



Sen. Russell Kokubun,  
Chair

## Community Service Providers Summary of Nov. 6 Meeting

Rep. Lyla Berg  
Rep. Pono Chong  
Ian Costa  
Henry Eng  
Sen. Mike Gabbard  
David Goode  
Marion M. Higa  
Jeffrey Hunt  
Dr. Karl Kim  
Millie Kim  
Keith Kurahashi  
Brad Kurokawa  
Sen. Ron Menor  
Rep. Colleen Meyer  
Keith Rollman  
Dr. James Spencer  
Jane Testa  
Stacie Thorlakson  
Beth Tokioka  
Sen. Jill Tokuda  
Michael Tresler  
Pamela Tumpap  
Rep. Ryan Yamane

### **Participants**

John Flanagan, CEO of the Hawaii Association of Nonprofits  
Howard Garval, President and CEO of the Child and Family Services  
Debbie Shimizu, Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter  
Bill Kaneko, President and CEO of the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs (HIPA)  
Jeanne Schultz Afuvai, HIPA  
Patrick Williams, HIPA

### **Purpose of Meeting**

It was convened to gather input on the draft Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan, particularly in regards to Goal 4: Social and Community Well-Being and the proposed Sustainability Council. Participants were provided with copies of the relevant portions prior to the meeting.

The discussion centered on three items: 1) revisions to Strategic Action #1 “Strengthen social safety nets” 2) a thriving nonprofit sector as part of a sustainable Hawaii 3) the Sustainability Council and 4) Additional comments

### **1. Revisions to “Strengthen social safety nets”**

Three revisions were suggested:

#### ***Crime and Domestic Violence Prevention***

John Flanagan, Howard Garval and Debbie Shimizu all noted the absence of any mention of making families safer and reducing crime and domestic violence in Hawaii. It was recommended that the narrative include language to reflect the importance of creating a safer Hawaii. It was also recommended that a strategic action be added as well.

Suggested indicators could come from FBI crime statistics on crime and violence rates.

#### ***Early Childhood Education***

It was commented that the draft Hawaii 2050 Plan frames the state’s K-12 public school system as the most crucial form of lower education, yet a child’s brain grows fastest from birth through age 3. Participants recommended re-casting education to include pre-kindergarten learning opportunities as well as parenting skills. This could included in strategic action #1.

### ***Mental Health***

John, Howard and Debbie pointed out that substance abuse is often a symptom of an underlying mental health issue. Mental health counseling and treatment are important parts of rehabilitation for these individuals. They recommended that in subaction #4, language be added to reflect this, such as “Invest in greater prevention and treatment for those suffering from substance abuse, mental health problems, or both.”

## **2. Nonprofit Sector**

The nonprofit sector is dependent on two sources of revenue: government contracts and private giving from individuals, foundations and corporations. The participants suggested including language in the final Hawaii 2050 Plan calling for greater coordination between these three facets to ensure adequate funding and service levels.

It was recommended that a strategic action on this topic be added, such as “Ensure public, private and nonprofit sectors collaborate to ensure adequate resources for social services.”

## **3. Sustainability Council**

The council’s governance was discussed. Participants questioned who the council would report to. What public or private agency would hold the council accountable for its performance?

For the Council’s composition, Debbie suggested a greater representation by youth.

## **4. Additional Comments**

The University of Hawaii Center for Family was suggested as a source of additional indicators, if any are needed.