



Above photo, from left to right: Erica Yamauchi, director of communications and engagement; Keala Kaopuiki-Santos, project manager; Jodie Burgess, executive administrative assistant; Rachel Aquino, graduate research assistant; Naomi Leipold, project manager; Kevin Thompson, project manager; Shugufa Basij-Rasikh, graduate research assistant

Opening Day

It was fun to see so many of you at our table on the fourth floor in front of our offices in the Office of the Governor. We met lots of active community members, and enjoyed introducing them to the work of our Office. Mahalo to all our new friends who stopped by to talk story, and signed up for our mailing list!



Lahaina Unity

Above, Gov. Josh Green, M.D., with Hui Ho'omalulu members, who have volunteered countless hours at the weekend wellness events held at hotel shelters. Gov. Green and Keala attended the Ho'ulu Unity Gathering held on Jan. 23. Thousands of supporters gathered in support of the residents' recovery.



About the Office of Wellness and Resilience

Our goal is to strengthen our state systems and services through collective reform, using trauma-informed care principles as strategies to make Hawai'i a trauma-informed state. We break down the barriers that impact the physical, social and emotional well-being of Hawai'i's people – from keiki to kūpuna.

Maui Updates

Keala, our Maui-based project manager, facilitated a session on Native Hawaiian healing approaches to restore mana and revive health and well-being at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement's convention on Maui in November.

We continue to help coordinate weekend wellness events in partnership with Kamehameha Schools, Hui Ho'omalulu and Laukanaka, and hope to announce a few promising updates soon related to the long-term response.

For more information about our weekly Maui coordinated mental health response meetings, email us at gov.owr@hawaii.gov.



Director's Message



Tia L. R. Hartsock,
Director

Happy New Year!

A new year marks a renewed commitment to our purpose, our intentions, our values. I love the energy and momentum that the month of January brings with the new year beginning, as well as a new legislative season with Opening Day here at the Capitol.

We're excited to have our first bill – proposing a peer specialist working group – in the Governor's legislative package, and are looking forward to supporting trauma-informed and healing-centered bills this session.

Naomi, our policy lead, would love to connect on proposed bills and policy that align with our mission. Email us to talk story!

Before we close out 2023 though, we want to make sure you know about our annual report, which is on our website: governor.hawaii.gov. It was a rejuvenating exercise to go through the last year to document and reflect on all we've been able to accomplish as a team and a community – with your support!

We're so hopeful for this year. Wishing you and your families health and happiness in 2024.

Mālama pono,

Tia

Policy Updates

The Breakthrough Therapies Task Force, which has jump-started the state conversation around innovative trauma treatments (namely psilocybin), held its public webinar in late November to share their progress, and will soon finish its work by distributing information about current research and lessons learned from other states to help inform this year's legislature.

The Mālama 'Ohana Working Group (Act 86), which is tasked with making needed reforms to our child welfare system alongside families with lived experience and expertise, recently had their fifth meeting. The group will now meet monthly through Nov. 2024, and is currently planning their community listening sessions.

Our bill proposing a working group to expand peer support in our state systems (HB2405), a key principle of trauma-informed care, was introduced as part of the Governor's package. Peer support workers provide non-clinical, strengths-based support to others experiencing similar challenges, and are an important source of hope for trauma survivors.

OWR, Director Hartsock Honored with HPA Award

Our Office was honored to be recognized for our mental health response work on Maui by the Hawai'i Psychological Association (HPA) at a luncheon on Jan. 19. Tia was named as their 2023 Daniel K. Inouye Award recipient, however, she wasn't able to attend the event due to a family wellness trip. Our Maui response lead, Keala, accepted the award on her behalf and was joined by the rest of our team. The cover photo and below photo are from the event.

Third and fourth from left: Dr. Trina Orimoto and Dr. Diane Logan of HPA



This newsletter is a publication of the Office of Wellness & Resilience, within the Office of Governor Josh Green, M.D.

Let's talk story!

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