

Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff
Commission on Native Children

Panel 3: Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Violence
Laurie Arial Tochiki, JD, Ph.D

Kekoa - 22

Foster Care is like
you're a broken object,
placed on a shelf.

And forgotten.



Laurie Arial Tochiki, JD, Ph.D

Executive Director
EPIC 'Ohana



'Ohana Conferencing: Family Group Decision Making



Lessons learned from New Zealand,
Ho'oponopono, Western social work and
mediation practice.

Extended family and natural supports

Strengths based

Hopes and Dreams for the children

Shared information = shared power

Private family time

Honoring the natural leadership within
the family

1200 conferences a year statewide

['Ohana Conferencing — EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.
\(epicohana.org\)](http://epicohana.org)

`Ohana Finding & `Ohana Connections

Relational Permanency &
Cultural Permanency as
Protective Factors

[Our Keiki, Our Kuleana:
Weaving `Ohana
Together — EPIC `Ohana,
Inc. \(epicohana.org\)](#)



Peer Support Makua Allies



High Fidelity Wraparound Trauma Informed Care

- Safety
- Trust
- Peer Support
- Collaboration
- Voice & Choice
- Cultural, Historical & Gender Issues

[Keep Showing Up — EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.
\(epicohana.org\)](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e4e3d25708f9f32842ef13d/t/61e7oced6036fd6cc867889c/1642532081398/KeepShowingUp_2022_web.pdf)

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e4e3d25708f9f32842ef13d/t/61e7oced6036fd6cc867889c/1642532081398/KeepShowingUp_2022_web.pdf

Nā Kama a Hāloa

Collective Impact

Network of more than 30
organizations

Hui Kauhale

Hui Pilina

Hui Makua

Hui Hilo

Fostering Strong Communities

Hui

Mālama `ohana



Recommendations

- Our first question to one another should be “how are the children?”
- Children need permanency including relational and cultural permanency
- Listen to people with lived experience, and fund opportunities for peer support
- Fund culturally based programs and indigenous frameworks for program evaluation. Modify the “evidence based” criteria of the Family First Prevention Services Act to tap into tribal and cultural wisdom
- Support ways in which children and young people have authentic voices in case planning and decision making

