Project Ho‘omohala was funded in 2005 by the Center for Mental Health Services to develop and implement a system of care in the Kalihi-Palama community for transition-aged youth with serious emotional and behavioral challenges. Project Ho‘omohala has been receiving referrals since 2007 and has provided services to 71 youth and their families. These services include screening and assessment, transition planning and educational planning to youth and support services for caregivers/parents of youth with emotional and behavioral challenges.

For several reasons, educational outcomes are particularly important to the project. First, the transition services are driven by Rusty Clark’s Transition to Independence Process (TIP). The TIP model supports youth and young adults in their movement into adult roles. Services delivered through the TIP model focus on four transition domains: employment/career, community life functioning, educational opportunities and living situation. Furthermore, high schools were identified as a major portal of entry for youth. Finally, prior to involvement in Project Ho‘omohala 77% of youth were involved in a school program. Preliminary educational outcome data are presented below.