

`A`ALI`I Mentoring to Merge with Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i

Effective September 1, 2025, the two non-profit organizations join forces to expand career and higher-education mentorship opportunities across Hawai`i

Honolulu, HI — August 31, 2025 – Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai`i (BBBS Hawai`i) is proud to announce a strategic merger with `A`ALI`I Mentoring, a respected community-based mentorship organization. Beginning September 1, 2025, `A`ALI`I Mentoring and its programs, mentors, and mentees will be integrated into the statewide efforts of BBBS Hawai`i.

This merger represents a shared commitment to ensuring that Hawai`i's youth have access to caring, consistent mentors who help them reach their full potential.

“We founded `A`ALI`I Mentoring with the belief that mentorship changes lives. This merger ensures our vision will grow far beyond what we imagined,” said Cathy Ching Co-Founder of `A`ALI`I Mentoring. “BBBS Hawai`i has the infrastructure and reach to scale mentorship while preserving the heart and soul of what we’ve built together.”

Founded in April 2021, `A`ALI`I Mentoring (AM) fosters and cultivates mentoring relationships to support Hawai`i's young people (between the ages of 18 and 24 years old) from underrepresented and under-resourced communities who are navigating higher education and their young adulthood journey.

Persistence in higher education graduation rates in Hawai`i are low. The low completion rates can be attributed to financial challenges, lack of affordability; academic struggles; and personal issues - socio-emotional challenges, family, cultural considerations, and work obligations. With the support of mentorship, young people can persevere and reach their post-secondary educational goals, as well as their career and personal aspirations

“It has always been about the young people,” added Grace Saturnia Co-Founder of `A`ALI`I Mentoring. “We see this transition not as an end, but as a new chapter—one filled with even more opportunities for youth to thrive through meaningful connections.”

The merger of both aligned organizations, will continue to improve the higher educational outcomes for Hawai`i's young people. The support of a trained volunteer adult mentor, who can serve as a resource and guide to assist with identifying financial aid options, academic support systems, etc. as well as an empathetic listener who offers encouragement, can be an effective intervention in addressing the low persistence rates in post-secondary education. The volunteer mentors are nonjudgmental, caring advocates who share experiences, and provide fresh perspectives and guidance to support their Mentees in their higher education journey. They also model leadership, interpersonal, and executive-functioning skills -- essential competencies that enable young people to reach their full potential. Beyond the individual mentoring relationship, AM's group programming cultivates a broader community of support and empowers mentees with soft skills, financial literacy, academic guidance, and career support to thrive. The program

balances the need for structure as well as student voice and flexibility, which are key to allowing the mentoring relationship to develop into a trusting friendship.

“We are honored to carry forward the legacy of `A`ALI`I Mentoring,” said Tyler Kurashige, President & CEO of BBBS Hawai‘i. “Our shared values and vision to help youth thrive through mentoring makes this partnership a natural fit.”

- BBBS Youth are 20% more likely to enroll into college
- BBBS Youth earn 15% more in their lifetime
- Being a BBBS youth closes 2/3 of the economic gap

Community members, donors, and volunteers are encouraged to reach out with questions or to get involved in this next chapter of empowering Hawai‘i’s youth at bbbshawaii.org.

About Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai‘i

Since 1963, Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai‘i (BBBSH) has helped children facing adversity reach their fullest potential by matching them with caring volunteers in a one-to-one mentoring friendship. Every match is supported by highly skilled case managers each step of the way – assessing, coaching, advising, and guiding – to ensure a fun, safe, meaningful, and long-term friendship. BBBSH is a statewide organization consisting of Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai‘i on O‘ahu, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Kaua‘i, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui. Each year, the organization serves hundreds of keiki and mentors through meaningful matches. Join us to make a positive difference by volunteering as a mentor, enrolling your keiki, becoming a community partner, or making a donation at bbbshawaii.org.

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