



2022-2023

Hawai'i Parent Leadership Training Institute

for more information :
www.hawaii-can.org/plti



HCAN
Hawai'i Children's Action Network



Table of Contents.



Introduction

Staff

Cohorts

Community Projects

Parent Leader Highlights

Media

Lessons Learned

Final Thoughts

Mahalo



Introduction



With the generous support of funders and community members, Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) successfully completed our 7th annual Hawai'i Parent Leadership Institute (PLTI) and has now trained over 100 alumni.

We honor 2022–2023 PLTI graduates, participants, facilitators, mentors, site coordinators, and their families for sacrificing time and energy to invest in our collective power!

PLTI's goal is to develop a culture of family civic engagement and leadership across Hawai'i, where parents and community leaders work side-by-side with policymakers to improve child and family outcomes.

HCAN reached out to stakeholders across the state to identify and recruit parents and community leaders who have the potential and interest to become advocates for children and families in their communities. We conducted outreach via social media, email, newsletters, and through our deep connections with local nonprofits and public agencies. We created digital flyers, and graphics for social media posts, and purchased Facebook ads to increase visibility.

Staff & Facilitators



Mele Andrade

HCAN Director of Community Engagement and Training



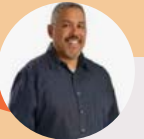
Lynette Constantino
Maui Site Coordinator



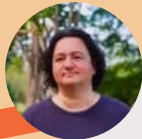
Krystal Baba
Oahu Site Coordinator



Shantell Calarruda
Oahu Site Coordinator



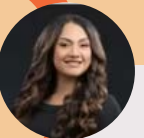
Marty Oliphant
PLTI Facilitator



Zee Zaidoff
PLTI Facilitator



Amber Leon Guerrero
PLTI Facilitator



Brandee Carvalho
PLTI Facilitator



Brent Llanea
PLTI Facilitator



Arlina Wong
Community Project Mentor



Heidi Allencastre
PLTI Facilitator



Catherine Maurice
PLTI Facilitator

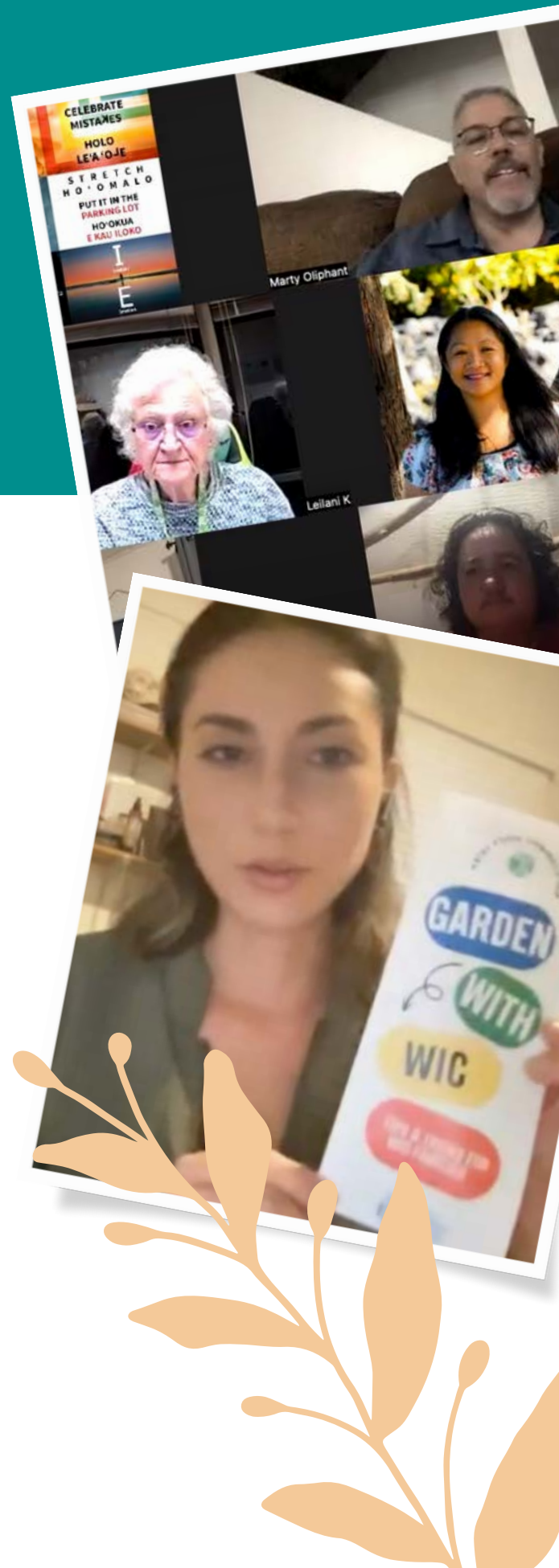
Cohorts

For our 2022-2023 PLTI, we had 103 applicants. Of the pool of applicants, 65 were selected to interview. Of the 65 interviewees, 60 were accepted into the program. Our 2022-2023 PLTI concluded with 20 parent leaders who successfully completed the program and graduated.



PLTI offered a mixed format with two virtual cohorts (O'ahu and statewide) and one hybrid cohort on Maui. The two virtual cohorts ran from September 2022 through February 2023. The Maui hybrid cohort ran from January through May 2023. Each cohort began with a retreat, completed 20 weekly sessions, and culminated with a graduation celebration.

Although a choice of in-person sessions was offered on O'ahu, the vast majority of applicants preferred the virtual cohorts this year. Only 2 people applied for the in-person cohort on O'ahu, and 54 for virtual, thus we decided to do 2 virtual cohorts. Participants also seemed to enjoy the hybrid option offered on Maui, where it is more geographically spread-out. This allows for some in-person interactions and networking, and some virtual sessions. Parent leaders expressed enjoying this hybrid version.



Community Projects



Airess Parr

Spectrum of Support (SOS) Church Engagement Project

A support group for parents of children with Autism diagnosis



Gwen Whiting

Keiki Food Connection

Partnering with WIC to grow food at home



Joell Edwards

Hey Aunty!

An app where youth can reach out for help and get 1-1 support



Shauna Kamaka

IEP Kokua

Having mediators for the IEP process between the family and the school



Reinalyn Terrado

IEP Meeting, Here I Come!

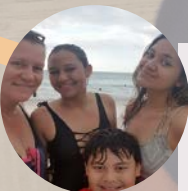
A picture book for IEP process & translate in Tagalog



Christen Zulli

The Museum of Papahanaumoku & Mahina

An Art, Play, Healing Center for Women and Families "Play Cafes"



Andi Pawasarat-Losalio

The Risk to Keiki is Real-Naloxone on School Campus Can Save a Life

Getting Nar-Can in Charter Schools on Hawaii Island



Miliani Kuhaulua

Head Start, Policy Council Member

Being on the policy council for the Head Start program

Community Projects



Elysia Hendricks

Word Around Town

A list of free, shared book stands on Maui



Leilani Aquino

Reiki for Keiki

A group teaching Reiki to parents in relation to their interactions with their children



Kristina Kaimiola

It's Cool to Be Kind

An Anti-Bullying coloring book



Noelle Zimdahl

STEAM on the Spectrum

A support group teaching STEM activities for children with Autism



Dr. Mapuana Hayashi-Simpliciano

The Hanuola Project

Addressing indoor air quality in schools



Daniella Vingelen

'Ohana Garden and Grindz Ongoing (OGGO)

Teaching families gardening and kitchen skills with an emergency preparedness mindset.



Denise Carvalho

Milk Sweeties LLC – Parent Education Support Services

Parent Education Support Services – Parent Education and Resource website



Holly Irimata

Keiki Whispers

Providing children and youth in Hawai'i an outlet to express personal thoughts or feelings through artwork and writing to feel emotional release.


Community Projects



Malia Jarvie

Let Me Introduce You to Nutrislice

Creating a video and brochure promoting the Nutrislice app and website with the goal of informing parents about school meal nutrition



Jordan Hocker

Renters Talk Story

Talk Story sessions informing renters about their rights



Regina Corniel

Family Advocacy Google Site and Blog

Bringing resources and events to Hawaii's community with a focus on Maui's children with special needs and learning disabilities



Ronnette Gonsalves

We Rise Up to Awareness

Addressing Hygiene poverty by collaborating with DOE with hygiene needs



Parent Leader Highlights



Parent leaders used their acquired knowledge and skills to become active in the 2023 legislative session by providing testimony on bills impacting families, attending events, and speaking at the Working Families Coalition rally for Paid Family Leave.

[Click here](#) to watch graduate Christen Zulli's testimony.



On Hawai'i Public Radio: [Could a worker subsidy program entice early childhood educators?](#) | Hawai'i Public Radio (hawaiipublicradio.org).

Several PLTI alumni were selected to become members of HCAN's newly formed Family Leadership Council, which is a group of parent leaders that will work on policy issues and elevating family voice in decision-making.

Zahava Zaidoff

PLTI Facilitator, "Zee", is a certified substance abuse counselor on Hawai'i Island and used her voice to speak up about the pressing issue of teen suicide. She wrote an editorial piece for the Star Advertiser and said, "Our youth want to know they aren't alone. They need to know that. They need to express big emotions and see that it's OK."

[Click here to read the full article.](#)



In the media...



Christen Zulli

2023 PLTI graduate Christen Zulli has been an active voice for early childhood care and education. Christen shared her story with Hawai'i Public Radio and discussed one of HCAN Speaks! priority bills.

"The next bill within our Keiki Caucus package is designed to provide a workforce wage supplement for child care workers as we recognize that we have a shortage in our early child care workforce, and so we want to make sure that we are subsidizing and supporting the development of that workforce."

[Click here to listen to the full interview.](#)



Lessons Learned



Final Thoughts...

Surprisingly, the remote sessions did not adversely affect the ability of participants to develop deep personal connections as reported by previous in-person cohorts. The two virtual cohorts were able to network and bond as reflected in the participant evaluations (and the heartfelt sharing at the cohort graduations).

The primary challenge was attrition, as we started with a total of 60 parent leaders who were accepted into the program. As many are virtual participants, it is challenging for parents to juggle being at home and having to take care of daily tasks, while trying to participate, which may be one reason for the attrition rates.



Mahalo!



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OF HEALTH

City & County
of Honolulu



Alliance for
Early Success
Every Child. Every State.



Aloha United Way



HAWAII COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



HT HAYASHI
FOUNDATION

McInerney
Foundation



We couldn't do this incredible work without the
help of our funders and supporters.

Get in Touch.

Hawai'i PLTI Social Media



@PLTIHawaii



@pltihawaii



#PLTIhawaii



Hawai'i PLTI Alumni Social Media Group



@hawaiipltialumni

Hawai'i PLTI Website



<https://www.hawaii-can.org/plti>

