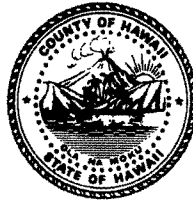


**Susan L.K. Lee Loy**  
Council Member  
District 3



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**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2019

TO: Aaron S.Y. Chung, Chairperson;  
and Members of the Hawai'i County Council

FROM: *ps for* Susan L.K. Lee Loy, Council Member

SUBJECT: Re: Communication No. 374 – Handouts for Vibrant Hawai'i Island

Attached for discussion purposes are handouts for Communication No. 374, scheduled for today's meeting of the Governmental Relations and Economic Development Committee.

SL:ps  
Att.

2019 SEP -3 AM 8:56  
COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY OF HAWAII

Comm. No. 374.1  
Ref. To: PIGREDC  
Ref. Date SEP 03 2019

## INTRODUCTION

The 2016 ALICE Report published by the Aloha United Way shows 61% of Hawai'i Island households either live below the Federal Poverty Level or have income above the FPL but not high enough to afford a basic household survival budget. These households are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed or ALICE.

## POVERTY AND ALICE BY DISTRICT

- Hilo – 60%
- Wailea-Papa'ikou – 64%
- North Hilo – 69%
- Pa'auahu-Pa'auilo – 57%
- Honoka'a-Kukuihaele – 51%
- North Kohala – 50%
- South Kohala – 48%
- North Kona – 52%
- South Kona – 58%
- Pāhoa-Kalapana – 78% and
- Kea'au – Mt. View – 72%

## THE FORMATION TEAM

In 2017, a Small and Mighty (SAM) network of HI community change leaders came together to learn more about the poverty and ALICE on Hawai'i Island.

- Hawai'i Community College
- Kamehameha Schools
- Department of Health
- County of Hawai'i Mayor's Office and Research and Development
- Kohala Institute
- Queen Lili'uokalani Trust
- KTA Superstores
- Hawai'i Community Foundation
- The Food Basket
- Blue Zones Hawai'i, and
- Community representatives.

## OUR APPROACH

Vibrant Hawai'i utilizes a collective impact approach to convene multi-sector stakeholders representing government and education, business and philanthropy, social service and faith-based organizations, and community members with lived or living experience (ALICE or poverty households and individuals) to:

1. Organize around shared social change outcomes,
2. Establish shared measurement to track progress in the same way,
3. Use data to continuously learn, adapt, and make improvements,
4. Identify mutually reinforcing activities,

5. Build system leadership,
6. Build trust, relationship, and increase communication across sectors, and,
7. Reduce poverty on Hawai'i Island.

### WE BEGAN BY LISTENING, LEARNING, AND CHALLENGING OUR ASSUMPTIONS

- Does our island believe that there is a problem?
- Does our island need/want another initiative?
- What makes Vibrant Hawai'i different?

### WHAT WE LEARNED

- There is a narrative deeper than what is portrayed by the ALICE report for many of the community members we interviewed. In its simplest phrase, their narrative is "broke but not broken".
- "We might be the worst when it comes to income, but we are the best when it comes to 'ohana. None of us are making it on our own, but all of us are making it because of 'ohana."
- Identified 25 unique groups on Hawai'i Island convening around a number of poverty indicators – homelessness, health disparities, education access and outcomes, living wage – but none were directly focused on poverty, and none of the groups included multi-sector representation.
- Despite millions of dollars of investment, and decades of effort by dedicated and talented people, 61% of households on Hawai'i island do not meet the minimum threshold of a survival budget – and it's getting worse.

### COMMUNITY CONVENINGS

Vibrant HI convened multi-sector stakeholders in East Hawai'i, Puna, North Hawai'i, West Hawai'i and Ka'u.

Attendees participated in facilitated dialogue with these guiding questions:

- What does a vibrant community look like?
- Based on the above, what does our community look like now?
- What can each attendee do and what can we do together?

### COMMUNITY CONVENING SUMMARY

- 90 stakeholders participated in the convenings
- Nearly 300 ideas of what a vibrant Hawai'i Island looks like were received.

### Deepening Community/Community Values/How We Do What We Do

- Ahupua'a Lifestyle (Management of Resources, Good Planning, Kau Hale, Universal Design, Local Healthy Food System For All, Open Space, Policy Govt Involvement, Sustainability, Sustainability and Abundance, Culture of Sustainability and Resilience, Thriving Communities, Quality of Life, Ancestral Abundance)
- Faith and Fellowship (Cohesive Faith Communities)
- Living Aloha (Engaged Community, Living Aloha, Aloha In Action, Purpose, Mindfulness, Perseverance and Resilience)
- 'Ohana (Strong Families, Time For Family)
- Belonging (Belonging, Belonging and Connectivity, Celebrating Diversity)
- Mālama 'Āina (Healthy Natural Environmental Stewardship, Mālama Honua)
- Access (Access to Jobs, Access To Resources, Abundant Access to Resources, Access to Health Care, Equal Access to Justice, Equitable Economic Access, Access to Economic Opportunity and Security, Access to Transportation Support, Equity and Access to Quality Education, Social Justice, Access To Safe and Affordable Housing In Our Community)

### Reducing Poverty/Opportunities/What We Can Do

- Housing (Housing, Adaptive Housing Approach, Spectrum of Housing Options)
- Health (Health and Self-Care, Health and Wellness)
- Education (Edu-Powerment, Diverse Education Opportunities, Informed and Educated Citizens, Financial Literacy, Best Leadership We Can Get)
- Financial Empowerment
- Mobility (Transportation Equity)
- Economy (Economic Opportunities For All, Arts, Development of Ag Industry)

### POST CONVENING ENGAGEMENT

- Establish common language
- Map existing initiatives
- Identify barriers and limitations
- Identify opportunities for innovation
- Identify data points to measure poverty reduction
- How would we capture this data?
- Challenge assumptions.

## SEPTEMBER 27TH LAUNCH

- Present a summary and synthesis of the (5) community engagements. Provide adequate time for participants to review and provide feedback.
- Hold presentations (Housing, Health, Education, Financial Empowerment, Mobility, and Economy).
- Bring awareness to what working groups/task force, community alliances, etc., exist, what their initiatives focus on, and the gaps or barriers to poverty reduction they experience.
- Provide participants with common language around issues (example: financial literacy, tiny home, etc.)
- Provide participants an understanding of current and emerging policy, and opportunities to influence plans, policy, and administration (example: County of Hawai'i General Plan, adoption of building code, etc.)
- Identify mutually reinforcing activities, and,
- Allow participants to determine their personal and professional commitment to collective action poverty reduction.

## THE EMERGING YEAR

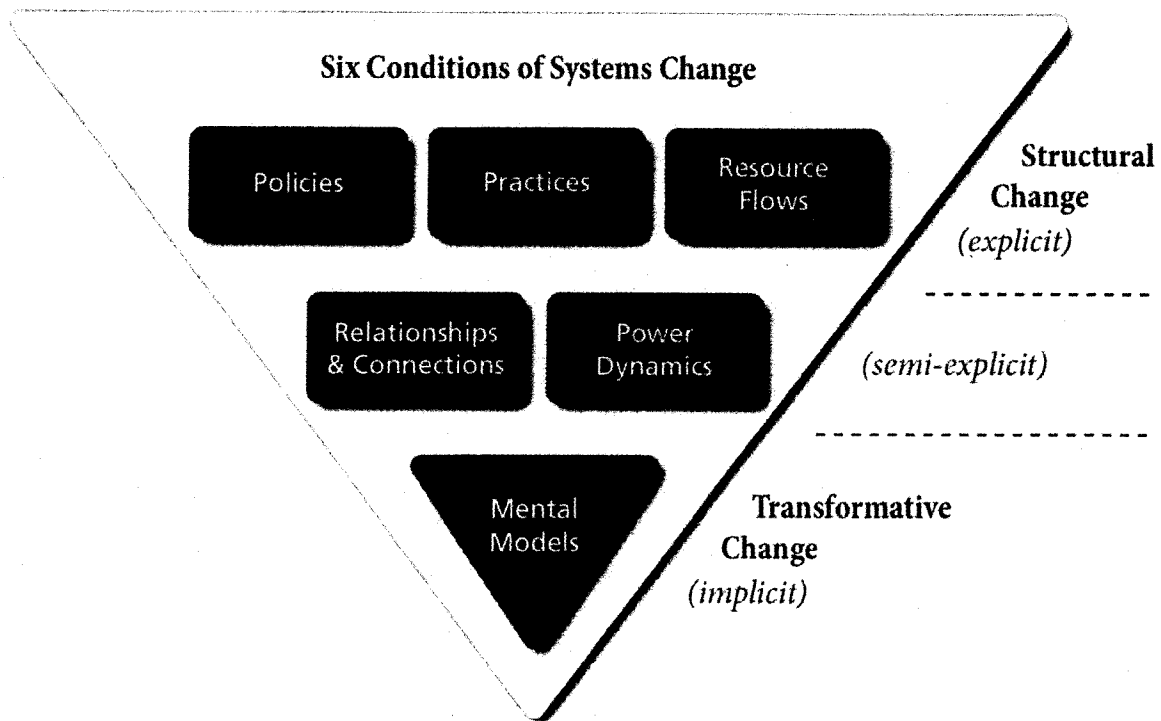
The Leadership Council is a group of multi-sector stakeholders who commit to review data and listening team summaries over the course of a year, and develop a 3-5 year plan to transform practice, systems, and culture towards poverty reduction through program initiatives and meaningful policy changes.

- |                     |                      |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ● Lanakila Mangauil | ● Kehau Costa        | ● 'Ilihia Gionson    |
| ● Laua'e Kekahuna   | ● Noelani Spencer    | ● Dion Maeda         |
| ● Hali'a Bautista   | ● Maggie Kaho'ilua   | ● Justin Pequeno     |
| ● Ka'imi Kaupiko    | ● Diane Chadwick     | ● Breeani Sumera-Lee |
| ● U'i Soares        | ● Michael Yee        | ● Richard Taffe      |
| ● Jamie Borrromeo   | ● Ashley Kierkiewicz | ● Jessica Kaneakua   |
| ● Kim Kobayashi     | ● Bob Agres          | ● Carol Ignacio      |
| ● Laura Aguirre     | ● Kei-Lin Cerf       |                      |
| ● Lee Wilson        | ● Rachel Solemsaas   |                      |

## SYSTEMS CHANGE

Shift the conditions that are holding the problem in place. This way, we don't cheer from the sidelines for those living in poverty and ALICE to beat the odds, we change the odds.

FIGURE 1. SHIFTING THE CONDITIONS THAT HOLD THE PROBLEM IN PLACE



1

## SYSTEMS CHANGE CONDITIONS—DEFINITIONS

**Policies:** Government, institutional and organizational rules, regulations, and priorities that guide the entity's own and others' actions.

**Practices:** Espoused activities of institutions, coalitions, networks, and other entities targeted to improving social and environmental progress. Also, within the entity, the procedures, guidelines, or informal shared habits that comprise their work.

**Resource Flows:** How money, people, knowledge, information, and other assets such as infrastructure are allocated and distributed.

**Relationships & Connections:** Quality of connections and communication occurring among actors in the system, especially among those with differing histories and viewpoints.

**Power Dynamics:** The distribution of decision-making power, authority, and both formal and informal influence among individuals and organizations.

**Mental Models:** Habits of thought—deeply held beliefs and assumptions and taken-for-granted ways of operating that influence how we think, what we do, and how we talk.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- HACBED is a nonprofit intermediary that works to build the capacity of families and communities so that they have choice and control to achieve social, economic, and environmental justice.
- For more than 20 years, HACBED's core competencies have been holding spaces for tough conversation, collecting stories and data, and disseminating that information.
- Recognizing that impact is limited when work is done in silos, HACBED works to break down barriers and to create networks and partnerships to bring about far reaching systemic change.
- HACBED will provide Vibrant HI with administrative and fiscal oversight. This capacity includes hiring Vibrant HI staff and overseeing the procurement and payment of logistical costs and expenses for outreach activities.
- In addition, HACBED will provide support around process design, facilitation, group alignment, community engagement support, coaching, connection to statewide conversations and collaborations, and resource development.

## SUMMARY

By engaging stakeholders from multi-sectors and communities island-wide, Vibrant Hawai'i Island will reduce poverty and deepen community by transforming practice, systems, and culture, through data informed program initiatives and meaningful policy changes. The actions of the collective will reflect the diversity, strengths, and most importantly, the shared identified values of our island's communities and stakeholders.