

interventionshelterresidentialfostercareoutreach



Meeting the Needs of
Hawaii's At-Risk Youth

Hale Kipa *Annual Report* 2 0 0 2



Hale Kipa



Hale Kipa is the promise to the community that there will be a place for youth in need to go.

Hale Kipa is the route that at-risk, high-risk youth take to re-connect with community and family.

Hale Kipa is the vision of a society in which services for troubled youth are no longer needed.

In the past few years, Hale Kipa has grown to encompass a whole range of services for at-risk, high-risk youth in Hawaii. But even as the organization has expanded in its range of services, its focus on core issues remains fixed. As we improve the lives of our at-risk, high-risk youth through intervention, shelter, support, and advocacy, our entire community is enriched.

Sometimes crisis situations demand quick fixes. Hale Kipa is there with emergency shelters and intervention services. Other cases offer a chance to intervene in the lives of at-risk youth who are just beginning to show signs of trouble. Still others demand a long-range plan to provide structure and shelter for youth that, for a variety of reasons, must be separated from the family. In every case, Hale Kipa helps to navigate a clear path back to family and community.

In recent years, as resources for social services have dwindled, Hale Kipa has redoubled its efforts to provide the best match of service offerings to the real and total needs of at-risk youth in the community. It is through leadership, expertise and deep experience in youth services that Hale Kipa has become a leader in translating these precious resources to effective services for youth in need. The organization's commitment to that role, and to the youth they serve, has never been stronger.

One of the advantages of living in a democracy is that every few years, we the people are given the opportunity to participate in government by voting for our elected officials and for various referenda. Unfortunately, one of the unintended consequences of our system of government is that it is very difficult to sustain social policy in this context. While social policy issues require long-term commitments to achieve success, they rarely have an opportunity to mature, or to demonstrate their successes before the next election.

Prevention and early intervention programs are typically funded during positive economic times – after federal, state, and local budgets have provided for basic human needs. Only then do we



**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

Punky Pletan-Cross
President and CEO

see major commitments to services aimed at at-risk youth, rather than at specific populations that already display a set of problems such as victims of domestic violence or child abuse, or those who are involved in criminal behavior.

A substance abuse prevention program working with elementary school children, for instance, will not show benefits until those young people reach adolescence, the point at which they are most prone to begin to abuse drugs or alcohol. To prove the program's efficacy, a significant reduction in the number or percentage of young people who abuse drugs and alcohol should be evident. In practice, however, it is difficult to correlate behaviors in today's adolescents to a program initiated a decade earlier. As a result, many of these types of programs don't get sustained funding over a period of time long enough to really work.

Long reaching social policy requires that we make a commitment to a particular course of action and sustain it over ten, fifteen, even twenty years. Only at the end of such a consequential period of time can we expect to see the impact of the particular strategy to help alleviate a specific problem.

By committing to longer-term programs, we can also make better use of resources. The start-up and cancellation of various short-term programs result in a large economic cost while promising less chance of success. Sticking with well-designed programs is clearly a better approach. That's the power of Hale Kipa: 30 years of experience in knowing what works enables our organization to mesh the needs of the community with the services that we provide, even when the results won't be seen for years.

Ultimately, we need to develop a long-term approach to social policy, given the commitment we have to a democratic process with its term limits and re-election campaigns. We need to think in terms of the time line for social change. After all, the problems that our youth face have taken years to fester. Why should we assume the solutions are attainable in the few short years of an official's term in office?

In Hawaii, we are privileged to be a part of a culture that is often described as ‘ohana. While seemingly trite when merely defined as “family”, in the truest sense ‘ohana goes well beyond the concept of the family group. In this larger sense, it refers to our entire community, a community of individuals and groups that care for one another with aloha (another term often used loosely, forgetting its rich connotations).

For Hale Kipa, these Hawaiian words, ‘ohana and aloha, embody the basic values that our organization offers to thousands of youth who have crossed the threshold of one of our shelters or programs. Over the past thirty three years, Hale Kipa has become a symbol of hope for many youth who choose the street over a troubled home, youth who are running away from their families and, in many cases, running from themselves. Youth who have come to believe that no one cares whether they live or die.

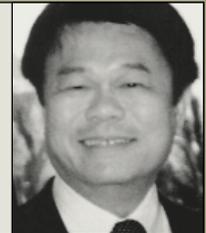
While it is difficult to document the success of prevention services in “saving” Hawaii’s youth, the anecdotal evidence proves time and again how important a role Hale Kipa and its dedicated staff have played in thousands of lives. Mention that you have something to do with Hale Kipa and the rejoinders start with “Oh yeah, I have a cousin...” Or, “I have a friend who... and they’re just doing great.” Or, “Boy, if it hadn’t been for Hale Kipa...”

Consistency in values, quality of services, commitment to youth – these are what Hale Kipa is all about. For more than three decades, Hale Kipa has been there with an outstretched hand and an ever-present shoulder on which to lean. Building strong relationships with partners in the community has helped to insure that Hawaii’s youth have a place to turn in time of need.

As Hale Kipa embarks on a major capital fundraising campaign, the focus will seem, at times, on the number of dollars raised. But we will never lose sight of the true focus of this effort: to insure that Hale Kipa’s shelters and services will be there for future generations of youth in need. Hale Kipa will remain a steadfast member of Hawaii’s ‘ohana, committed to reach out to youth with the warm embrace of aloha. We hope that you will share in that all-encompassing expression of love and caring when asked to support Hale Kipa.

**C H A I R ’ S
M E S S A G E**

Lowell Kalapa
Chair, Board of Directors



PROGRAMS

With the programs of Hale Kipa, the combined experience of the directors and staff, the support of the government and community, and the vision of a dedicated group of social workers come together to form a continuum of service, from prevention to outreach. By design and in practice, Hale Kipa is proactive in helping youth reach core issues at the earliest point of intervention. The aim of this continuum is to get to at-risk youth as early as possible in order to avoid having to handle more serious issues in later life.

PREVENTION/INTERVENTION Hale Kipa's Prevention and Intervention Programs reach youth who are just starting to demonstrate behaviors that indicate they are at risk for more severe problems later on. These programs work with youth in both home and school settings in an effort to help to prevent runaways and truancy, to improve school performance, and to strengthen family relationships.

SHELTER SERVICES In crisis situations, youth often need a place to go on short notice. Hale Kipa Shelter Services provide physical shelter and emotional support for these youth, many of whom are awaiting placement in a more permanent setting. For runaways and youth in crisis, Hale Kipa shelters provide a place to regroup while their problems can be worked out and, as soon as possible, they can be reunited with their families.

FOSTER CARE In many cases, Hale Kipa determines that the client youth is best served by being placed in a traditional home setting. Hale Kipa's Foster Care programs are designed to match a particular youth with the family that will best meet the youth's needs in this difficult time. The family provides the youth with basic care and structure as it teaches living skills and healthy relationships. The Foster Home Program recruits, trains and supports foster families.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS Hale Kipa maintains a network of group homes for transitional youth, which provide independent living situations to specific populations. These Residential Programs provide a place for youth to practice living skills by emphasizing personal responsibility, educational/vocational development and good citizenship. In some cases, the goal is to reunite the youth with their families; for older youth, the goal is to prepare them to enter the community.

OUTREACH Many of the youth Hale Kipa serves are beyond the reach of the shelters, residence homes and foster care. These youth, who may include homeless and street-identified young adults, are often at a loss for basic services. Hale Kipa programs provide outreach services to promote these clients' successful transition to self-sufficiency.

Hawaii Advocates for Youth (HAY) Services to transition youth from the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility into the community.

Ho'okala Diversion program to keep youthful offenders from incarceration.

Hui Malama 'Ohana Youth Service Center (HMO) School-based services to develop positive behaviors and support systems

Valid Court Order A new advocacy program for youth that violate court orders.

Group Shelters Short-term placements and counseling services in a group setting for youth with families in crisis.

Kamala Homes Short-term placements with counseling services for youth whose needs are best met in a family setting.

Foster Homes with Therapeutic Services Foster home placements with individual and family therapy.

Hanai Homes Skill-building programs for youth in transition to long-term foster homes or preparing to return to their families.

Hale Kupono Community based residential program for 8–12 year old youth.

Hapai Homes Skill-building residential program for pregnant and parenting teens.

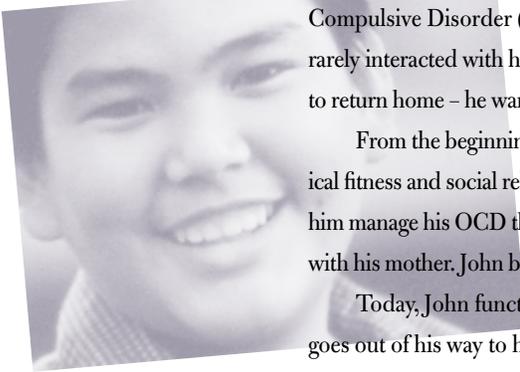
Independent Living Programs (ILP) Residential and transitional housing for 16–21 year old youth.

Independent Living Program Training Apartments (ILPTA) Residential program for 17–19 year old men transitioning back into the community.

Therapeutic Group Homes Community based therapeutic group living experience for youth who are ready to reintegrate back into the community and schools.

Transitional Living Program (TLP) Outreach and residential services to youth transitioning off the street or from homelessness.

Youth Outreach (YO) Street outreach, case management, counseling, and services to runaway and street-identified youth.



FOSTER CARE John was admitted into Hale Kipa’s Foster Homes with Therapeutic Services (FHTS) program with poor interpersonal, parental, and peer/social relationships, as well as major Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) issues. While he was usually respectful and compliant, he didn’t speak much and rarely interacted with his peers. There were frequent fights and academic problems at school. John had no desire to return home – he wanted to remain with his foster family until graduation.

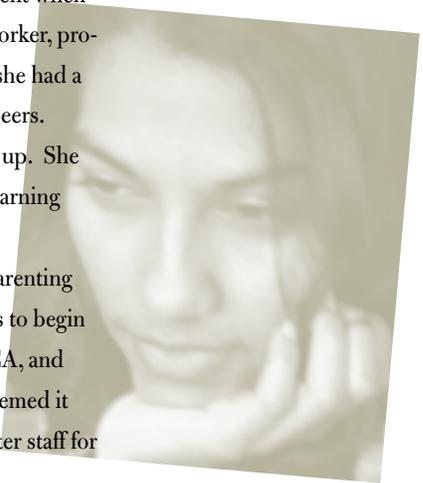
From the beginning, John worked with a Hale Kipa Therapeutic Aid (TA) who helped him improve his physical fitness and social relationships. He began to communicate more with his peers. Prescribed medication helped him manage his OCD thoughts and tendencies, while arranged family sessions enabled him to communicate more with his mother. John began to realize that his mother was on his side, and he requested more visits with her.

Today, John functions independently and lives with his mother. His relationship with her is good and he goes out of his way to help her out. He is getting A’s and B’s in school and the OCD tendencies have decreased. John’s transformation into a young adolescent is attributable to his willingness to better himself, and to the support, structure, and assistance from his foster parents, his mother, Hale Kipa staff, and school teachers.

SHELTER Sixteen-year-old Lani had history of drug use, prostitution and gang involvement when Child Welfare Services (CWS) brought her to the Emergency Shelter Program. In truth, her CWS worker, probation officer and Department of Health Care Coordinator did not expect her to last at Hale Kipa – she had a long history of running away. She spent the first few days crying and avoided contact with staff and peers.

Eventually, however, with the staff’s encouragement to express her feelings, Lani began to open up. She moved up the level system and remained on the highest level for her last three months at the Shelter, earning privileges and rewards for her behavior.

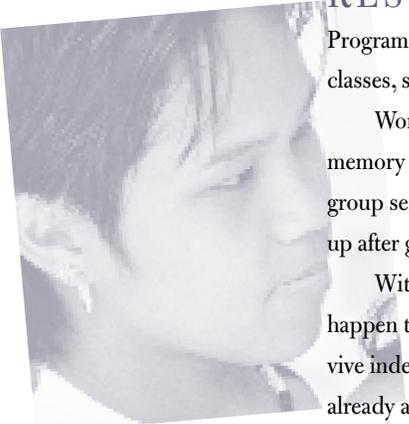
The reunification with her family, who had prepared themselves with drug rehabilitation and parenting classes, was handled gradually. The Emergency Shelter worked with Department of Human Services to begin weekend home visits. Lani underwent individual and family therapy, became involved with the YMCA, and began earning B’s and C’s in her classes. The Emergency Shelter staff supported Lani until CWS deemed it safe for the family to be reunited. At her discharge, both the youth and her mother thanked the Shelter staff for their support and efforts to reunite the family.



RESIDENTIAL Sarah, a fourteen year-old female, entered Hale Kipa’s Independent Living Program (ILP) with limited early independent living skills. Though she was doing well in her special education classes, she lacked many basic social and personal hygiene skills.

Working with her foster parents, Hale Kipa’s case manager helped Sarah to learn new skills, overcoming memory problems that may have stemmed from a head injury she had suffered at a young age. Sarah began ILP group sessions and began to look forward to all the activities. She demonstrated her commitment by cleaning up after group sessions and getting along with her peers.

Within the year, Sarah had improved dramatically. Even so, her foster parents worried about what would happen to her once she reached eighteen years of age. With no biological family in Hawaii, how would she survive independently without the assistance of a companion? The Ramirez family, who loved Sarah and had already accepted her as their daughter, decided to legally adopt her. For Sarah, it was a dream come true.



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For nearly twenty years, Hawaii has known Hale Kipa by its distinctive shelter logo. That logo expressed the core of what the agency did for its first few decades: provide shelter for youth in times of difficulty.

Over the years, the mission of Hale Kipa has broadened, and so has the range of youth it serves. Hale Kipa still provides emergency shelters, but also foster care and residential homes, intervention and prevention programs, and community outreach.

In the spirit of all that Hale Kipa has become, the organization's logo has evolved to represent the vibrancy of the youth they serve, and the hope that comes from seeing one more young person "graduate" back to family or community. The new logo is a joyous expression of their triumph and Hale Kipa's continued commitment to them.

