

July 2023

Newsletter

HOLOMUA

"PROGRESS"

"In my line of work and many years of service to our community, I have learned that when faced with challenges, we either stand in the shadows or seize the opportunity to make a difference. Fear can consume us, or it can be used to fuel us. In the past year, BISAC has channeled our fears and struggles to create life-changing opportunities for the people we serve. With years of planning, we have taken each intentional step to align with our mission and move towards our vision. I am excited to see what the future holds for BISAC in providing more opportunities for individuals and their families to reclaim their lives." -



DR. HANNAH PRESTON-PITA



OPIOID SETTLEMENT

In a July 6 press conference alongside the Hawaii Island Fentanyl Task Force and the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Mayor Roth announced the Big Island Substance Abuse Council as the new leader to help combat our island's fentanyl crisis.

WELLNESS KAUHALE

Governor Green recently expressed his strong support for the first Wellness Kauhale in Hilo.

Through our proven track record, he believes BISAC is the entity to lead this effort.



HAWAII ISLAND FENTANYL TASK FORCE

On July 1st, HIFTF and BISAC completed a Memorandum of Agreement, and the Task Force has now officially found its home under BISAC's umbrella.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We received our first ADAD grant to provide prevention services to underserved rural communities in Honoka'a and Kohala. Our aim is to offer necessary services to these areas and help build self-sufficient and sustainable communities to address their identified needs. With guidance of experts Jessica Kaneakua and Kuulei Kanahale, we conducted a community needs assessment in each area. They helped connect community members with available resources, identify gaps, and assisted in reconnecting them with their respected cultures. Our next steps are to analyze the collected data and create an action plan to promote healthier communities.



HILO PRIDE 2023

At BISAC, we believe in the importance of supporting and celebrating diversity in all its forms. That's why we're proud to show our support for the LGBTQIA+ community to promote equal rights for all. By showing our support, we hope to encourage others to do the same and create a more inclusive world for everyone.





TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

MIKE JAMES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR

"No matter when I see Michael- morning, afternoon, at quitting time, he always has a smile and a wave for those that pass him." - Clinton Cooper

Mikes passion and drive for what he does can be seen through the way he interacts with staff and clients. He always wants the best for people and to see them succeed. Always encouraging them to keep moving forward, making sure that they understand the path they have chosen is not an "easy" one, but is worth the time and effort.

CLIENT SPOTLIGHT

AMY LOU SMITH

"I had a rough start but I am so thankful for Dr. Hannah, Miriama, the counselors and all the staff for not giving up & supporting me through this journey. BISAC truly saved my life." - Amy Lou Smith

Throughout her time here at BISAC, Amy has consistently demonstrated her commitment to her new found life in sobriety. Amy has since become the house manager for our women's clean and sober house while maintaining employment at Island Naturals & Old Navy. More recently, Amy was hired on with us for a full time position as Client Navigator. Amy has been a mentor and example for many other women who are on their own path to recovery.

