spoken to, but it's about our community. We can't be, oh this person's a victim, this person's an offender; that's your neighbor, that's your teacher, that's a fellow officer. So not trying to look for one solution but being able to look at all these different systems and seeing what we can pull together. Because HCCC can't solve it by themselves, police can't solve it by themselves, counselors can't solve it by themselves. So we really need to all work together and have those different positions available.

But on the flip side I also wanted to talk about how I've noticed just such a progression in the amount of services that we have been able to provide to the community. A lot of people don't realize some of those services, we've been trying to get them more out there at the libraries, at the universities as well. But we have 24-hour hotlines for victims through the YWCA. We have free counseling for victims of domestic violence and sex assault that can be accessed through that website and through Hope Services. And then the Victim Assistance Unit – we have staff there that are in different types of crimes. So one's assigned to property crime, one's assigned to domestic violence and their job is literally to navigate those resources for you. You don't have to do any of that by yourself. You don't have to go it alone to try to figure out the law of, do I get restitution or not, do I have to go to court, or do I need a lawyer. Those folks are there to assist.

I just continue to, over the last 8 years or so be able to see these certain services expand and grow and I just hope that the community knows that we have it there. I hear a lot of "Oh we don't have any counseling," or, "We don't have any crisis line," and I'm like, actually we've got a, we've got an awesome one, and it's actually just [unintelligible – trying?] to texting as well. So the YWCA has a texting line and online chat line, because we've noticed that not just teenagers but some 20-somethings also don't like picking up the phone, so we switch to text. And the other services too, I know haven't been able to be expanded because of Covid, but we're hoping to have that partnership again with HCCC. But we really need to have those wrap-around services, because folks that are incarcerated come back into our community and we can't let them be empty-handed; get counseling back in there, get mental health back in there, and get drug assessments in there.

So we're working really hard on trying to find those partnerships again, and what providers can really help that out. So I know that there's definitely progression in it, and in my experience too with training the HPD recruits. Back in the day, we were knocking on the door being like, "Can we talk to your recruits about talking to victims?" Because victims kind of need a different touch with how to interview and how to assess, and it took us a while but now we come in there for hours and there's different segments now. We have DV training, or Domestic Violence Victim Training, Sex Assault Victim Training. So we started out just a few years ago with not having that opportunity. So when I see the slide saying the officers needed more training, I wanted to just be like, they're getting awesome training now and it's wonderful to see that progression, because not having any of that victim training to two different sessions is huge steps. Thank you. [Applause]

[0:41:48]

CAROL: Thank you very much, Amanda. Our next presenter is Iopa Maunakea, a highly regarded leader in Puna, known for his strong commitment to community organizing and high-quality program delivery. As a construction surveyor by trade and a lineal descendant of Kumukahi and Waipio Valley, Iopa brings

deep cultural, social, and economic knowledge of the Puna area to his role as Executive Director of Kanaka O Puna. Iopa also founded The Men of Pa'a, a program aimed at helping men stay clean and sober through community service. Iopa is also known as the musician Bruddah Kuz.

Iopa has provided us with a terrific video that showcases a variety of activities undertaken through Kanaka Puna and The Men of Pa'a, and it treats us to his music at the same time. So if we're ready to queue up the audio visual for Iopa...[Applause]



[0:43:09]

IOPA MAUNAKEA: Aloha. My name is Iopa Maunakea. I'm going to just get to right at it, I had this long speech all prepared but I'm going to just wing it by the hip. So we are the Men of Pa'a, that's my group.



Men of Pa'a
Positive Action Alliance

Men of Pa'a, is a native Hawaiian-based non-profit organization here on the island of Hawaii, Moku O Keawe. It's mission is to empower and enable Kanaka Ma'oli, particularly native Hawaiian men who seek recovery, restoration, and reconciliation with themselves, their ohana, and their community through our process of Ho'okanaka...

We are all 501c3 nonprofit organization and in this sharing I think I'm going to align ourselves with this concept of the community policing, which I'm going to change the narrative, already to me it's aina-based recovery and aina-based stewardship.

This is my current group now all sitting in the back over there. [Applause] We all came from the justice system and we reintegrated ourselves in our community and, and yeah, and we do that through you know our mission has always to be empowered and enable our Kanaka Ma'ole, particularly native Hawai'ian men, but you know we inclusive, we never have been exclusive. We do this, the men got to seek recovery, restoration and reconciliation. That's kind of like our key ingredients. They got to mix, they got to make right with themselves first then, their ohana and then the community benefits. Actually I don't even look at that [gestures toward slide], I can just tell you right now.



Ho'okanaka Process
Culturally rooted, communally relevant, a process of personal change, catalyzed by servant leadership. Driven by our Aina Based Recovery and Aina Based Stewardship programs in achieving our 3 R's in Recovery, Restoration and Reconciliation and engage our mantra of people helping people helping people.

		
RECOVERY PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL BEING THE PRACTICE AND CULTIVATION OF SPIRITUAL PRINCIPALS	RESTORATION BEING RESTORED TO SANITY BY PRACTICING NEW WAYS EXPECTING DIFFERENT RESULTS	RECONCILIATION MAKING AMENDS TO SELF, OHANA AND COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR PROCESS OF HO'OKANAKA

We do this through what we call our whole kanaka process, culturally rooted, community relevant, a process of personal change catalyzed by our services that we provide in our community. We always driven by our aina-based recovery and our aina-based stewardship.



Men Of Pa'a Ku'e!!!

This video was made to tell our story of intent and purpose through our actions.

We rehabilitate the man and his ohana gets better and our community benefits because we have one more ohana that is healthy - physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. We become practitioners of our own Ho'okanaka process when we bridge the gap between restorative justice and transformational recovery in community health and well-being...Ku'e!!!

Next Slide

And then we always engaging you know this idea of people helping people helping people. And we've been doing this for some years now, I cannot count already with 2006 maybe 2005, something like that.




Malama Aina Puna Makai

As we malama aina, Aina always malama us.

Job training, social and economic development and entrepreneurial opportunities arising from our intervention and prevention programs is about change and how change is good and how change is inevitable - but also change can motivate and change can be fearful. We must anticipate and embrace change and be right with change - always leaving any place better than we came. We must create sustainable livelihoods while we malama and aloha aina at all levels.

I'm going to show you on video but before this video, I'll explain [unintelligible] this concept that's going on right now. So right now as we speak, when we pau with this we're going downstairs and we're going to take action. To me I think, policing is action. Stewardship is action.



Malama Youth Project

Working with our youth is very rewarding and one of our contributions to the future. If we are able to help them resist drugs and alcohol our work will improve their chances of success in life.

Through our involvement we encourage not only their preparation for future careers but also teach them cultural and ancestral kuleana – traditional Hawaiian values. As we malama our youth, they become independent and resilient. They become practitioners of our Ho'okanaka process.

So downstairs we get on our food all set up like that, I'm going to feed the homeless after this. And we bought some gift certificates to give them as well. Why? Because we can. Two is, that is supposed to be done, and we're going to be able to talk story with the homeless folks out there and connect with them so that we can see what the need is, what they need, how we can get it to them today and stuff like

that. That's our mission today, we're going to do that after this, you're more than welcome to join us. But the key to this, it was about gaining trust.

We got it, we got to figure out that piece of trusting each other in the work that we doing. Let me see. So we changing the narrative. We need to practice these principles obviously because we cannot do this by ourselves.



**Kumukahi
Huaka'i
2021.**

Kumukahi Huaka'i is designed to connect our visitors to embrace the concept of Malama Aloha Aina. Teaching them the importance of Kumukahi and what it means to us as a Wahi Pana. Aina - that which feeds!!! Mauka to Makai, Keiki to Kupuna. Aina to Aina.

We need each other to do this, right? And there's a lot of community members in here that I'm partnering with as I speak, as we share and talk story with everybody. So part of it is building on trust and relationships with law enforcement.

So over the years [I] was able to do that. I was explaining that to Captain Ben – by the way thank you for your service – I'm talking story about our relationship with the Puna division and how, one phone call, we can call community policing and they will come out and help us. Why? Because we develop trust. They trust there right now, fostering community trust, addressing social justice issues – oh, big words that Hawaiian is using! [laughter].

**Malama Kaloko Loko I'a
Cultural Resilience**



You know our approach really is creating collaborative and effective communication. I think communication is really key. In fact in our own little hui, we get messaging you know on our phones, and we're trying to communicate with each other every time because we need to know where everybody stay, what everybody doing, cuz it's important to us, and I think if we start doing that and I don't want – solutions like uncle said – but I think as we do this, we're creating some solutions.

9

Puna Headquarter District

Men of Pa'a
 Hale Pu'ula
 Kauhale KOP Resilient HUB
 Malama Kumukahi
 Puna Maka'ala Action Committee
 Adopt A Highway
 Food/Gas Distribution
 Census Recruitment
 Community Mobilization
 Social Economic Development

South Hilo Collaborative District

Community Engagement
 Ladies' Night Out
 LGBTQ Parade and Festival
 Annual Community Ho'olaulea
 Faith Base Event Assistance
 Hilo Intermediate Spartan Fest

Hamakua District Aloha Aina

Waipio Valley Malama Hāloa/Iwi Kupuna
 Pohaha I Kalani
 Kohala Center in Honoka'a
 Ko Education Center
 Laupahoehoe Music Festival

Kohala District Hui

Dragon Heart Farm/IHeart Hub
 Sage Farms/Kohala Institute
 Community Outreach/Development
 Kohala center/Makapala Retreat

North & South Kona District Expansion

Halekī Resilience Hub
 Malama Aloha Aina
 Kaloko Mauka Kaloko I'a
 Ho'okena/QLT Kaloko Loko I'a
 Root & Rise Therapeutic Horticulture



Ka'u District

Ka'u High School Youth Mentoring program
 Na'alehu Hongwanji Resilient Hub

Ho'okanaka Process: "A culturally rooted, and communally relevant process of personal change catalyzed by servant leadership."

*Aina Based Recovery
 *Aina Based Stewardship

Team Pa'a... Ku'e!!!

MOP
 Regional
 Activities
 Map

Dedicated To

Kupuna Katherine Kamalakuiki Kamakawahine Maunakea

"Ne huli ka lima iluna, Pololi ka Opu."

"Ne Huli ka lima ilalo, Piha ka Opu."

Link to video

<https://youtu.be/SDugMo1XLqM>



So I'm going to share the video, and all what you're doing you might assume you might not whatever, I don't care, so we just do what we do, cuz we do what we do we do best, that's what we do!

Please enjoy the video of the work that we do, and you can see the alignments in our communities that we doing and the collaborative efforts that's happening. [Applause]

[0:48:17]

[The video can be viewed with Iopa's commentary starting at 0:48:17, or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSPoolWi0LU>]

IOPA [speaking over images shown in the video] Everything we do is based in our culture. We need to practice our culture, we need to live our culture, in fact Captain Ben, that's one thing you're going to have to learn about here, not only the Hawaiian culture but the Big Island culture.

[Video shows a photo of Men of Pa'a at the Pride Parade 2022.] Looking at my men now, I can see tears in their eyes.[Video show a photo of Iopa with Mayor Mitch Roth] Who's that?!?

All of this was just out of the Covid 19 [unintelligible], so all of the community organizations started to bring back these kind of events and doing that kind of work. Making safe spaces for people, our people.

This event is coming up next week. We definitely connect to faith-based groups. We found a way to connect ourselves to everybody.

Us guys all getting old so we gotta bring the youth to work. Big environmental programs that we do. The beautiful part about that is partnerships with DPW [unintelligible] and they coming out and helping us pick up the rubbish.

Working with our kids, that's a beautiful place to be. You know youth, they're spry. And you create a space for them to thrive. That's from our keiki to our kupuna.

[Video shows people making lei]. Yeah, you know, even us big guys sew leis, we make leis. [Chuckles.]

Finding something solid to stand on, one foundation...malama aina. And working with people outside of Hawai'i. [Video concludes] Thank you. [Applause.]

[0:56:49]

CAROL: Thank you for making that video for us, Iopa. That's just what we needed at that moment.

Our next presenter is Michelle Lee Manalo. She was born and raised on the Big Island, and she has been employed with Going Home Hawai'i since 2018 and is its Director of Finance. She also serves as Interim Vice President and Treasurer for Friends of Big Island Drug Court. Having lived experience with the justice system, she supports others who are on similar journeys and hopes to inspire them that change is possible. Thank you for joining us today, Michelle.

MICHELLE MANALO: Thank you, Carol. I want to first thank you, Carol and Donna, East Hawai'i Culture Center, and Hawai'i's Council for the Humanities and Professor Meiser and her students for having us, for having me. It is an honor to sit here to share a little bit about myself, not in critical detail like I shared with Carol but just a little and hopefully it inspires our community, and you know it changes the

narrative like Iopa has shared, that justice-involved individuals can make a change and have, you know, be a part of the community once again.

So I'll start off with, I have been through the justice system over a period of 15 years. I suffered from a major and very detrimental substance abuse problem that led me to make very poor choices in my life.

Over a course of 15 years, I'll just share a little about that, I've been to jail, and not at this house when this was the courthouse, but at the Aupuni location. First, well, first arrested for many different reasons from traffic violations to felony charges. I am a three-time offender, therefore I was sentenced to prison time, and I went to the Women's Correctional Center on Oahu. I was part of the 50 that were shipped to the Kentucky location, that was in 2006 and I just did some research recently and that the reason we were transferred to that facility was because the Public Safety Department and the Corrections Corporation of America signed into a contract to house the women offenders because of overpopulation at the women's center, and that it would be costly for – if they kept the women in Hawai'i it would be costly, so therefore transferring to another facility would at a lower cost would help lessen the budget, I suppose. So we're at 50 women from Hawai'i, 80 from Colorado, we were housed at the Kentucky facility, and you know I'm not sure if anyone was aware of the situation back there, that 186 women had to be shipped back in 2009 due to – I'm just going to say unsafe situations that occurred. So you know I want to say that of the 186 women there, 50 percent were incarcerated because of drug-related crimes, non-violent crimes. 95 percent of that 186 women were mothers, so you can see that being housed away from your family, you don't get that opportunity to have visitors, your children. I would say that causes disrupted families.

So I'm not sure of the status today on how many Hawai'i people are incarcerated in other states. That was back in 2006.

[\[1:01:47\]](#)

Anyway, so I'll fast forward to today, you know it took a long time for me to finally grow up and you know I like what Iopa shares, that within, for the Men of Pa'a, they have to make right for themselves. For me, I always recite this in my mind, to thine own self be true. And I'll share that, and if you are true to yourself, therefore you can be true to others, and you know with that comes helping others, loving others and you know receiving the same from others. So yeah, so it took me so long to get to the point where enough is enough and I had to make a change, and of course you know incarceration allows you to stop your crazy lifestyle out there, so I'm thankful that what occurred, occurred.

Today I am, like Carol mentioned, I am the director of finance at Going Home Hawai'i and we are – and Les will share about our organization – but what's so meaningful about my position there is we serve the population that I came from. We serve justice-involved individuals that want to make a change in their life and have faith in themselves. So seeing that, you know it ,it's heartfelt for me. It's personal for me and it's meaningful. At the end of the day, I can say that you know if one person, if I can inspire one person by the example I am leading, then I have done my job.

But to get there, you know, it takes a change within yourself. It's not just going to happen, it's a lot of – it's hard work, it's hard work. It's about getting real with yourself, it's about making changes, you know: don't stick around with the same people. Rebuild the relations that love and support you that have, that has the same goal, same aspirations as you, and you know it's about growing up and valuing yourself and knowing your worth and working hard. You have to work hard and not breaking the law, as I look at Mayor. Hi, Mayor. (Chuckles.)

[1:04:23]

You know a lot of people have been there for me along the way, and I don't forget that. And today, it's about loyalty to the ones that never gave up on me. And that is the most important thing for me: keeping the people that supported me during my trials and tribulations – so yeah, thank you. Life is amazing today and I'm appreciative and grateful to be here. [Applause.]

CAROL: Thank you very much for sharing that with us, Michelle. And as Michelle mentioned, our next speaker is Going Home Hawai'i's president and CEO Lester Alfred Estrella [applause], who – as many of you obviously know! – was born and raised in Hilo. After 20 years working in Honolulu in the automotive industry, he returned to Hilo looking for a career change, and since then he has over two decades experience working with the intersection of the justice system and community reintegration, nonprofit organizations and the development of reentry and recovery housing programs. Les has been active with the Hawai'i Island Going Home Consortium since 2006 and he founded Going Home Hawai'i in 2015. Thank you for coming today, Les. [Applause]

[1:06:04]

LES ESTRELLA: Thank you for inviting me here today, and thank you all for coming today [unintelligible]. I have a history with this building too, actually it was more with like, more like in Officer Osario's days. It was a long time ago. I was here very briefly, not voluntarily [laughter], anyway it was a long time ago so it kind of brings it to context, I did have a little bit of memories when I came in – back then, all the difficult decisions growing up, when you're growing up and young in Hilo, and not having direction, so I really appreciate everyone's stories here and all of you for listening. I'm going to go into our slides.



Going Home Hawai'i is a nonprofit 501c3, we say "no new crimes, no new victims," and the reason we say that is it really is about community safety: not having new crimes, recidivism, reoffending. [It] really brings to light the changes that can be made from an individual, as you heard, but also making for a safer and healthier communities, the outcome that we are all after.

MISSION

To assist justice-involved Hawai'i Island men, women, and youth with reintegration into community life through employment, education, housing, and appropriate services.

Our mission is to assist justice-involved Hawai'i island men, women and youth with integration into community life through employment, education, housing and appropriate services embracing our culture as e Ho'okanaka – persons of worth. We as Hawaiians fulfill our promise of equity and inclusion to all who are justice-involved to pathways of health, healing and aloha.

VISION

Embracing our culture as E Ho'okanaka, persons of worth, we as Hawai'i fulfill our promise of equity and inclusion to all who are justice-involved, through pathways of health, healing and aloha.

[1:07:53]

I don't have time to go into all of our programs and services, and explain all of these things, but just want to list some of the things that we do. Care coordination and, first of all this is really – I want to give credit to all of our staff who do this every day, and work with very difficult situations, but very professional and compassionate in the work that they do.

Programs & Services

- ▶ Care Coordination
- ▶ Reentry Recovery Housing (men & women)
- ▶ Peer Support and Mentoring
- ▶ 9 Months – Window of Hope (pregnant moms using or at risk of using illicit substances)
- ▶ Transportation Support
- ▶ Prosocial Activities
- ▶ Access to Education
- ▶ Access to Employment
- ▶ Referrals to Treatment and Healthcare
- ▶ Strong Partnerships with Community Providers

- Care Coordination.
- We have Reentry and Recovery Housing for men and women in both Hilo and Kona.
- Peer support and mentoring, which is super important to have that support as you move through the justice system.
- 9 Months – Window of Hope, that program is for pregnant moms using or at risk of using illicit substances.
- Transportation support – big island, yeah, so need rides.
- Pro social activities.
- Access to education, very important. Higher education, we really push that on really moving through at least if not training to career pathways, but certainly in to higher education.
- Access to Employment, we do partner with many different agencies here in the Big Island.
- Referrals to Treatment and Healthcare.
- Strong Partnerships with Community Providers, and that's really our foundation.

Kona Reentry Program



It's real – some pictures here, our Kona reentry program, we have three apartment buildings in Kailua Kona, it's men and women. We have some rentals there too, we had a contract with the Department of Public Safety for furlough and parole, but we do 100 percent justice-involved individuals stay there.

Pu'uhonua Wellness Center - Men



Our Pu'uhonua Wellness Center for men is in Hilo. We have eight men residing there. Nice, house nice yard – we don't take care of the yard though! [Laughter.]

Supportive Housing - Men



Supportive Housing for men, so this is a semi-independent living. So after they are successful and they still need a little bit more support, they're going to the supportive housing in Lower Kaumana, a really nice house, so they enjoy that. I want to emphasize that everybody is employed.

[1:10:10]

Pu'uhonua Wellness Center - Women



Our Pu'uhonua Wellness Center for Women – We recently got this, and there will be seven women in this house in Hilo.

Hawai`i Island Going Home Consortium

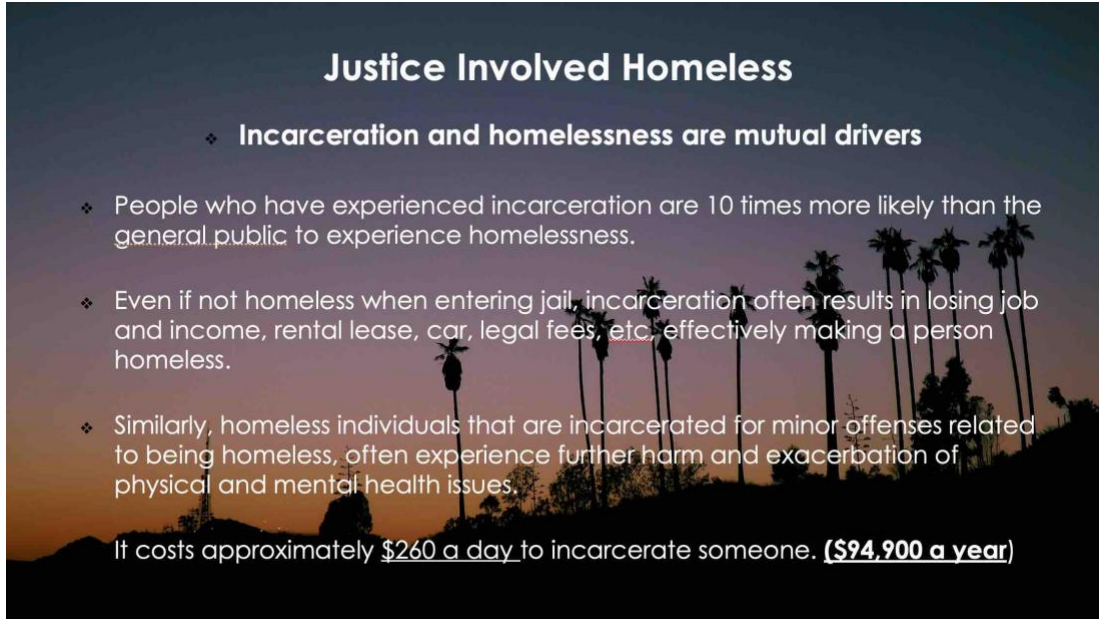
- ▶ Formed in 2004
- ▶ Network of over 600 local, state and national partners
- ▶ Monthly Meetings via Zoom on Second Tuesday
 - ▶ Collective Impact Focused
 - ▶ Committees:
 - ▶ Housing
 - ▶ Faith-Based
 - ▶ Health & Wellness
 - ▶ Justice Partners
 - ▶ Career Pathways
 - ▶ West Hawai`i
 - ▶ Executive

Hawai'i Island Going Home Consortium was formed in 2004. And the fiscal agent of that is the Going Home Hawai'i, the non-profit. The consortium consists of a network of over 600 local, state and national partners. We have Monday meetings via Zoom, on the second Tuesday and – starting in 2004 it was monthly meetings every second Tuesday still. But it was in person. So Covid came, we stopped for one year. We started up again with Zoom, and now we have like 40 to 50 people attending from all over. They don't have to fly in, and we don't have to pick them up at the airport to come to our meetings anymore, so that's worked out really well.

We are collective impact focused, meaning that we have a strategy map that we follow under certain specific goals and activities. So it's not meeting to meet, we have actual actions, steps that we take.

[1:11:23]

Some of the committees are housing, faith-based, health and wellness, justice partners, career pathways, West Hawai'i coalition and executive committee.



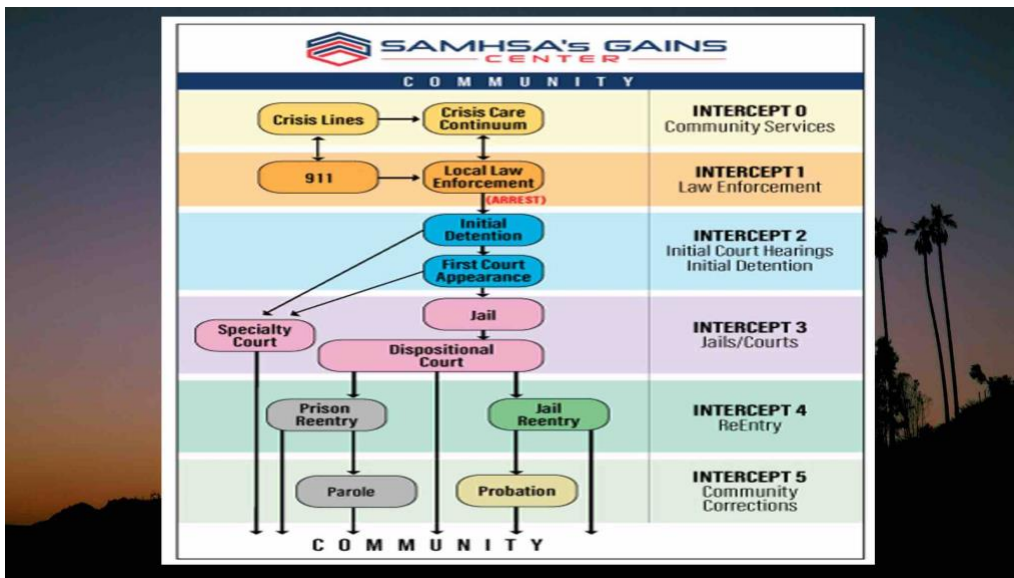
Spend a minute here on justice-involved homeless so you'll be at – shared something right outside here, right? And especially in the downtown area we see a lot of that. And many of them are justice-involved.

We are working on a forum, I'm not going to get into that today, but we have a forum coming up that we are working with many different decision-makers and partners, that to address the one thing about reducing the number of homeless cycling through our jail here – and of course, every time you cycle through the jail, you're going to have police encounters, so we're trying to reduce that. So the mutual drivers of homelessness and incarceration are 10 times more likely than the general public to experience homelessness. Even if you're not homeless when entering jail, incarceration often results in losing your job, income, rental lease, your car, legal fees, on and on, effectively making a person homeless.

Similarly, homeless individuals that are incarcerated for minor offenses related to being homeless often experience further harm and exacerbate the physical and mental health issues.

[1:12:50]

And it costs approximately \$260 a day to incarcerate someone. That's 94,000 a year. There's better solutions.



Take a look at the SAMHSA’s Gains Center intercept model, and if you notice it starts off with community. And then it flows down to the intercept, so the crisis line and your crisis continuum of care, those calls and the results in a 911 call when you have law enforcement, it might lead to an arrest and goes into intercept 2, when you have the detention at cell block and court appearance, and remember now this is all costs adding up all the way through as we move along. Intercept three in the jails and the courts, where you going to go, or maybe you end up in drug court or other specialty court – better in court than other places. Then the intercept 4 which is that re-entry piece, but you have to go either to jail when you're left here at HCCC, or go to prison, and sometimes you get sent away to the continent.

[1:14:02]

And you come back if you go to prison, you come back to parole or you max out, or if you're in the jail you come back out into probation. Every time we look all the way through these intercepts, it comes back to community again, so it starts up with communities, surrounded by community, and it ends up with community.

Invest in Intercept 0

- ▶ **Connects people** who have mental and substance use disorders with services **before** they come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- ▶ **Supports law enforcement** in responding to both public safety emergencies and mental health crises.
- ▶ **Enables diversion** to treatment **before** an **arrest** takes place.
- ▶ **Reduces pressure on resources** at local emergency departments and inpatient psychiatric beds/units for urgent but less acute mental health needs.

So where do we do our investment for us? We invest in intercept zero. It connects people who have mental health and substance use disorders with service *before* they come into contact with the criminal justice [system]. It supports law enforcement in responding to both public safety emergencies and mental health crisis. It enables diversions to treatment before an arrest takes place. It also reduces pressure on resources at your emergency departments, inpatient psychiatric beds, which we have very little of, and units for urgent but less acute mental health needs.

[1:15:04]



Adding more resources into community services are one of the smartest Investments we can make, and successful reintegration is one of the most important crime-prevention tools our communities have. Let that sink in.

A contact information graphic with a teal background and a speech bubble icon. It includes phone and fax numbers for Hilo and Kona offices, an email address, and social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and a website.

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Hilo Fax: (808) 498-0315

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Kona Fax: (808) 464-4288

 info.goinghomehawaii@gmail.com

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Going Away Hawai'i has a Reentry and Restoration Summit coming up, so save the date, it's going to be at the King Kamehameha Hotel on Wednesday August 23rd. Registration will begin in July. I hope you can all make it and we're looking forward to seeing you there. And contact us at the following, or like us on Facebook right now [laughter], Instagram website and email. Thank you. [Applause.]

[1:16:01]

CAROL: Thank you very much, Les. Our final panelist is Kevin Dayton, Senior Reporter for Honolulu Civil Beat. Kevin is the former Capitol Bureau Chief for the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. He was also Capitol Bureau Chief and Big Island Bureau Chief for The Honolulu Advertiser. He also reported for the Hawai'i Tribune-Herald in Hilo and the Honolulu Bureau of the Associated Press. He worked for Hawai'i County Mayor Billy Keenoy, and is a former U.S. Army sergeant. Thank you for joining us, Kevin. [Applause]

KEVIN DAYTON: Thanks for having me and forgive me if I mess up with the mic. I'm not used to this. So anyway, one of the lessons – Les and I were talking before we came in today – and one of the good things about being a journalist, as opposed to an advocate, or for a nonprofit, is that I can be a little bit more blunt about some of the things that are out there, that I think most of you are very, very much aware of, maybe more so than me. But one of the things I want to talk about is because I've been at the legislature and I've also been off and on covering the correctional system in Hawai'i since about 1990, 1991, something like that, is, um, just the sense that in politics in Hawai'i, corrections is not seen as a very important subject.

If you were to go to the legislature and to watch what happens with the committee assignments, where the power sits, this is not – people are not scrambling to become part of the Public Safety Committee, and that I think is a reflection of a larger sort of community attitude that people that get locked up are sort of throwaway.

And I heard it mentioned once, mentioned once earlier today, that sooner or later almost everybody goes home; almost everybody comes out and I want to talk for a little bit about the conditions that we have at HCCC today that John has covered, I have covered because you know what happens inside is going to affect the kind of person that comes out and that is something that we all have to deal with.

It becomes a community problem and a community issue, and frankly, I don't think we are dealing with it in any meaningful way, and I don't see anybody at the legislature that is really jumping in to attack that problem and that set of problems, just not happening. So I'm not sure how to kickstart it, I mean there's one exception: Linda Lingle actually has launched an initiative at the state level to do some things to make conditions at WCCC better. She's had remarkable success. I never would have expected that she would do so well. Well, it's not just her, it's a group of people, but she's had what I would consider to be striking success in getting more resources. For instance, something that argues basically that if there's a service available to the men, it has to be made available to the women. It seems pretty basic in terms of treatment programs, so that sort of thing.

[1:19:03]

She's been able to push some of that stuff through, and I think I think she's been successful at that level because women offenders are seen as less threatening. As was pointed out already, a vast majority of them are drug offenders and that is seen as less of a problem or less frightening than some of the other kinds of folks that are in the system. So anyway with that big windup, I wanted to talk a little bit about HCCC and you know frankly from my perception is that that since about the 1980s when we opened Halawa Correctional Facility, I think it was 1987, our system hasn't changed a lot, the major innovation if you want to point to one thing is that we decided that we can send inmates out of state.

Michelle, I wondered aloud how many people are still out there. The answer is, this week is 900 people at Saguaro Correctional Facility, Saugaro Correctional Center, which is in Eloy, Arizona. When you talk to the men who are doing time there, you would think that they would not want to be there, that they would rather be back in Hawai'i. It doesn't, as it turns out when you talk to a lot of them, really work that way. A lot of them, Halawa Correctional Facility offers dead time.

Basically, there's not a lot of programs, it's not a lot of services, it's not a lot of educational opportunities it's not a lot of access to law library, and that kind of things, whereas the situation is better at Saguaro Correctional Center, where you can get, for example – that you know there's tablets in the cells, TVs in the cells, it's basically a better set of living conditions than you get here.

And when you reflect on the fact that sending them out of state they get better services, that's really kind of sad, because the one thing I think most of you know that really truly correlates with success on parole is connections, family connections, which is obvious when you think about it.

[1:20:56]

I mean if you have some place to go and somebody to go to when you get out, of course you're going to be more successful than if you're just out on the street, the kinds of people that Les was talking about. So that seems really sad that we're doing that. I mean I know there's a cost savings to be had there, but we are spending about \$45 million a year sending people out of state. I'm sorry, that's a bit of digression because really what I want to talk about is HCCC which is in fact a jail, it's not a prison.

HCCC – so again it'd be great if the community really absorbed the idea that sooner or later everybody comes out and so we need to be concerned with the conditions that are taking place inside.

HCCC, maybe some of you know better than I do, but my perception, I mean first of all, if you walk through HCCC, anybody with no correctional experience at all can see there's something really wrong with that facility. I mean, it's bad. I've done those walkthroughs on a number of occasions, and now we are lucky enough to have Christin Johnson with Hawai'i Correctional Systems Oversight Commission doing regular checks. She's made it her business to go in there every two weeks.

And the kinds of things that she's reported, now this is not me talking, this is her, they've taken interview rooms at HCCC that were supposed to be for inmates to talk to their attorneys, and turned them into what are called "dry cells." There's no plumbing, there's no place to use the bathroom in those.

I think everyone is familiar with the concept, what do they call it, the fish bowl, the fish bowl where you're locked up you know, anywhere from 15 to 30 or perhaps even more people during the pandemic. Now we were doing this and you leave them in there, again with no plumbing. The last I heard when I talked to Christin, that's still in use. They're trying to scale it back, to try to reduce the usage of that. And then, and then – think for a minute, about what level of programming do you really think is available in that kind of a setting, where they are jam-packed?

[1:22:50]

Now I know they are another branch of the facility, I know they're building, they just ripped down the old jail and now they're putting in another medium security section. I'm sure that will help at least in the short run with overcrowding. But the experience I think has been – and people, Advocates ACLU and such – will point this out, is that when you build the beds they will be filled. And I'm not quite sure why

that is exactly, especially since you know we have some of these crazy examples of, you know, people, I know one case where someone was in there for \$250 bail for illegal throw net. I mean, he sat in there for about 2 months and he finally died in there.

That's not the fault of the jail that he died there, he had a very serious medical condition. But if he had gone in front of a judge and been sentenced, I can't imagine he would have gotten a two-months sentence. It was just a, it's like it's I know, it's a congested system.

I just came across another case a little while ago and I don't want to give any names cuz John's sitting here from the Tribune Herald and he's going to scoop me if I do, but there's a guy sitting in there who's been there for seven years and he still hasn't been adjudicated, he hasn't been found guilty. That's crazy.

[1:24:06]

I don't, I don't understand why you know – so some of the blame belongs with the court system, it's not all the correctional system. There's a bunch of you know there's plenty of blame to go around.

So I'm getting down to one minute, but you know it's a little bit of a harsh assessment, but it's a harsh situation. And I don't see community engagement, community involvement, at that level of the type that would force the legislature to start doing what it needs to do.

If you've been watching the debate over OCCC and what's needed at OCCC, the largest jail in the state, they're still stuck. The legislature just allocated another ten million dollars to plan for an expansion that may never happen.

[1:24:45]

Nobody knows, because I mean the price tag for a new OCCC is in the neighborhood of, it's something north of 500 million, and some people would argue it's going to be as much as a billion. So getting the public engaged in that side of things, it's something that most people don't like to think about it or don't bother to think about. It's really important, and I'm not exactly sure and I don't have an answer. I don't know how to do it, but I think it's something we need to focus on.

You know on that on that survey that was done, one of the things I hope we can talk about during the Q&A is one in five people have a family member who's justice-involved. Boy maybe it's just me and mine, but that seems really low. I wonder if maybe that's some sort of a skewed sample, yes, because it just seems too low anyway. Thank you. [Applause]

[1:25:37]

CAROL: Thank you very much Kevin, and I hope you all appreciate the fact that a miracle has occurred here today, which is that we're actually on time. We had hoped to leave about half an hour for Q&A, and lo and behold, by my watch it is 11:29. So we can now take questions, and we are going to try to make sure the microphone is used. That is if I can get it out. The microphone will be brought to you, and please do use it ,so that our recording is good.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Iopa brought up the issue of trust, and was added to by Michelle and I think originally Elroy, brought up the idea that policing is something that's either done by us or to us as a perception. And there's a development from what Elroy described, as a community that was policed by itself to a community that's the perception is that it's a policed upon us and I just want to know how you address that, Chief Ben.

CHIEF BEN: Well, I wish I knew the answer to that question. I'm pretty sure we could just end this whole thing and head out. I'm very curious that you used the word perception and I think you hit the nail on the head. Going back to the data that was shared by the students a little bit earlier, right, they said that the majority of people felt that the police department was unfair in their interactions with the community. But when asked about their own interactions with the police, the overwhelming majority said that they were fair.

And so to me, I think there is a huge disconnect there. I think that might be part of the puzzle, right. I'm curious what the role of social media and some other certain media outlets in controlling that perception is, and there is certainly a narrative, less here, admittedly, in Hawai'i County and even less in the state of Hawai'i, but there is a narrative nationally and internationally that there is a division – right?

[\[1:27:45\]](#)

I would attribute some of that perception difference to that, but back to the original point that you made, and that Elroy made and several others made, is that trust is the currency that we're dealing with. I mean if you think of, you know, the police department is a banking system, and if I have no trust in my account I can't go make a withdrawal, I can't do anything.

If the public doesn't trust the police that are in their communities and in, and serve their communities in the police department, then essentially we are powerless. That's kind of why when I listen to Iopa talk about the relationship that he has and his organization has with the community policing officers in Puna, I see some hope there, because I think one of the things that this Police Department on this island does very well actually, is build those relationships proactively, right.

And one of the things that we were talking about kind of before we came out was the time to meet someone is not when one of those people is in crisis. We are not going to come out with the best outcome; it's just not going to happen. But if you know someone ahead of time and there's a relationship and we are helping you and you are helping us, then when the crisis happens and inevitably it will, then there's a little bit of, there's a little currency there. Right?

You're going to trust that I'm going to take care of what you got going on, I'm going to trust that you're going to help resolve the situation. But none of that comes easy, and certainly when there are large scale things that hit the news in the national cycle, you know, when some law enforcement officers on the mainland decide that they are going to go outside the scope of what they are supposed to do and do crazy things, that not only empties their trust bank but it takes a huge deficit out of ours as well. So that's kind of what I see as one of the main goals of the police department is to build that trust as much as possible.

With that comes sharing information. I have access to tons of information at the police department, whether it is use of force data, or arrest data, or crime data or response times. We don't share any of that. If you came down to the station and you filed a 92F request, we would dig it up for you and give it to you, but only you would know what it was, because we didn't share it with anybody else.

So I see there's a huge opportunity for us to use technology to share that kind of information more, including arrest logs, and I think with that, trust starts to maybe form and develop a little more. That it's not some secret building down the road where we don't know what happens. We're sharing – we're not ever going to be able to share everything that we know, right? That defeats the purpose of law

enforcement in the first place. Some of the stuff we have to keep secret, because we're chasing bad guys right, we're chasing people who are intentionally trying to avoid us. Occasionally.

So we can't always share everything we know, because there are things that we need to do, but I think that building that trust proactively before that situation arises goes a long way to you trusting that I would love to tell you everything I know about whatever situation, whatever investigation, I just can't yet. One day hopefully, right, I can, but I can't yet. So you're absolutely right and I agree with you 100 percent, that building that trust especially before something happens is going to be key to the success of the community moving forward.

[1:30:57]

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Chief I just wanted, just wanted – I had a different question, actually, that I was going to direct towards Kevin, but just hearing you speak I wanted to respond briefly. I think the difference, at least for myself in that skewed reporting of what we perceive the police to be and then what our actual interactions is, is based on where, just for myself, where I fell in the reporting.

If I'm reporting a crime to the police, I've had some really positive and incredible interactions with officers. If I am being accused of a crime, if I'm being pulled over for something and I believe I'm in the right and the officer believes I'm in the wrong, I'm getting the interaction that you just described, as I'm the bad guy. And I'm being treated like a bad guy, and whether or not that is the case, that's my interaction and my experience.

So I think it's shifting the perception of the officers to again realize that a lot of times those that they're interacting with are not the bad guy at that moment in time, and they haven't been accused formally of a crime or prosecuted for a crime and sometimes it's the perception – their perception might be incorrect as well, and that causes that friction and that experience of negative interaction.

[1:32:22]

But what I really wanted to speak to was a little bit more about HCCC, and that we have some really important people in the room that have solutions, you know, from Going Home Hawai'i and the work they've done, and Men of Pa'a, and restorative justice options, and people who've been in the prosecutor's position and our Mayor. And I'm, I'm really hopeful that we get some action on HCCC because they're individuals, they can't wait any longer, and I as just a community member, I'm so concerned for their well-being, and I don't think we want more beds, even though that is one solution to reduce the overcrowding.

We want people *out* of that facility and in a position where they can heal, and get the help that they need. And so I think that, that's where the focus needs to be. And so I would ask those of you who are in positions to do reporting on this: What can you do to be reporting even more regularly and updating us, and helping to get the public pressure to help influence our elected leaders to do the right thing?

KEVIN: I would just like to make a quick response, which is that the Hawaiian Correctional Systems Oversight Commission has sort of put in motion a process where they routinely go into the correctional facilities statewide, all of them, and Christin Johnson is the coordinator for that, has given extra special attention to HCCC. You may remember the quote from the newspaper where she compared HCCC to Rikers, which is where she worked for a period of time. That, I think she was not talking about violence, because Rikers is obviously, it's New York City, it's a much more violent place. But she was talking about the level, the crappy level of services, the really poor conditions, housing conditions, people sleeping on the floor and so on, and she said it's worse than what she had seen in her time in Rikers in that sense.

[1:34:23]

But what she's done is she's provided a window into, because she routinely goes into these facilities and routinely files reports that detail right down to, you know, this padlock should not have been on this door, you know the level of overcrowding is updated routinely. It's a terrific resource for anybody in my business to start grabbing on to it and then publicizing it. One of the questions I have is how much of an appetite is there out there in the community for that kind of information? Do people really want to hear about it? Some do. But we sort of have a problem with that I think. That's my comment on that.

[1:35:00]

AMANDA: I was going to respond to that, with the Public Safety Oversight Committee, you can actually attend their meetings. It's online, there's access to it, and they actually do weekly reporting, so all of that data and information is available on the Department of Public Safety's website. I looked at it today, just in case some questions came up, like how many folks are in Saguaro. I believe there are no women, no women outside of the State of Hawai'i, but you can look up those data and statistics of how many people are pre-trial felons, how many people are in there for petty misdemeanors, which the majority of them [are] right now because we are seeing a shift in our judges' perceptions with bail, and looking a little bit more forward to not holding people in there for petty misdemeanors or non-violent crimes. But you can see them broken up in that way.

And just being in the facility, teaching courses, and helping out and doing intake and therapy there, it was devastating to witness some of the conditions. And I hear people in the public saying like, "Oh well, they got themselves in there," or, "It's a prison, why do we have to spend this kind of money?" We need them to be treated with respect – they are members of our community and we're not talking about not having a TV. We're talking about not having access to a toilet. Not having access to clean water. Being put into a Matson container with no windows or lighting. That is completely different than not having your sheets changed every day. And I think that's how people kind of perceive that.

And going back to just advocating and showing up. Get involved. There's so many ways that you can. There's volunteer positions through Voluncorp, that you can go in and help these folks, if you have an asset or tool that you can give. And then also showing up and saying that these facilities need to be built, yes if we have more beds, I do believe in that, but we need better facilities, the facilities are not okay. We treat animals better.

I just really advocate for that, if you are wanting to get involved, the information is out there and also there's plenty of positions open, because just like the police, we are very short staffed at HCCC when it comes to therapists, social workers, everybody.

[1:37:23]

CHIEF BEN: Actually can I slide it [the microphone] right over and add to what you were saying. One of the unintended consequences, I think, that that speaks to the conditions is that when judges go down and they take a look and they say, "you know there's no way" – and in fact to Civil Beat's credit there's an article a few weeks ago – where you know, the administrative judgment [is], "There's no way I'm sending anybody to HCCC." And I understand the "why," but the unintended consequence of that is people who are in crisis, people who do need to be excluded from society at least temporarily – and I'm not talking about the guy with the \$250 warrant for an illegal throw net whose been in custody for 7 months, that guy shouldn't be there, I'll admit that. But there are some people that we arrest on a fairly regular basis every day of the week that are being released on supervisory release who immediately go out and re-offend.

I got all kinds of stories, but I don't want to talk about them on Nā Leo, but I'll talk about them after. Look through the news for the last week or two, in fact, I think Big Island Now picked up on one of the stories, the attempted murder suspect was out on supervisory release: that appears to be a person who's in crisis, but there's no room right now, so the unintended consequence of this, the facility being in such poor conditions and so overcrowded, is that people who need to be there can't be, because there are people there with \$250 warrants who've been there for seven months. So the voice that I would like to hear in this conversation that I haven't and is not here today, because they're not here, but there is an arbiter, right, who decides who's going to be there and who's not going to be there. That's a judiciary, so – and I know that they have of this – again, another small piece of this overall puzzle at play, they don't control the conditions there, but they're the gatekeepers basically, of who's there and who's not.

So if there's thought about having another forum or you know, exploring academically another direction I would be interested in the judiciary's perspective on that, and how they as a partner in the criminal justice system and in the community could kind of act as a partner to help solve some of those problems.

[1:39:25]

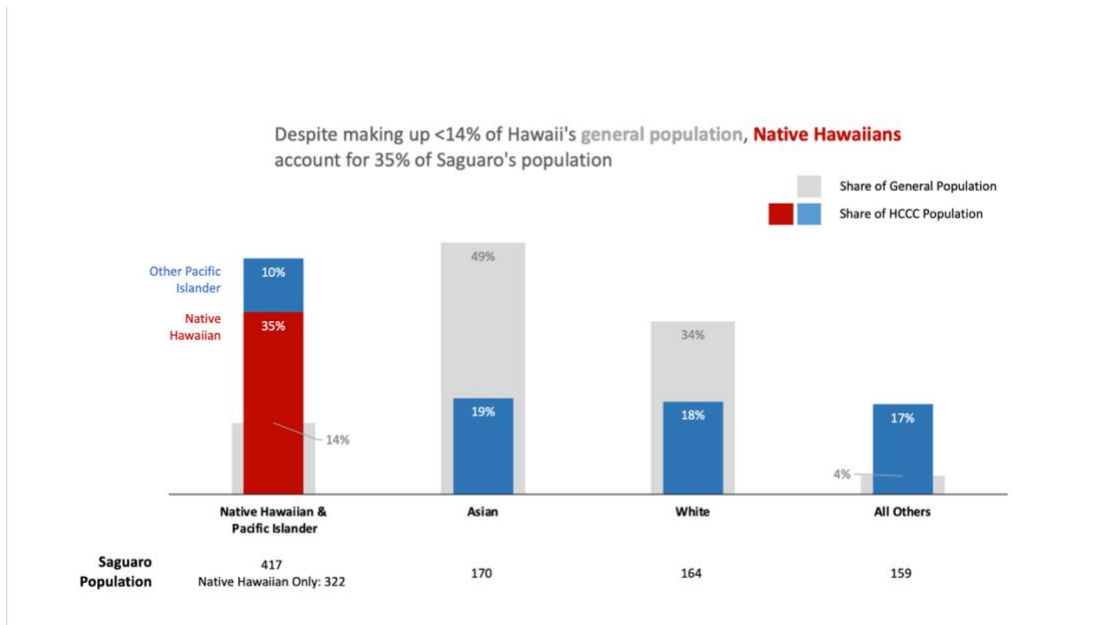
AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mahalo for your responses and for sharing today. One of the things that we have kind of broke, or not broke, but not really touched on in this presentation but I haven't really discussed a lot, and there's not a lot of time to discuss it, is the issue of race and racism as we know within the continental United States. This is where all of those calls for reform are calling from, are coming from, especially within certain communities, so rather than kind of focus on that because again maybe this is another forum, but perhaps if any of the panelists have any reflections on what might we learn from what is happening in the continental United States with regards to know different movements or reform programs and conversely, what might the continental United States learn from police community policing on our island?

CHIEF BEN: I want to jump in fast and then get out of the way, because I know I'm going to get run over. One of the huge benefits, I think, especially with our Police Department on this island, and Police Department in the state, is that by and large the police department looks like the community for the most part. Actually we do a really good job of getting really granular data. On the mainland, they might use a category like Asian, whereas here, we're going Korean versus Japanese versus Chinese versus Laotian. So we actually have a lot of really good data that shows that the police department looks like, and comes from, the kind of constituent member groups in the community.

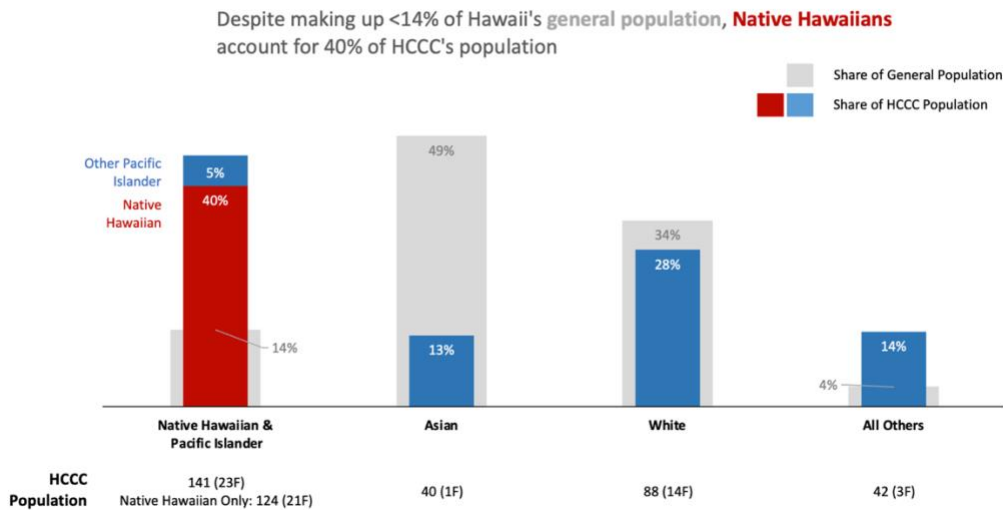
And probably that's a byproduct of the fact that in Hawai'i there is no one group that's the largest, right, there's no one group that's kind of in control as there might be in certain parts of the mainland. That's actually one of the things that when I look at my career or my job prospects, like you know I got kids, I'm raising a family, this is the place. I'm not from here, but this is the place my kids are from and this is the place I hope their kids are from. Because that's specifically one of the reasons why because some of those problems that are amplified significantly on the mainland exist here, but there's certainly not as loud or as, you know, intrusive, into – at least for my perspective – into some of the aspects of society.

[1:41:34]

LES: I have a couple of slides to kind of touch on your point – can you put up the two slides I have please? – the disparity issue.



That's Saguaro. If we look at the less than 14 percent of the Hawaii's general population are native Hawai'ians, and account for 35 percent of Saguaro's population that we have there, and other Pacific Islanders, you add them in, and look at, really, the differences. It is by far the most. That's Saguaro. Next Slide.



This is HCCC. I just got this from Christin Johnson from the Oversight Commission, so this is current. Again, native Hawaiians account for 40 percent of HCCC's population at this time, and 5 percent are the Pacific Islanders, so it's very clear when you look at this issue here, we're not like anything similar to the continent and other places, but this is after all Hawai'i. So when you look at Iopa and the Men of Pa'a and their actions that they are taking, really it is, why do we have this big disparity? And I'm not here to debate that, there's many different reasons why it goes really deep, but even the homeless population,

that would be similar to this. So unfortunately that's the situation we are in, but that also points to where we should be focused on to make some changes.

[1:43:24]

ELROY: To speak specifically to the young man's question about Hawai'i as compared to the rest of continental United States, I want to remind everybody that like it or not, we are part of the United States. So whatever is taking place there takes place [here] – same issues they're dealing with, you doing maybe on a lesser scale, and as far as racism, unfortunately, it's almost like it's human nature. Ok because it's existed in cultures, forever, forever. So those things are difficult to overcome. And one of the advantages we have here is intermarriage, where you know we begin to grow together. Now I'm Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, and German. My wife is Filipino. OK? And it goes on and on and on in Hawai'i, where gradually the distinctions I think become less apparent, and hopefully you know the personal issues of the things that you think, those will dissipate as well.

[1:44:33]

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I want to thank you to all the panelists that were you know speaking in all of the manalo and all that you guys brought forward. My name is Lane, Men of Pa'a, and I just wanted to ask ,because I thought I seen [Kelden] Waltjen in here too, the prosecutor, I thought I just seen him but I guess not, but I wanted to just bring up because the Mayor's here and you know all these people here, but what is the action that we're going to be taking moving forward after having these discussions? That's just kind of what I want to know, like we're going to go downstairs and we're going to feed the homeless because that's what our po'o wants us to do, that's to show the action that we want to take part in, you know.

So I think it's just the question of like, what are we going to do, because it's a systems thing, right? it's a multi-level thing, and I heard Amanda say that we have to be a community that comes together across all different systems to be able to tackle these very complex issues, you know. So how do we, you know, come together and have this discussion of what do we do next is the question. What do we do now?

[1:45:31]

ELROY: I can tell you one of the things we all need to do, and you know it's very simple and it may even be offensive to some people is: we got to obey the laws, you know? That's one thing we all got to do. We got to understand that the laws are in place for our benefit to protect us, so that we can all get along, right, and if we do that, and it's very difficult to do because even I break the law sometimes, okay? But if that is what your focus is, then we can help make it a better place.

[1:46:05]

IOPA: Also we're not going we're not going change anything if we do nothing and sometimes you just got to take the bull by the horns. Right. As I stated earlier, we gotta, we must change the narrative. Right? And we gotta do that by action. You know, and I think what Lane is pretty sharing, is that what is the next steps from this group what happened, now where is EHCC going to take this after, right? Well, when I see these peoples coming together, it means a couple things. It means there's people who care and then there's people who are passionate about caring for each other, but then the key is that we got to take action like Amanda was sharing earlier. There's all of these opportunities to get involved. Like yesterday. I'll share with you guys and then I'll be quiet after this. We were working on Pahoehoe round about, we cleaning up the place. We cutting off all the invasive debris and all the public they're coming by with all of these comments right? So after a while I'm saying okay what can I do to say something nice to them? Oh why don't you guys park your car and come help? You know da kine? So everything was

park your car, come help. Not one of them would stop and help. That's the narrative we got to change. Thank you. [Applause]

[1:47:55]

AUDIENCE MEMBER (MOSESE): First off, I wanted to say that 5½ years ago I moved back to Hawai'i and I call Hilo my home. The one thing that I found the strangest moving from the East Bay area from California was that there was a "coffee and meet a cop" at Target situation going on, and I was like, "Well that's intriguing, I really gotta go and stop by." So you know having coffee, meeting fellow police officers in the community, and I was like, "Wow, this is really amazing," so my thing is, I guess for Chief Ben, would be: would there be more events like that, to you know boost relationship-building with our Police Department?

CHIEF BEN: Absolutely, I think there were four last week, they are all over the place.

MOSESE: But more or less not just meeting with the cop, like partnering with the Men of Pa'a, feeding the homeless, being active and, and really engaging in the community, because when I hear the statistics about the numbers of women in our community who are feeling unsafe to go to their cars after hours – How many engagement opportunities do police officers have to engage with the homeless; how many opportunities do police officers have to engage with just the, like, everyday bystanders who are walking on by you know, instead of just staying in their police car, and you know I don't know what the responsibilities are when they're sitting in the police cars. But I would rather see them outside and engaging with the community.

And you know that's just one thing but another thing I really wanted to bring up, was that there is so many people here that are engaging in the resources for those who are involved, you know, with incarceration and really trying to prevent just a lot of difficult times for our community, but my thing is that we provide resources. I work for a nonprofit organization, and the thing is that how many of us in these nonprofits need resources? It's like we need support because when you go to a case manager who's overwhelmed with so many cases, they don't have support, but they also don't have maybe a year to vent their, their problems to create those solutions. It's more or less, I got to deal with this case, I got to move on to the next case. Like, so how many of those resources are allowed for those people in the community who are serving all of us?

[1:50:33]

ELROY: Yeah, I'd like to just briefly respond to that because the problem you mentioned about the separation between the police and community is not just the community's fault, it is the officers' fault, it is the officers on the beat's attitude towards the community that he should be serving. I remember when I was in Puna you know, telling my guys, "Hey, put your windows down, I know it's hot, you got the air conditioner, but put the windows down, take off your sunglasses when you're driving around, look at people, wave to them." You know, if you get a chance and you're not doing anything, get out and talk to them. But police became very defensive after a while, because of, you know, things were taking place. A lot of them did develop this us-against-them mentality which is not productive, and it's something that has to be changed, yes.

[1:51:25]

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hello, aloha, my name is Nicole Nash and with my son I represent the Red Ribbon Week Campaign, which is a National Drug prevention organization. My question for the panel is whether any member of the panel today would be willing to speak to specifically to the importance of prevention amongst our young people and to perhaps change the definition of engagement from one of conflict;

when we think of action I think we sometimes think in conflict. But with prevention I think we're talking about engagement that is more social and political in bringing people together. I would like someone on the panel today to speak more about our goals for prevention in this community. I apologize if it's not phrased as a question.

[1:52:16]

IOPA: Yes, I would be more than willing to share with you about the prevention and intervention policies that we practice. Talking to kids is what we do, pretty naturally. I think it's about setting the example, and you know the kids from the college had set the example, you know, here. So I think we as adults and leaders of our community need to just set the example. So I am more than willing.

[1:52:48]

MICHELLE: I wanted to say too like the different things that the police officers do out here to engage in that, and it goes to prevention. The prosecutor's office and the cops sometimes, we go to even kindergarten classrooms and high school, middle school, and have that dialogue and I think someone had mentioned that too, like what do we do from here. Keep having that narrative, keep talking about it. Kind of destigmatize what's going on and have those conversations with your family and friends of, you know, talk about the police, talk about incarceration, talk about prevention and drug use. We have a huge shortage of reactionary care out here right, like so prevention is huge and I think that that's going back to even our preschools, making sure we've got good daycare, making sure we've got good parent health and support, before it becomes a problem. Before it gets there. So prevention is cheaper, it's more effective than the reactions of now you have to go to counseling, now you need to go talk to the judge, right, so yeah prevention is definitely the key.

[1:53:53]

IOPA: One more thing and I promise I will shut up after this. [LAUGHTER] You got to remember too, like all of our agencies, government agencies, Police Department, DLNR, all of these different departments. They're doing the best they can with what they have, people. Right? They short on budgets, they short on people, we hear that all the time. The question is, where are *we* in this? How do we get involved? How do we engage? That's the question that we should be asking ourselves. Because you know why, if we no step up, who going step up? So we *must* step up.

So our officers, you know our retired officer uncle Elroy and our police officer Captain Ben, they help keeping our community safe. We the ones who gotta engage them. So that we can make them work for us. We can hold them accountable. Right? Then we can create this trust process we are talking about right now.

And I promise I will shut up now. [Laughter]

CAROL: I'm sure we would all love to hear much more from all our panelists [Applause] and more questions – thank you everyone. I am sorry that we do need to draw this to a close because we are about out of time, but I really appreciate the enthusiasm and the fact that there clearly could have been many more questions... no lopa, you need to be quiet. (Chuckles)

You know the question was asked, where do we go from here, and where does EHCC go from here, which is a terrifying question of course, because we're basically an arts and culture organization. But I think there is an answer to that, which is truly our role is to serve as a forum for events like this. And that might sound a little wishy-washy, like oh man we're just going to sit around and talk about things

and not do anything, but honestly forums like this are a source of ideas and calls to action that may actually lead to change.

And one thing that I heard through several speakers and questioners, kind of hinted to me at the thought of there should be more ways to have positive interactions directly. Not just between the police and the general community, but police and justice-involved individuals. Softball games, teaching you know, skills to each other. We heard from Amanda how you know restorative – okay that was silly – but we heard from Amanda how for there to be positive interactions between victims and perpetrators, and not just the negative ones, and of course when the police have to arrest somebody, that's a negative interaction. But the question I would leave perhaps for a future forum, how can there be ways to create positive interactions directly between justice-involved individuals and the police? So now it's my turn to shut up and I just want to say thank you all so very much for coming and discussing things today. Thank you.

[Text on screen:](#)

Mahalo nui loa to all of the panelists and attendees.

*Moderator
Carol Walker
Executive Director
East Hawai'i Culture Center*

*University of Hawai'i at Hilo Students
Amy Black
Caitlin Peil
Jake Villa
Rosenet Timius*

*Panelists
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Retired Hawai'i Police Department*

*Police Chief Ben Moszkowicz
Hawai'i Police Department*

*Iopa Maunakea
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Founder of Men of Pa'a*

*Michelle Manalo
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*Restorative Justice Project Coordinator
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*Kevin Dayton
Senior Reporter
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*Mahalo to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for
the collaboration along with
Professor Ellen Meiser & her students.*

*Mahalo to EHCC board, staff and volunteers
Martie Buchanan
Steve Freedman
Andrzej Kramarz
Donna Nichols
Monique Ortiz
Deb Oto
Rodney Rauch
Laurie Rich*
