



**For Immediate Release**

November 8, 2017

**Susan Furuta Promoted to Chief Operating Officer from Vice President, Human Resources and Gina Hungerford Hired as Team Leader**

HONOLULU—Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) promoted Susan Furuta to Chief Operating Officer from Vice President, Human Resources and hired Gina Hungerford as Team Leader of Hawaii Pathways Project.

**Susan Furuta** is now responsible for operations, recruitment, employment, benefits, patient confidentiality, safety, management training systems, facility maintenance and direct supervision of the Bilingual Access Line. Additionally, she will share supervision of our Human Services programs, advising on personnel, staffing and other operational duties. She serves as the agency's Safety and HIPAA Privacy officers and participates in the agency's Health and Wellness committee. Susan has more than 20 years of experience in Human Resource Management, including organizational change and systems and program development in retail, hospitality and non-profit industries. She has been with Helping Hands Hawaii for over 16 years as the VP, Human Resources.

Susan was born and raised on the historic Ewa plantation and is a graduate of James Campbell High School. She holds a bachelor's degree in Human Development from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. In 2013, Susan was recognized as an emerging leader in the nonprofit sector by Hawaii Community Foundation, and in 2014 she was honored by Helping Hands Hawaii's management and Board of Directors with the Mau a Mau Na Lima Hana award.

**Gina Hungerford, LMFT, QMHP** leads a team that provides supportive housing services to chronically homeless individuals by using a Harm Reduction, Housing First approach. HIPP strives to house consumers as they are, without requiring them to be sober or participate in any treatment. The team provides intense clinical and supportive services to get consumers housed and then begin to address the needs to maintain housing.

Gina graduated from California State University, Northridge where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Deaf Studies of Language and Culture and graduated with honors for community service. She graduated with academic honors from a Master of Arts degree program in Psychology, with an emphasis in counseling, from the University for Humanistic Studies in California. She is dually licensed in Marriage and Family Counseling in California and Hawaii.

In addition to her private counseling practice (sometimes conducted in ASL), she has also worked as a counselor or clinical supervisor in a variety of non-profit settings serving marginalized communities. These communities included LGBTQ, deaf and hard of hearing, sexually abused/trafficked youth, therapeutic foster youth and the developmentally disabled. She holds certification in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and dual certification as an American Sign Language interpreter. She also has over 35 years of experience as a community sign language interpreter. It is her ambition to understand people the way they want to be understood so she remains curious about all of the ways that people express themselves through language, culture and behavior.

### **About Helping Hands Hawaii**

Helping Hands Hawaii (HHH) was founded in 1974 and connects individuals, families and organizations with essential human and material resources. Through a variety of programs, it provides a full continuum of care and helps people overcome obstacles, like homelessness, mental illness, substance use and language access. Strong partnerships with local social service providers and innovative approaches strengthen the community by helping people to help themselves. To learn more about HHH, its programs or services, visit [www.helpinghandshawaii.org](http://www.helpinghandshawaii.org).

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