



Ideas for Helping to Solve the Maui CWS Crisis: Padlet Summary

Ho'oiikaika Partnership Brainstorm Session – May 13, 2026

Community Outreach and Recruitment

- Engage faith communities as a primary recruitment channel for social workers, resource caregiving families (RCGs), and staff respite support. Multiple respondents identified churches and faith networks as the most promising untapped resource.
- Recruit broadly through schools, colleges, community organizations (Boys & Girls Club, PYCC), and word of mouth.
- Explore whether Ho'oiikaika Partnership can promote broader community awareness of what the RCG commitment involves and how to get started.
- Consider a community news story or call to action with a tiered approach (e.g., from providing meals and short-term support to meeting longer-term caregiving needs) and links to resources.
- Explore targeted outreach campaigns, including with a PR or advertising firm, to attract caregiving families, particularly for teens.
- Support CWS recruitment by connecting potential employees directly to the agency.

Reducing Barriers and Improving Support

- Reduce barriers to RCG licensing; families want to help but many find current requirements prohibitive.
- Strengthen RCG support and training on Maui to improve retention and caregiver experience.
- Provide concrete supports that help children remain safely with families, such as transportation assistance.
- Work across systems (education, mental health, and others) to build the safety net children need.
- Examine staff pay and non-monetary incentives as part of any CWS recruitment and retention strategy.

Advocacy and Funding

- Advocate for higher pay and tuition reimbursement for CWS social workers.
- Advocate for increased state and federal funding for group homes serving children with special needs.
- Explore state or private funding for a group home on Maui able to support a higher level of care.
- Connect with organizations already doing this work on Maui including Hale Kipa (halekipa.org) and other local youth-serving programs with existing facilities.
- Affirm as a policy principle: a youth without a safe, permanent placement should not be released from a program.