



PEARL HAVEN

December Newsletter

Message from the Director



Pearl Haven has enjoyed a fun and festive holiday season with many events and celebrations that reflect Hawaiian culture, while also honoring the individual rituals and traditions of each of our youth. The holiday season can be a challenging time for many of our kids who are not spending this time with their families, however our amazing staff and community supporters went above and beyond to make the holidays special and memorable for them. Pearl Haven youth and staff are so grateful for all of the generous donations and gifts provided by our community to ensure every youth had presents under the tree to open on Christmas morning. It was truly a magical morning with lots of smiles, laughs, and an abundance of joy. Through the generosity of others, our youth were able to gain more "corrective experiences" that help in healing their past trauma experiences and feel the joy of just being a kid on Christmas morning.

As we all prepare for the New Year, and think about the hope, dreams and new beginnings that are possible in the year ahead, we also take time to reflect on the past year's challenges and accomplishments. In 2022, we saw our youth meet their educational goals of achieving honor roll status, we celebrated six youth successfully complete their program and graduate from Pearl Haven, and we have expanded our clinical programming to include a full array of integrated expressive arts therapies as well as specialty therapy modalities including on-site EMDR.

We look forward to the year ahead and to continuing the important work of helping our youth heal from past traumatic experiences through continuous growth and development of our team and our programs. We are thankful for each one of you who continues to support our youth and our program.

Aloha,

-Liz Porter, Program Director



Ho'ike

Cultural awareness and tradition help youth develop a positive sense of identity. Pearl Haven brings cultural awareness to youth in the program to teach them about their roots and help them understand that they are part of something bigger than their trauma.

Pearl Haven staff and students recently took part in a ho'ike, a culmination of the culture classes given over the past few months by the De Lima family, who are also the family band Kapena. "Kelly Boy" De Lima and his family played music and Leolani De Lima led the songs and hosted the event. Pearl Haven advocate, Tammy Bitanga, helped the girls make traditional Hawaiian skirts which they proudly donned for the event.

Above and Beyond



We are so pleased to introduce Shift Leader, Andi Ley, who was voted Pearl Haven staff of the year! We are so grateful for all of the knowledge, skills and talents she brings to our youth each day. Andi is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and uses her advanced training in working with at-risk youth with behavioral health needs to promote a trauma informed and culturally responsive treatment program. Each day, Andi arrives to work ready to lead her team by example and demonstrates a servant leadership style of management. Her team of direct care coaches always appreciate her perspective on treatment options and the way she demonstrates care for the youth and her team of staff.

Andi is a genuinely caring leader who ensures a high quality of care and meets the needs of our youth and our staff each day with a smile. Thank you Andi, your commitment to excellence shines and we appreciate you more than words!

Mele Kalikimaka!

The youth and staff at Pearl Haven had a very memorable Christmas which they celebrated—like many of us—eating their favorite holiday treats, enjoying time with one another, resting and reflecting on the past year. Everyone got into the holiday spirit by singing classic Hawaiian Christmas carols and taking a trip off campus to see the beautiful displays of Christmas lights in the community! Waking up to a Christmas tree overflowing with gifts from our generous donors was icing on the cake for our youth.

Many of them had never experienced a holiday season focused on joyful events, healthy reflections, and the gifts of being “seen and heard” by so many members of their community prior to this year. Thank you to all who support and contribute to our program throughout the year, and for consistently demonstrating your commitment to helping them create memories that help shape a new life for themselves.



Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra

As part of our commitment to therapeutic arts, GRAMMY-nominated producer, singer/songwriter, and Co-Founder/CEO of Haku Collective, Kimié Miner together with The Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra (HSO), hosted our Pearl Haven residents and staff at the “Christmas In Hawai'i with Kimié Miner & Friends” concert at the historic Hawai'i Theatre. The live concert celebrated cultural traditions, the Hawaiian language and beautiful mele (music) for the youth to enjoy. For most, this was their first time hearing a full live orchestra. Kimié also honored the residents during the concert and encouraged them to continue to “shine their light” from within, all year round. We are so grateful to HSO for their generous gift during the holiday season, an experience that inspired our youth to embrace their dreams and full potential.

Growing Gratitude

Research shows that finding ways to cultivate gratitude can increase feelings of happiness and improve overall mental health. Simple examples include writing thank you notes or keeping a gratitude journal. This holiday season the girls at Pearl Haven participated in a collective art project that gave them an opportunity to both count their blessings and decorate the milieu. Led by shift supervisor, Andi Ley, the girls created a “Thankful Tree” by twisting and sculpting paper to shape a tree and its branches, then wrote the things they're thankful for on the leaves. Staff say the girls always get really excited to decorate the milieu with their own personal touch, and they're even more proud to show the staff when they're done.

