



Hawaii Association for Infant Mental Health (AIMH HI)
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Aloha!

First of all, I want to welcome the second cohort to the Fellows Institute! We are so excited that 25 candidates have applied for the Fellows program, been approved and are on their way on this important journey to become infant mental health specialists! This newsletter edition features a photo of all of these talented service providers, along with their fearless leaders Amanda Luning and Erin Henderson.

AIMH HI has been a volunteer organization since inception in 2007. But this year, we are very fortunate to be able to bring two staff professionals on board! Erika Warner is serving as Program Coordinator for the Promising Minds work. Hide Wu is serving as Administrative Coordinator for AIMH HI in its entirety.

Organizational development and business planning has been at the forefront for the AIMH HI Board of Directors. Over the past few months, we have been working on an organizational business plan, under the dynamic leadership of Keoni Lee, CEO of Hawaii Investment Ready. This plan, to be completed in June, will clarify our organizational priorities and give AIMH HI the direction for next steps as we move ahead in best assisting Hawaii to become an infant and early childhood mental health informed state.

This past week offered an unexpected opportunity to publicly share our enthusiasm about infant-toddler emotional wellbeing! The Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IECBH) Plan was released this month as May is Mental Health Awareness month. The IECBH Strategic Plan proposes to integrate child and family mental health and trauma-informed care into our health and early care and learning systems throughout Hawai'i. This integration will create an intentionally aligned child and family-serving system that promotes school readiness and family success. The plan will work towards creating equitable systems of care that reduce racial and socioeconomic disparities, ultimately ensuring that children succeed in school and in life. AIMH HI was a key partner in the plan's [development](#) and role out. The link to the plan is attached.

We look forward to continuing the work needed to uplift Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health across our state. If you would like to become a member in this effort please visit AIMHHI.org.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tina Porrás-Jones, MS, IMH-E®

Board President