



# Building University and Public School Partnerships to Prevent Youth Violence



Jane Chung, MPH Candidate & Earl Hishinuma, PhD University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center Honolulu, Hawai'i

## Background

- Native Hawaiians make up 31% of Hawai'i's youths, but comprise 46% of all youths incarcerated in the Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (Office of Youth Services, 2002).
- Comparative studies consistently show that Native Hawaiian youths have disproportionately high rates of substance use (Wong et al., 2004), especially Native Hawaiian girls (Mayeda et al., 2006).

	Kailua (suburban)	Waimanalo (rural)
<b>Population</b>	~36,500 (23% Hawaiian)	~10,000 (65% Hawaiian)
<b>Average Family Size</b>	3.33	4.50
<b>Median Family Income</b>	\$72,784	\$51,687

## About the Center

The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center was funded by the CDC to investigate various forms of interpersonal youth violence in Hawai'i's communities. Due to the overrepresentation of Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Filipino youths in Hawai'i's juvenile delinquency system, our efforts primarily focus on these ethnic groups. It is our mission to reduce and prevent interpersonal youth violence for Asian/Pacific Islanders by developing an effective, comprehensive, public-health, and culturally competent model to serve as a national prototype.

- Aim 1:** Infrastructure and Collaboration
- Aim 2:** Community Partnership and Mobilization
- Aim 3:** Research
- Aim 4:** Training
- Aim 5:** Communication and Dissemination
- Aim 6:** Evaluation



<http://www.apivpc.org/>

## Kailua High School (KHS)

### School Year 2006-2007

•**Student Body** = 937

•**Ethnicity:**

- Native Hawaiian 54%
- Japanese 11%
- Caucasian 9%
- Filipino 9%
- Samoan 5%
- Other 12%

•**44% of student body receive reduced lunch cost.**



## Timeline of Our Partnerships

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Spring 2003</b> KHS Survey I (N=100)	<b>Summer 2003</b> Collaborative retreat-decision to create ethnic studies class	<b>Summer 2005</b> Ethnic studies class evaluation development	<b>Fall 2005/Spring 2006</b> Ethnic studies pilot class & conference presentations	<b>Summer/Fall 2006</b> Ethnic studies class evaluation & revision	<b>Spring 2007</b> Ethnic studies class expansion to 90 students	<b>Spring 2008</b> Ethnic studies made mandatory for all 9 <sup>th</sup> graders (N=280)
	<b>Spring 2004</b> KHS survey II (N=253) 5 risk factors for violence identified		<b>Fall 2005/Spring 2006</b> Planning and training for JumpStart Day	<b>Fall 2006</b> Freshmen JumpStart Day	<b>Summer/Fall 2007</b> Planning of JumpStart Day for newly incoming freshmen	
				<b>Spring 2007</b> PREVENT Institute Training	<b>Summer 2007</b> M&M 'Ohana Night	<b>Fall 2007/Spring 2008</b> M&M 'Ohana Night planned for every semester

## Ethnic Studies Class

### Goals of this course:

- Develop appreciation for the contributions of diverse ethnic groups and cultures.
- Learn vocabulary to deepen students' awareness and understanding regarding ethnic minorities and ethnic issues.
- Build communication skills to talk through conflicts constructively.
- Disseminate information to API communities on the development of this course and its impact.



Kamehameha Schools Conference on Hawaiian Well Being Honolulu, Hawai'i 2005

"We want to represent KHS as a good school and not only as a bad school because a lot of people know KHS as a bad school...In reality, we are really trying our best to show that we have good sportsmanship, to show that we want things to get better at KHS. So our teachers put together this ethnic studies class to help kids understand other people's points of views of various cultures around the world."

-Hawaiian female student



World Indigenous People's Conference on Education Hamilton, New Zealand 2006

### Student Outcomes:

- Improved interpersonal communication skills for violence prevention
- Evidence of personal growth in relationship to violence prevention
- Increased understanding of society-wide ethnic disparities

## JumpStart Day

### 5 risk factors of youth violence identified by Spring 2004 KHS survey II:

1. Sexist attitudes
2. Impulsivity
3. Victimization
4. Moodiness
5. Substance use



JumpStart Day training with community partners



KHS students of AP Psychology created videos for other KHS students to address how these 5 risk factors can lead to school violence. In Fall 2006, these videos were used during an orientation called JumpStart Day, which was geared towards incoming KHS freshmen. These videos illustrated peaceful ways students can handle difficult situations. Using these videos, APIVPC staff and other Kailua/Waimanalo community members collaborated to facilitate the discussion of violence prevention with the incoming freshmen.

### Student & Teacher Responses:

- 97% of students felt that the videos "helped a lot" or "somewhat helped" them as new students at KHS.
- "The activity helped me by showing me the different situations as well as how to handle it...I think we should make more videos." -KHS student
- All 35 teachers felt that JumpStart Day "helped a lot" or "somewhat helped" the students.
- "I think this activity has potential, and all these issues are very important. Keep up your hard work, and thanks for all your involvement at our school." -KHS teacher

## M&M 'Ohana Night (Movie & a Message)

M&M 'Ohana Night is an event held on the KHS campus to promote community involvement. The idea for this event began when a team of KHS staff, APIVPC staff, and Kailua/Waimanalo community members attended the PREVENT Institute training at the University of North Carolina. Upon learning strategies of community involvement in violence prevention from this training, the team worked with KHS students to develop ideas for M&M 'Ohana Night. Community members were provided dinner and invited to set up blankets on the KHS football field to watch a "movie with a message" ("Freedom Writers"). A Public Service Announcement created by KHS students was also shown to address prevention of rumors and violence. Short surveys for youth and adults were distributed to collect information on perceptions of violence and community involvement.



The team members of M&M Night



Community members filling out surveys

### Goals of M&M 'Ohana Night:

- To make KHS a more community-friendly school
- To develop positive community leaders
- To raise awareness on different types of youth violence prevention via student-made Public Service Announcement

