

Some of YOUR Options:

◆ **Work**

Work is still the primary source of skills training. You can learn a lot on the job that you would never learn in the classroom.

◆ **Apprenticeship**

An apprenticeship is on-the-job training with a professional.

◆ **Military Service**

The military can be a great option for some people. The training can be excellent and some military training could be applied to civilian life.

◆ **Vocational/Technical Schools**

Vocational/technical schools provide training in a special skill area, usually resulting in the award of a certificate, are available in a wide range of topics.

◆ **Community/Junior Colleges**

Community colleges provide two-year educational programs that result in the awarding of an associate degree or credits that you can take with you to an undergraduate school.

◆ **Undergraduate Schools**

Undergraduate schools are four-year colleges that award bachelor's degrees.



Create your own roadmap to a life that includes happiness, good health & meaningful work.

Documents Foster Youth Need When Aging Out of the Foster Care System:

- Social security card
- Certified birth certificate
- Identification card
- Copy of high school diploma or GED
- Health and education summary
- MedQUEST medical insurance card
- Letter from DHS social worker verifying foster care status in Hawaii
- Copy of the court order that awarded foster custody to the state
- Name & address of current doctor(s)
- List of prescribed medications

If applicable:

- Immigration documentation papers
- Death certificate of parent(s)
- Info on how to continue with mental health or substance abuse treatment services



Building Strong Connections

FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII



It Takes An
Ohana

Supporting foster and adoptive families since 1971.

This brochure is brought to you by It Takes An 'Ohana, a program of Family Programs Hawai'i, and made possible by grants from the Victoria S. & Bradley L. Geist Foundation & the Hawaii Court Improvement Program.

Find us on the web at www.ittakesanohana.org

Resources Available for Current & Former Foster Youth



The day will come when **YOU** will be making the important decisions about your future.

Use this brochure to help **YOU** start planning **YOUR** future now!

Remember, You Are Not Alone!!

There are people who want to help you create a bright future for yourself! Begin the planning for your future by having a Youth Circle. (More about Youth Circles on next panel.)

Great resources for you include:

Better Start: (808) 540-2541 ~ Workshops that help with career & higher education planning.

eXcel: (808) 540-2541 ~ Helps high school seniors in foster care & former foster youth to prepare for college or vocational training.

First Jobs Academy: (808) 245-2873 , ext. 232 **(Kauai)** Provides jobs to foster youth by matching youth with employers who agree to be “business mentors” to youth trained in Work Readiness Skills.

Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps: (808) 735-1221 ~ Fantastic statewide opportunities for youth interested in the conservation field.

Hawai‘i Youth Opportunities Initiative
Phone: (808) 748-7052 ~ Provides Financial Literacy Training, bank accounts and matched asset purchases for foster youth ages 14-24.
E-mail: dulima@epicohana.org

Hawai‘i Foster Youth Coalition: (808) 545-5683
E-mail: fosteryouthspeak@gmail.com. Youth led organization that acts as advocates for current and former foster youth.

Hawai‘i Job Corps:
O‘ahu, Kaua‘i & Kona: (808) 536-0695
Hilo & Maui: (808) 579-6505
Educational/vocational training for youth between 16 & 24 years old. Housing also available.

Ho‘ololi Mua No Ke ola Senior Program: (808) 935-2876 ~ Helps high school seniors in foster care prepare for & successfully complete post-secondary education or vocational training.

More Resources:

Horizons House: (808) 527-4952
Provides guidance, housing and independent living skills to males aged 18 - 25.

Independent Living Program Providers:
O‘ahu-Hale Kipa, Inc.: (808) 589-1829, ext. 202
Big Island-Salvation Army:(808) 959-5855, ext 14
Kaua ‘i-Child & Family Service: (808) 245-5914
Maui/Moloka ‘i/Lana ‘i-Maui Youth & Services: (808) 579-8414

Keiki Kokua: (808) 573-4972 **(Maui)** ~ Offers foster youth: scholarships for secondary education, job opportunities at thrift shop, FREE backpacks and social events. www.keikikokua.org

Mentoring Connection: (808) 540-5139 (Oahu)
Provides support to 17 to 21 year old current & former foster youth through mentors.

‘Ohana Connections: Helps foster youth find & reconnect with family & kinship family members. Referrals made through your social worker or GAL.

Project Visitation: (808) 540-2544
Reunites brothers and sisters separated by the foster care system through visits. (Oahu and Kona)

shakatown.com: On-line network that can help you connect with your DHS worker, get money for college, upload documents for safekeeping and more!

Youth Circles: Neighbor Islands 1-866-636-1644
Oahu:(808) 358-2220 ~ Brings together people *you chose* to develop a plan for your future.

Youth Services Center: (808) 768-5777 (Oahu)
Helps 14-24 years old that need a diploma, tutoring, study skills training, occupational training, comprehensive guidance, mentoring or employment.

Tips for Youth:

- Do well in school NOW to qualify for more scholarships later.
- Find tutoring help if you need it.
- Schedule a Youth Circle!
- Connect with other foster youth.
- Fill out your Free Application for FAFSA in early January of your senior year.
- Get connected to someone who works in the field you are interested in.
- Talk to a trusted adult in your life to help you develop *your* plan.
- Take college campus tours.
- Consider attending a community college to get more personalized attention in the classroom *and save money*. Get your application in early to qualify for additional FREE money!

Advice To You From Former Foster Youth:

- ♦ Pursue *what you want to do*—the resources are out there for you!
- ♦ Take responsibility & do your part to be independent.
- ♦ Take advantage of the benefits that you can access because you were once in foster care.

When going to college, you may qualify for:

- Victoria S. & Bradley Geist Foundation Scholarships (808-566-5570)
- Pell Grant (www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- DHS Higher Education Board Allowance*
- Education and Training Voucher*
- Hawaii Community Foundation Scholarships
(www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/scholarships)

* Call your social worker for information.