



Going Home Hawaii Peer Mentor Program

MISSION STATEMENT

Implement pre-and post-release mentoring and case management services in partnership with the Hawai'i Community Correctional Center (HCCC) program, to increase public safety and reduce recidivism for justice-involved individuals, transitioning back into our Hawai'i Island communities.

GOALS

- Peer Mentors provide support to mentees one-on-one, to foster an interpersonal relationship that will help mentees develop personal goals, talk through problems, gain hope, and increase self-confidence.
- Mentors and program staff encourage self-efficacy in mentees by supporting and encouraging them to make the positive choices that add up to a successful future.
- The peer mentor coordinator will improve the quality and continuity of care for mentees through collaborative efforts between the mentee, mentor, service providers, and the criminal justice services.
- Program staff to provide effective training and support to all peer mentors and mentees to facilitate a successful mentor mentee relationship.

OBJECTIVES

- Match at justice-involved individuals with appropriate peer mentors.
- Mentor and mentee spend 4-5 hours meeting face-to-face every month for 12 months.
- Provide at least 4-6 months pre-release mentorship and 6-8 months post-release mentorship.
- Increase public safety by reducing Hawai'i County's criminal offender recidivism rate.

Peer Mentor Program FAQs

What is peer mentoring?

- Mentoring is having two or more individuals willing to form a mutual respectful, trusting relationship focused on the potential of the mentee.

What is a peer mentor expected to do?

- Help a mentee develop an enhanced sense of self-worth with specific knowledge and skills to increase their chances for personal success.
- Provide support, guidance and assistance to the mentee as s/he goes through difficult periods, faces new challenges, works to build new skills and adjusts to life back in the community.

What kind of time commitment does mentoring involve? And will I get paid?

- Mentors should expect to commit 5-8 hours a month to their mentoring relationship for 12 months.
 - 1 Hour - In-person mentoring sessions with mentee weekly
 - 1-2 hrs. - Mentor support (monthly support meeting, one-on-one mentor support)
 - 1-2 hrs. - Mentee support (comm. service, phone/email contact, pro-social activities, etc.)
- Mentors are volunteers and will not be financially compensated.

How will I communicate with mentees?

- Meet with mentees face-to-face once a week for one (1) hour mentoring sessions.
- Mentors and mentees may exchange email and phone numbers (cell phone only for mentors) at the discretion of the mentor.

Where will face-to-face meetings take place?

- Mentoring sessions may take place at any public location (coffee shops, libraries, recreational areas, restaurants, churches, etc.) that will allow for semi-private conversation.
- Mentoring sessions may **NOT** be held in private locations (mentor or mentee homes, hotels, etc.).

What kind of support will I have as a mentor?

- Attend mentor training, identifying and developing mentoring skills and tools.
- Attend monthly support meetings (6 minimum) to receive support from peer mentors and staff.
- On-going supplementary mentor training held throughout the year, based on mentors' needs.
- The mentee case manager and mentor coordinator will provide one-on-one support via email, phone, (during work hours, except in emergencies) and in person by appointment.

How are mentee's selected for the program?

- Going Home Hawai'i screens qualified participants for the Peer Mentor Program; referrals are based on assessed needs upon completion of an intake into the Going Home Hawai'i program.
- Mentee participation in the Peer Mentor Program is voluntary. All mentees are participants of a graduated release program and are working towards total integration into our community.

What is expected of a mentee?

- Commit to mentoring by attending all mentoring sessions, arriving prepared and on time.
- Mentee will be open-minded, eager to learn and grow, welcome support and guidance, and have a positive attitude.
- Work towards building a successful life in the community.

How will I be matched with a mentee?

- Mentors will have the opportunity to attend a mentor-mentee mixer, following the mixer mentors and mentees can indicate match preferences. A committee of program staff will convene to make the final match recommendation, taking into account mentor and mentees profiles, individual preferences, and recommendations from the mentees judicial supervisor (e.g. probation officer, parole officer, HCCC case manager, etc.).

Peer Mentor Program – Potential Peer Mentor Applicants

Mentor Applicant Pre-requisites

The applicant MUST:

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Be employed, enrolled in school or retired.
- Have a current TB test (within two (2) years of application date).
- Make a one (1) year commitment to mentoring an ex-offender face-to-face for a minimum of one (1) hour per week.
- Commit to continue mentor education through mentor support meetings and be willing to participate in supplementary mentor workshops.
- Agree to a criminal background check. *Criminal history will not necessarily disqualify an applicant from becoming a mentor.*

Peer Mentor Expectations

Mentors will:

- Sign a written agreement committing to a one (1) year mentoring relationship with a mentee.
- Attend mentor training.
- Meet face-to-face with a mentee a minimum of one (1) hour per week.
 1. This MAY (at mentor discretion) also include exchanging phone calls (cell phone only) and emails with mentees.
- Maintain a contact log, recording face-to-face, phone calls and email interactions.
- Keep written notes of mentee/relationship to track and document interaction and progress.
- Participate in a minimum of six (6) mentor support meetings.
- Participate in a minimum of two (2) supplementary mentor workshops.
- Attend at least four (4) community service events with mentees.

Ideal Peer Mentors

Mentors will be:

- Active listeners, accepting, authentic, patient, respectful, and trustworthy.
- A good role model who is mature and demonstrates by example the types of life skills, work ethics and attitudes needed to be a productive member of society.
- Encouraging and conveying a sincere belief in the mentee's ability to succeed.
- Committed to helping a mentee formulate his/her own specific goals.
- Able to provide constructive feedback on the mentee's actions, products, and skills.
- Skilled at recognizing and validating mentee personal growth and development.
- Sensitive to cultural and gender differences.
- Flexible and recognize that mentoring relationships go through stages and changes over time.

Mentor Intake Requirements:

- **Application/Intake** – Submit and complete a mentor application packet and take a part in an person interview.
 - Including supplementary materials:** Letters of recommendation, etc.
- **Resume** – Submit a resume of education, skills, previous work experience and interest to aid us in making appropriate matches between mentor and mentee.

Next Mentor Training Date: To be announced.

Interested persons should contact:

Alexis Manuia, by email: alexis@goinghomehawaii.org or by phone: (808) 825-8557

ALL MENTOR PERSONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING APPLICATION, WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL