

“Agents of the U.S.A. participated in the illegal and immoral theft of a whole livelihood of an entire race of people. This theft is still occurring in the millions, even billions. The criminal/criminals of this crime have got, and is still getting away scot free. Maybe that's the real reason they call America “the land of the free.” Then there's the Native Hawaiians pulling time for doing the crime. And he did do the crime and he is pulling the time. So how does this “vision” appear? America steal, it's called progress, kanaka steal, he a thief. Somehow, I have a *problem* with the problem. As Willy Bright say, “We the evidence, we not the crime.”  
 -Keli'i “Skippy” Ioane

**Ohana Ho`opakele welcomes** anyone who wishes to do ho`oponopono with their families and loved ones to contact us at (808) 959-9775, or to call one of our board members if you feel more comfortable with that person.

## Contact Information

Ohana Ho`opakele meets most Thursdays in Hilo at 9:00 AM.. Call (808) 959-9775 to find out where the next meeting will be held. We welcome your attendance and your input.

**Ohana Ho`opakele**  
**P.O. Box 5530**  
**Hilo, Hawai`i 96720**  
**(808) 959-9775**

info@ohanahoopakele.org  
 http://ohanahoopakele.org

Our web site has information about our organization and goals, ho`oponopono, pu`uhonua and other cultural programs, stories, pictures, restorative justice links, and more.

### Board of Directors

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Auntie Eleanor Ahuna	935-4915
Auntie Maile Akimseu	959-1460
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### Pilot Project Coordinator

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# Ohana Ho`opakele (Family Rescue)

A HAWAIIAN HOLISTIC  
ALTERNATIVE TO PRISONS

P.O. Box 5530  
 Hilo, Hawai`i 96720  
 (808) 959-9775

## Who and what is Ohana Ho'opakele?

Ohana Ho'opakele is a community-based organization whose purpose is to restore balance in our families and our communities. Our focus is on healing the social ills that exist in our communities. We feel that a primary cause of imbalance and disharmony in our society is an unnecessarily high incarceration rate that breaks up families. Our solution to this problem is the implementation of a restorative justice process that will more effectively deal with the rehabilitation of our community members who have made mistakes in their lives. Our belief is that rehabilitation is a healing process that requires a therapeutic environment focused on wellness, as opposed to the existing correctional process whose focus is punitive. Our aspiration is to implement a complementary alternative to the existing judicial process in cases that would be better served by a holistic, therapeutic vehicle. We advocate a traditional ho'oponopono process and decentralized pu'uhonua (wellness centers) on each island.

## Our mission statement:

1. Heal the afflicted and afflicter (victim and offender);
2. Heal the damage of the crime;
3. Reintegrate the offender into the community and restore the wholeness of our communities;
4. Save tax money and reduce recidivism;

5. Develop preventative programs to eliminate the causes of crime;

6. Stop the building of a new prison or a prison in disguise;

7. Advocate a traditional ho'oponopono process and decentralized pu'uhonua (wellness centers) on each island.

## The ho'oponopono process

**ho'oponopono** - setting to right; to make right; to correct; to restore and maintain good relationships among family, and family-and-supernatural powers. The specific family conference in which relationships were "set right" through prayer, discussion, confession, repentance, and mutual restitution and forgiveness.

- From *Nana I Ke Kumu*, vol. 1, p.60, by Pukui, Haertig & Lee.

## Decentralized pu'uhonua

In old Hawai'i, one who had committed a crime could find shelter and safety at a pu'uhonua, or place of refuge. We envision small, open centers in each district on each island, where non-violent offenders can live close to their homes, learn job skills, enter drug rehabilitation, and do ho'oponopono with their families. Surely this is better in every way than exiling our sons, fathers, brothers, sisters and daughters to corporate prisons in foreign lands.

## The case against prisons

Statistics reveal that native Hawaiians have the worst incarceration rate of any ethnic group in Hawai'i. Figures from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Data Book reveal that about 46% of all those incarcerated in "Correctional Facilities" in Hawai'i are native Hawaiians. For juveniles, the figures are even higher (51%), while Hawaiians only make up 20% of the overall population of Hawai'i. Why are there disproportionate numbers of native Hawaiians in prisons?

According to the Department of Public Safety, as of January 31, 2000, there were 3,531 prisoners incarcerated in the state of Hawai'i. An additional 1,200 Hawai'i prisoners were locked up in Minnesota, Tennessee and Oklahoma, bringing the total Hawai'i prisoner population to 4,731.

Sixty percent of Hawai'i prisoners (roughly 2800 prisoners) are classified as non-violent offenders. Approximately 1900 are classified as having committed violent crimes but are not necessarily hardened violent people.

Public Safety Director Ted Sakai has stated that 25% of the people who entered prison in 1999 did not commit new crimes but failed urine tests while on probation or parole. If non-violent offenders were diverted from prison to community-based programs, Hawai'i's 3400 existing prison beds would be more than enough to confine hardened violent offenders. Shifting emphasis to community-based programs would eliminate the need for a new prison in Hawai'i or elsewhere, save taxpayers money and reduce recidivism by treating, not punishing, substance abuse.