



Residential Youth Services & Empowerment

MAY NEWS UPDATE

Did You Hear the News....



We're proud to share that Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE) has officially closed on a new property in Honolulu, marking a significant step forward in our mission to end youth homelessness on O'ahu.

This 13,804 square foot, four-story building, located in the heart of the city, will be developed into deeply affordable workforce housing for young people ages 18–24, creating a space where youth can transition out of unstable living situations and into environments designed for growth, independence, and long-term success.

At RYSE, we know that housing is only part of the solution. This project is rooted in a broader vision, one that integrates workforce development, life skills, and community to help young people build sustainable futures. What makes this moment especially meaningful is that this acquisition was made possible entirely through private funding. It's a powerful example of what can happen when community invests directly in solutions that create real, lasting impact.

This is not just about adding units; it's about creating pathways. We're excited to begin this next chapter and look forward to sharing more as the project develops.

[Listen to the Interview on HPR](#)

Up Next: Off to Our RYSE Graduates



Hazel Silva

One of our own recently graduated with her Associate's degree in Human Services after completing her practicum with the RYSE team.

We're incredibly proud of her dedication, resilience, and commitment to continuing her education and giving back to the community.

Congratulations, your RYSE 'ohana is cheering you on every step of the way.



Eric Schultz

Eric recently graduated from Wai'anae High School, maintaining an incredible 4.0 GPA while also receiving recognition from the Mayor.

We're so proud of all he accomplished and excited for his next chapter as he plans to pursue carpentry trade school.

Congratulations, Eric!

Shared Meals, Shared Creativity



Long time RYSE volunteer, Fatiha Kheddaoui has brought a beautiful new creative residency experience into several RYSE hales by blending two powerful forms of connection: food and art. Through shared meals and hands-on art-making, youth are invited into welcoming spaces centered around creativity, culture, conversation, and community.

Fatiha has spent years working alongside our youth through various artistic outlets. This newest initiative combines cooking and visual art in a way that encourages reflection, expression, and togetherness in a relaxed and meaningful environment. From collaborative meals to watercolor, collage, and ink-based art projects, each gathering creates space for creativity to unfold naturally.

The residency continues to grow across our homes, with plans underway for a collaborative RYSE art cookbook that will capture recipes, artwork, and moments created throughout the program.



Fatiha Kheddaoui Curran is a France-born teaching artist who now calls O'ahu home. With a background in arts and philosophy from La Sorbonne and an MFA from UH Mānoa, she brings years of international experience in art education, community-based residencies, and creative volunteer work. Working across mediums including fiber arts, painting, ceramics, photography, and installation, Fatiha has spent years using art as a tool for connection, expression, and community both globally and here in Hawai'i.

In Case You Forget

Learning by doing

Mahalo to Kumu AK for showing up day in and day out for our West Side youth. From kalo farming to operating equipment, from land restoration to food preparation, he's teaching real, hands-on skills that build confidence and create pathways for the future.

More than that, he's showing what it means to work hard, set goals, and follow through.

This is what empowerment looks like.



We Wear Green Everyday

Out in the community, where we're meant to be

Our RYSE outreach team is always out, ready to serve and connect with those who need support across our island. Being able to step outside of our walls and meet people where they are is one of the most meaningful parts of this work.

If you see us in our green shirts, come say aloha, we're here for you.

Career Expo

Eight of our West Side youth attended a career expo at the Convention Center and the energy was everything. From exploring new paths to getting inspired by what's possible, it was a day full of curiosity, excitement, and real opportunity.

One of our youth even secured an on-the-spot interview

Moments like this matter. They open doors, build confidence, and help our youth see what their future can hold. So proud of all of them.





Behind the Work

As Executive Director of RYSE and Chair of the Planning & Housing Committee for Partners in Care's O'ahu Continuum of Care (CoC), Carla Houser works not only on the frontlines of youth homelessness, but also at the systems level helping shape housing strategy across the island. Each month, she'll share a brief update on what's happening in the CoC and what it means for our community.

LAST MONTH

IMPROVED DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATION

The committee discussed strengthening coordination between outreach teams, shelters, and emergency response partners during storms and disasters, including better workflows, communication, and data tracking through HMIS.

Why it matters:
Better coordination means faster support, improved shelter access, and a more organized response for vulnerable and unsheltered individuals during emergencies.

FOCUS ON DATA-DRIVEN HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

Committee members emphasized the importance of using clear data and measurable goals to address homelessness, including focused discussions around youth homelessness, Native Hawaiian populations, and veteran homelessness.

Why it matters:
Using accurate data helps organizations and policymakers better understand community needs, allocate resources effectively, and create more targeted long-term solutions.

CONCERNS AROUND UPCOMING FUNDING & HOUSING CHANGES

The committee reviewed upcoming changes to housing contracts, federal funding uncertainties, and the anticipated HUD NOFO process, including potential impacts on transitional housing and service delivery.

Why it matters:
Funding and housing policy changes directly affect the availability of services, shelter options, and long-term support systems for youth and individuals experiencing homelessness across Hawai'i.

LEARN MORE →

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Share Your Voice for Hawai'i

Researchers at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Health Policy Initiative, in partnership with the [Hawai'i Office of Wellness and Resilience](#), invite you to participate in the **2026 Hawai'i Quality of Life Survey**. This **anonymous, 10-20 minute** survey is for **Hawai'i residents 18+ years old** and asks about everyday experiences related to health and wellbeing, work, education, cost of living, and more. It builds on a similar 2024 survey, the results of which were turned into a public [Dashboard](#) used by policymakers, state agencies, and community

organizations to improve quality of life in Hawai'i. Broad participation helps ensure the findings reflect Hawai'i's diverse communities and experiences. [Click here to complete the survey](#). For more information, visit: www.health-study.com or email Jack Barile (barile@hawaii.edu) or Eva McKinsey (evamckin@hawaii.edu).

Take the Survey



**WE ARE
HIRING**

More info at: rysehawaii.org/jobs

We're Hiring!

Join a team dedicated to making a real impact in our community. At RYSE, we're always looking for passionate, driven individuals who are ready to support and empower youth across O'ahu.

If you're looking for meaningful work where you can grow both personally and professionally, we'd love to hear from you.

[Apply Here](#)



Join Us! Together We All RYSE

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