Keynote Conversations
Peter Leone, Kat Brady, Sara Banks & Meleanna Meyer
Moderated by Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Hawaii Public Radio

Keeping our Kids Safe: What does it Mean?
Tuesday, Room 301A 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Topic Area: Lifting Youth Up

More than 70,000 children are held in juvenile jails. Many American children are imperiled by abuse, neglect, domestic and community violence, and poverty. Without effective intervention and help, these children suffer, struggle, and fall into despair and hopelessness, many ending up in jail. A recent study showed that delinquent children are much more likely than their non-delinquent peers to die violently later in life, with girls being especially vulnerable, dying at nearly five times the rate of the general population. Up to one in five children in the United States experience a mental health challenge each year, and a whopping 70 percent of youth in juvenile justice institutions have some sort of disability. The statistics are daunting. Are we really keeping our children and young people safe?

Join us in a provocative discussion on how we as a society can change direction for our youth. What do we need? We want today’s youth to be lifted up from the depths of marginalization and be at the front and center of our collective commitment to ensure that each youth lives to their full potential.

About the Conversation Discussants

Kat Brady
Kat is a community advocate for justice who is actively engaged in bringing the community’s voice into venues where it has rarely been heard. She works to increase civic literacy, public participation, and to reform public policy. Kat serves as a legislative coordinator the Hawaii Juvenile Justice Project, as the Coordinator for the Community Alliance on Prisons, and as a Board member of Hawaii Friends of Law and Civic Related Education.

Peter Leone
Peter Leone is a professor in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education at the University of Maryland. Dr. Leone has monitored, evaluated education services, and provided technical assistance in jails, detention centers, training schools, and prisons in a number of states. He is the former Director of the National Center on Education, Disability, and Juvenile Justice at the UM.

Sara Banks
Sara Banks, MFA, is a faculty member at the Center on Disability Studies at UH Manoa. She has over 40 years experience producing educational videos, which explore numerous social justice issues, including human rights and equality for GLBT youth and Native Hawaiians. Currently she is focusing on Environmental and Educational justice concerns through the E Ola Pono Campaign, the statewide initiative, she coordinates to promote peace and pono in Hawaii’s schools and communities.

Meleanna Meyer
As an arts advocate, celebrated filmmaker, author and educator, Meleanna sees creativity and all art forms as a vital part of a good education. Her commitment to community capacity building and healing through the arts has always been her focus.

Beth-Ann Kozlovich, Moderator
Beth-Ann is Hawaii Public Radio’s Talk Shows Executive Producer and oversees HPR’s five locally produced talk programs. Her attraction to public radio began when it was the only car-accessible, parent-approved station...so all this is really her mother’s fault.