

COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN HAWAII REGIONAL HEARING

FORGING A BETTER WORLD FOR YOUTH



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION



Partners in Development Foundation

MULTI-GENERATIONAL EDUCATION



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES



ISLAND RESILIENCY



Opportunity Youth Realities

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BURDENS

Nationally, after ~14 yrs, compared to young people who experienced youth disconnection, those who remained connected:



earned **\$31k** more



42% more likely to be employed



45% more likely to own a home



52% more likely to report excellent or good health

In Hawai'i, a 2012 seminal study estimated lifetime taxpayer burden and social burden for each OY at



\$15.7B lifetime burden

\$3.7B taxpayer lifetime burden (\$305 mil/yr)

\$12B social lifetime burden (\$817 mil/yr)

Hawai'i youth vulnerability indicators

POVERTY

Percent of total population of DOE K-12 students whose family incomes qualify for free and reduced-price lunch (SY15-16)

13.8% of 18-24 year olds in Honolulu County in poverty (2013-2017)

54% Kailua

50% Kahuku

49% Castle

29% Kalaheo

HIGH SCHOOL DROP OUTS

Percent of 8th graders who graduated high school on time in 2014

78% of DOE students in Ko'olau region graduated high school on-time in SY14-15

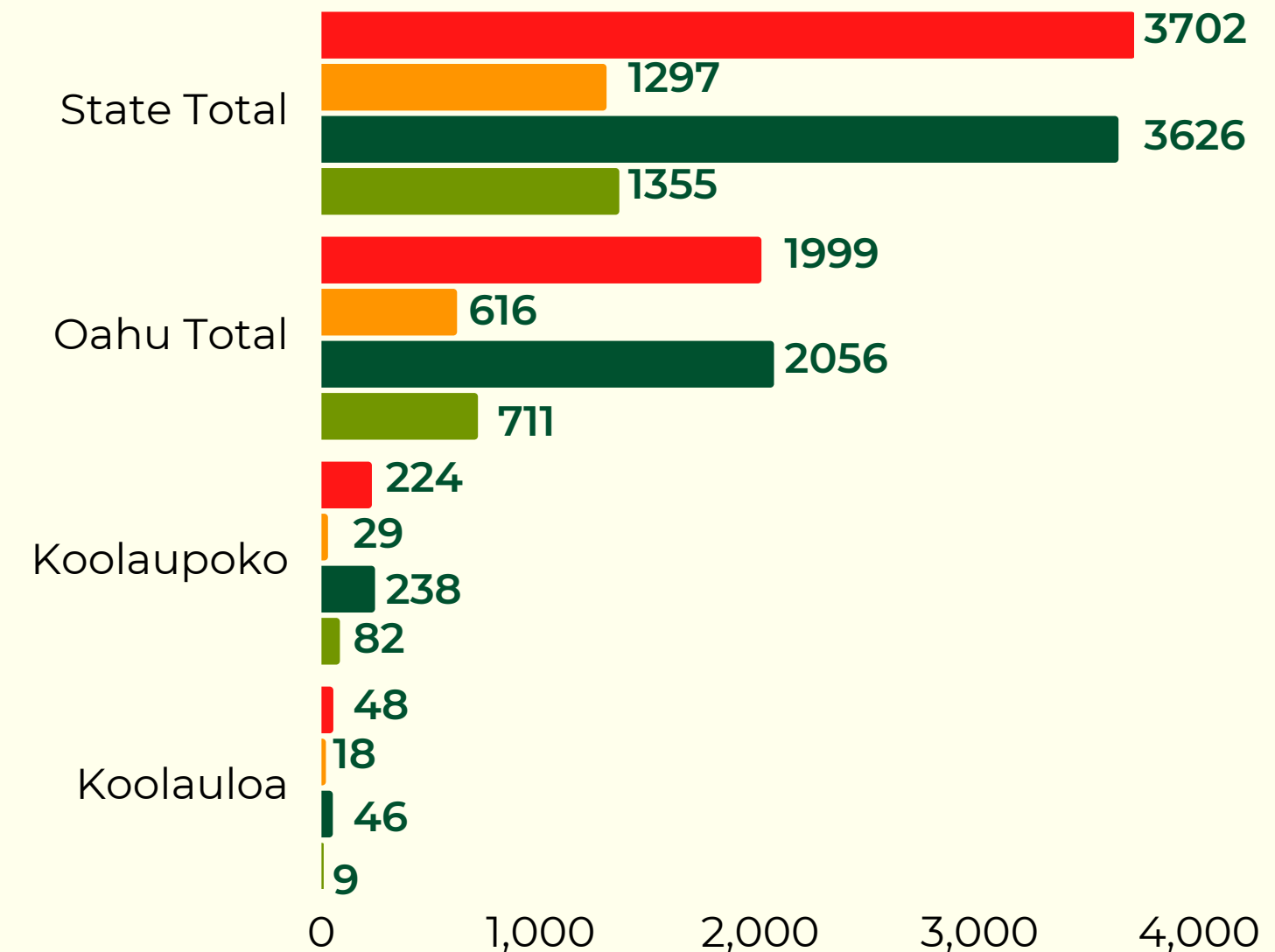
51% Castle-Kahuku

41% Kailua-Kalaheo

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

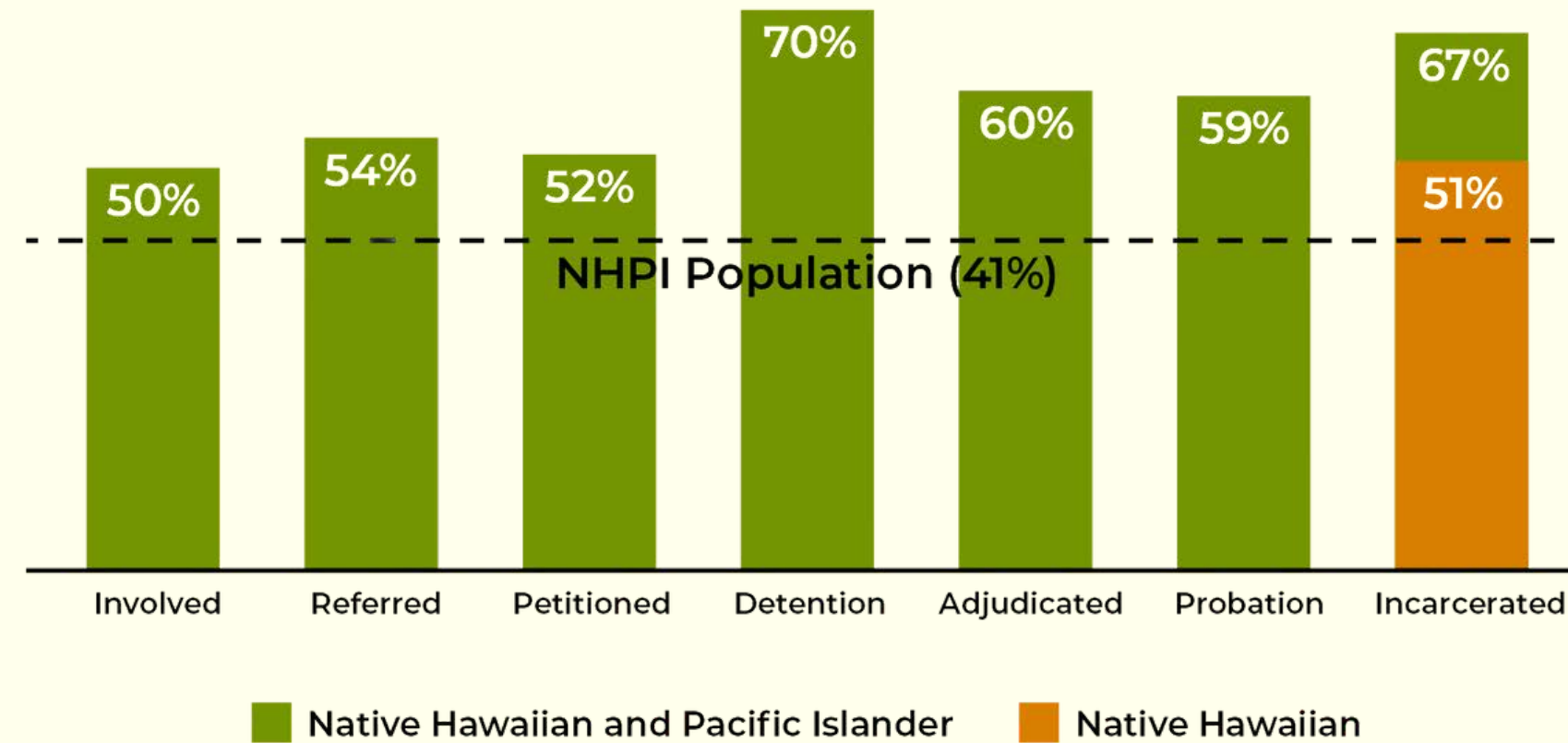
Reported and Confirmed Cases, 2016 and 2017

2017 ■ Reported ■ Confirmed
 2016 ■ Reported ■ Confirmed



Our Challenges

NHPI youth are overrepresented at every stage of the justice system



HOMELESSNESS

- In 2016, **~293** 18-24 year-olds were homeless.
- A 2017 survey revealed **48%** of respondents between 18-24 year old's had their first homeless experience at 14 years old.
 - Top reasons (in order) for homelessness: **lots of arguments at home**, lifestyle choice, being kicked out, and disagreeing with rules at home.

JUVENILE ARREST RATES

A 2018 Hawai'i study found **48%** of respondents who were homeless had experienced the juvenile justice system

Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i
KAWAIILOA

Kinai 'Eha

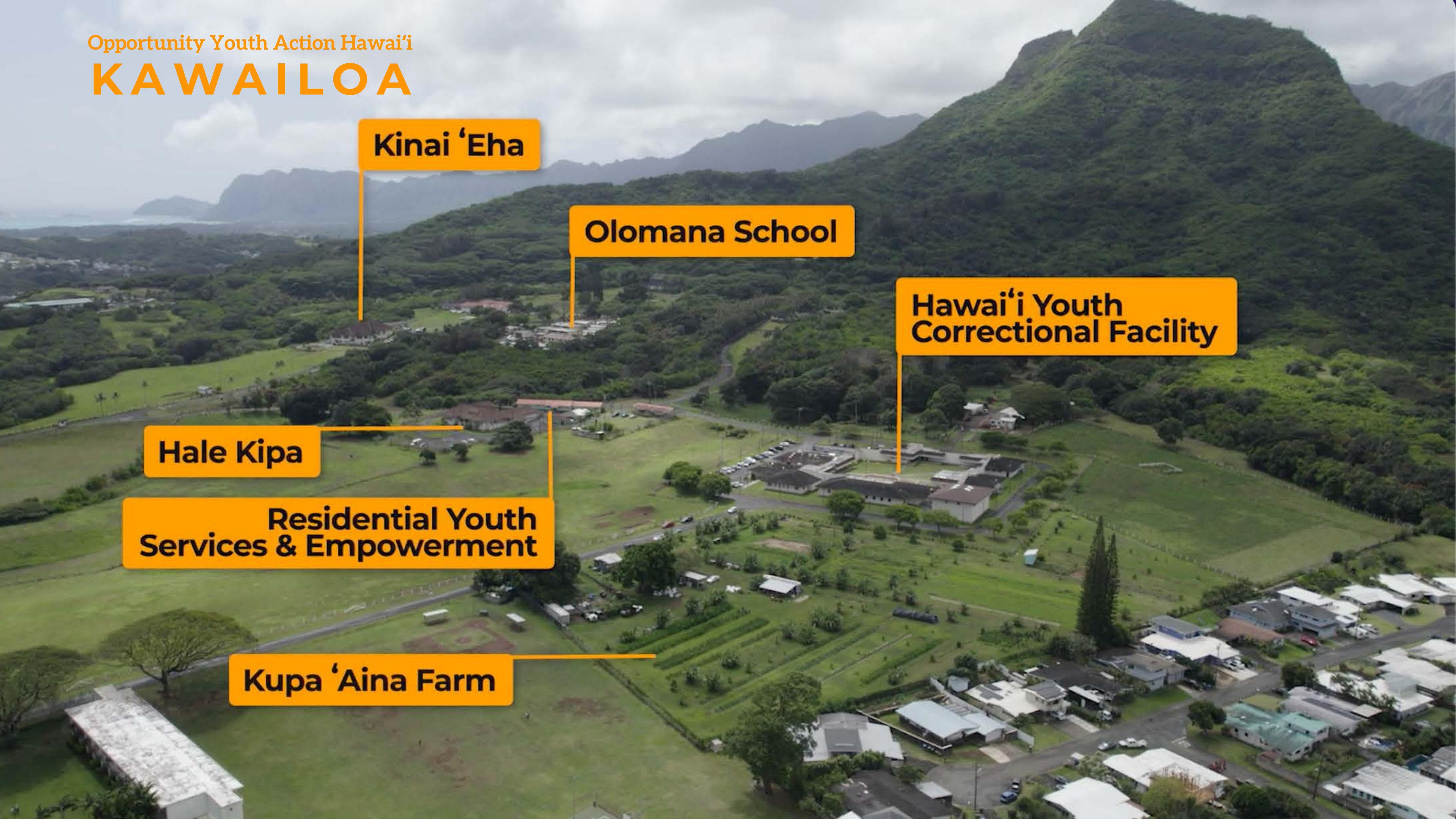
Olomana School

**Hawai'i Youth
Correctional Facility**

Hale Kipa

**Residential Youth
Services & Empowerment**

Kupa 'Aina Farm





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Our Pu'uhonua Goal

As a youth-community sanctuary, OYAH nurtures growth and leadership among Hawai'i's most vulnerable youth population. We choose healing over punishment, aim to change mindsets and systems, and provide young people, families, and communities with pathways for self-sufficiency, racial equity, and healthy lives.

2020

OYAH was
established in

300

Youth and family
members served
annually

82%

Since 2012, Hawai'i
has reduced the
incarcerated youth
population by



Opportunity Youth Action Hawai'i
KAWAILOA



“

“From when I was born until I was 15 my only opportunity was to try and survive – I couldn’t focus on school, I couldn’t focus on friends, I could only focus on okay, when is my next meal... Now I know I can control my future. I have the tools: I have a great support system, good friends, good family.”

”

– M. Morales

Recommendations

- Promote and resource Indigenous, community-based 1) leadership, 2) organizations, 3) partnerships and 4) solutions
- Support public and private partnerships at the local level
- Fund program innovations rooted in culture and ancestral knowledge
- Mandate cross-system data sharing to to increase equity for BIPOC communities
- Utilize cultural measures of success — sense of place, belonging, meaning, purpose

