

“WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW CAN HURT YOU: PROVIDING EFFECTIVE SERVICES TO LGBT YOUTH”

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Logistics of Conference

- **“Meeting a critical need: Creating a safety net for LGBT youth”**
- held on October 20, 2011 at JCCH; 200 in attendance
- **Organizing committee:** 6 individuals experienced in working with and advocating for LGBT youth in Hawaii; represented the LGBT community in Hawaii
- **Planning meetings:** held monthly, then weekly, from October 2010 to October 2011

Rational of Conference

- **Mission:** to ensure that all LGBT youth in Hawaii receive services that are welcoming, effective and provided in a culturally appropriate manner
- **Goal:** to equip Hawaii's social service workers with the tools to better serve its LGBT youth consumers
- **Objectives:** to educate providers on the need to develop policies, train staff, and provide culturally appropriate services for LGBT youth in a welcoming environment

Content of Conference

- **one day with 6 plenary sessions addressing:** sexual orientation; gender identity; native Hawaiian LGBT youth; developing a welcoming site for LGBT youth; transgender perspective; strategies from agencies experienced in providing services to LGBT youth
- **respected/knowledgeable speakers from the community:** AJ Sabrina McKenna from Supreme Court, transgenders working with youth; LGBT youth; agency leadership; Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz
- **resources shared:** books, videos, films, reports, comprehensive website for conference:
<http://www.equalityhawaii.org/resources2.html>

IMPACT

1. Increased dialogue and communication around the experience and needs of Hawai`i's LGBTQ youth and their families.

2. Subsequent development of:

- Agency/organization policies, procedures and trainings**
- Neighbor island conferences on LGBTQ youth**
- Possible state position to develop and coordinate LGBT youth services and programs**

**3. Creation of a “Safety Net”
information clearinghouse of local
and national resources to help
support LGBTQ youth and their
families**

(<http://www.equalityhawaii.org/resources2.html>)

STRATEGIES

1. Develop an awareness that all youth/family agencies serve LGBTQ youth

2. Increase staff understanding of the experience and needs of LGBTQ youth, and how to supportively address these needs, through regular comprehensive trainings.

**3. Develop appropriate agency/
organizational policies and
procedures that specifically
address the respectful treatment
of LGBT youth and commit to
meeting their needs.**

4. Access the “Safety Net” website to learn more about the needs of LGBTQ youth and find resources to help develop supportive policies, procedures and programs within our own organizations and agencies.

<http://www.equalityhawaii.org/resources2.html>