



Mayor's Global Alliance for Community Wellness  
Best Practices

**HONOLULU, HAWAI'I**  
**MAYOR MUFI HANNEMANN**

*List the programs and/or initiatives in place in your city that address the key areas:*

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Healthy Honolulu: Monthly event to promote fitness for City employees and their families.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE/DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION/SAFETY**

Weed and Seed: Public/Private partnership that seeks to revitalize communities that are challenged by criminal activities. Programs/services are developed and implemented through four community-based strategies: law enforcement, community policing, prevention, intervention & treatment and neighborhood restoration.

**SAFETY/PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Junior Lifeguard Program: Five day course that familiarizes participants with basic ocean and beach safety skills and includes an introduction to ocean hazard identification and prevention, ocean surf reduce techniques, emergency first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation training. The program emphasizes general fitness, ocean swimming, paddle boarding, and lifesaving skills.

Junior Paramedic Program: Four-week course developed in Honolulu that educates teens about all public safety agencies and the emergency response system in Honolulu. Participants receive certification and CPR and AED use and develop skills and proficiency in dealing with the medical illness, traumatic injuries, first aid, and wilderness rescue. The program also emphasizes the importance of injury prevention and development of a healthy lifestyle.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Youth Services Center: Provides substance abuse prevention and intervention services for high-risk populations such as: juvenile delinquents, high school dropouts, criminal offenders/ex-offenders, chronically unemployed, special needs populations, substance abusers, and individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH/SAFETY/SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION/VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Leeward Coast Community Benefits Program: Provides grant funds for projects that provide housing, food, mental health, and other essential services to some of our most needy citizens on the Leeward Coast, which include children, single parents, families experiencing homelessness, victims of domestic violence, at-risk youth, recovering substance abusers, and the displaced veterans among others.



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*Based upon the programs and initiatives previously listed, which have had the greatest impact on your city?*

The **Youth Services Center** of the City's Department of Community Services is considered a model program being that it operates as a "one-stop" through the consolidation of five prevention, intervention, and treatment rehabilitation programs directly within the Center. These programs allow the Center to maximize program resources and to provide each participant with the best opportunity to attain viable academic, civic, and vocational skills to allow for graduation towards economic and social stability.

*Briefly explain the steps taken to create this program or initiative (feel free to share more than one program/initiative). If possible, also include a website to which we can direct our members for more information.*

To maximize resources to best serve the needs of at-risk youth in the City and County of Honolulu, the Youth Services Center was designed to operate as a "one-stop" center through consolidation of five prevention, intervention and treatment/rehabilitation programs directly within the Center.

Initially starting with just two programs, the Center was conceptualized to respond to the need to maximize program resources and minimize service duplication. New programs were developed and added to the Center to address service gaps. Currently, there are five programs offered through the Center which collectively seek to provide each participant with the best opportunity to attain viable academic, civic, and vocational skills to allow for graduation towards economic and social stability. The five programs, listed below, are conducted through the City's Youth Services Center and serve approximately 2,500 youth and young adults annually.

- **YouthBuild Honolulu** is an educational and job training program that prepares young people for employment and responsible citizenship. Participants are non-high school graduates, 16-24 years of age, who come from dysfunctional families, suffer from alcohol and drug addictions, and have limited financial resources. For many Participants, **YouthBuild** is the last chance to avoid incarceration, drug addiction, and long-term unemployment.



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- The **Juvenile Justice Center** with guidance from the City's Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition, continues its partnership with the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) to provide first-time law violators with services to prevent further involvement in the juvenile justice system. The center serves as a centralized intake and assessment facility where staff issue accountability-based sanctions to these offenders. These sanctions include HPD educational and counseling services, substance abuse counseling, anger management classes, and follow-up counseling services.
- The **Youth Offender Demonstration Project** funded through the U.S. Department of Labor, allows youthful offenders the opportunity to achieve goals that will lead to self-sufficiency and no further involvement in the court system. Services include intensive case management, vocational training, high school diploma program, substance abuse counseling, and employment services.
- The **Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program Operator**, funded by the Oahu Workforce Investment Board, established a procurement process that allows agencies and organizations to provide comprehensive employment training services and activities for WIA participants. The program coordinates and monitors service providers to ensure services and activities address the 11 required WIA training elements, performance measures, and program outcomes are met.
- The **Honolulu Academy Project**, funded by the U.S. department of Justice, provides assistance to cadets of the Hawaii Nation Guard Youth Challenge Academy with achieving their educational and employment goals and deters them from getting involved or continuing with any further involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Further information on the Youth Services Center and its program is available through Lei Nakamura, Manager of the City's Youth Services Center at 808-832-7960 or [lnakamure@honolulu.gov](mailto:lnakamure@honolulu.gov).