

Hui Makua focuses attention on strengthening family voice to influence systems change and to grow parent and family capacity. Hui Makua works to build a cadre of parents with lived experience who engage directly with parents involved in the child welfare system. With this cadre, the hui builds opportunities for parents to share stories, to strengthen and improve the system, and to develop a birth parent advisory council.

Highlights of accomplishments as of January 2022:

- Four parent partners work with peers in EPIC's Family Wrap Hawai'i program.
- One parent will soon work with pregnant mothers experiencing substance abuse disorder at the PATH clinic in order to prevent removal of the baby at birth.
- EPIC and the Lili'uokalani Trust are discussing how to provide parent partner support for families in the Ka Pili 'Ohana program.
- Through a contract with the Hawai'i State Department of Health, birth parents filmed the video "Keep Showing Up" to inspire hope and give information to parents involved in child welfare.
- A companion brochure to "Keep Showing Up" has been published. Both the video and the brochure are available on EPIC's website.
- The CWS advisory council has included parent partners in some system discussions.
- Parent partners recently assisted in rewriting the service plan form to make the form more engaging and useful for parents. This work helps to improve practice.
- The Birth Parent National Network provided strategic sharing training for Hawai'i parents with lived experience.
- The first Hawai'i talk story session for parents with lived experience in child welfare took place in December 2021.
- Nā Kama a Hāloa partnered with the Pū'ā Foundation to secure a three-year ANA (Administration for Native Americans) grant to fund training and certification of Native Hawaiian parent peer supporters. This includes parents in the Child Welfare System, parents who have been incarcerated and individuals who were incarcerated at the Youth Correctional Facility.
- The first cohort will be trained in the next few weeks.