

# Loirenn Walker, JD, MPH

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Scholar-practitioner at the intersection of public health, law, and restorative justice. Thirty years dedicated to developing, implementing, and researching evidence-based interventions in prisons, courts, schools, and communities across Hawai'i and internationally, including the Huikahi Reentry Planning Circle that is the subject of more than 20 peer-reviewed publications and the basis for internationally replicated reentry practice. My work is grounded in the conviction that healing and accountability are not opposites, and that systems must be redesigned, not merely criticized.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Executive Director, [Hawai'i Friends of Restorative Justice](#) (HFRJ), 2013 – present.**

Previous positions since 1994 include president, program developer, evaluator and administrator. Selected papers below include descriptions of pilots developed, provided, studied, evaluated, and described. Collaboration with courts, prisons, law enforcement, NGOs, agencies, and individuals. HFRJ has been affiliated, without financial support, with the University of Hawai'i's College of Social Sciences since November 2019. HFRJ director work is provided *pro bono*.

### **Adjunct Teaching Positions, University of Hawai'i since 1994 – present.**

Associate Professor of Practice, College of Social Sciences, 2019 – present; Lecturer in Law, William S. Richardson School of Law, 2019 – 2023; Adjunct Associate Professor, Office of Public Health Studies, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work, 2018 – 2019; Lecturer, University of Hawai'i Shidler College of Business, Spring 2007 & 2005; Lecturer, University of Hawai'i Honolulu Community College, 1994 – 2016.

### **Guardian ad Litem & Family Court Lawyer, 1994 – 2014.**

Appointed by Honolulu First Circuit Family Court to represent respondents of petitions for mental health commitments and represented indigent children and parents in child protective service cases, along with juveniles and adults in criminal cases.

### **Administrative Hearing Officer, Hawai'i Department of Human Services, 2007; 2000; 1995.**

Received testimony, wrote opinions to adjudicate administrative appeals of state social service programs.

### **Adjunct Professor, Chaminade University of Honolulu, 1998 – 2002.**

Taught communication, business ethics, and criminal law courses.

### **Deputy Attorney General, State of Hawai'i, 1985 – 1994.**

General Counsel 1985–1990 for Department of Human Services. Litigation Counsel 1990–1994: Defended state agencies and employees in personal injury, constitutional, and employment cases. Prosecuted criminal fraud cases. Client Training 1986–1994: Designed & implemented training for government agencies. Attorney Litigation Trainer 1991–1994: Designed & conducted training on pre-trial and trial practice for Hawai'i state deputy attorneys general.

Law Clerk, Judge Marie Milks, Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, 1984 – 1985.

Managed courtroom, legal research & writing.

Law Clerk, Judge Russell Kono (and other District Court Judges), District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, 1983 – 1984. Legal research & writing.

Law Clerk, ITT Corporation, New York City, Patent and Intellectual Property Litigation Division, January – May 1983. Legal research & writing; attended depositions.

Administrative Hearing Officer, State of Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare, Boston, Massachusetts, 1981 – 1982. Received testimony, decided & published administrative appeals.

**Teacher & Director, Children’s House Montessori School, Santa Cruz, California, 1971 – 1975.**

Teacher 1971–1973; Director 1974–1975. Taught pre-school & kindergarten; designed curriculum & materials; developed special education program. Director duties included supervision of teachers, maintenance of facilities, and school administration.

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**EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS**

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Second City, Chicago, Improv I (online course completed), 2026

Road Runners Club of America, Running Coach Level One Certification, 2024

American Council on Exercise, Group Fitness Instructor Certification, 2024

University of Wisconsin, Solutions-Focused Business Professional Certificate, 2011; Solution-Focused Brief Therapy Certificates, 2004 & 2006

University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, School of Public Health, MPH, Health Education, 1996

Hawai‘i State Department of Education, Adult Education Teacher Certification, 1995

Northeastern University School of Law, JD, Boston, MA, 1983

University of Hawai‘i, BA, Communication, Manoa, 1980

Leeward Community College, AA, Pearl City, O‘ahu, 1978

St. Nicholas Training Centre for the Montessori Method of Education, Teaching Certificate pre-school & K-3rd grade, 1971

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**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

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**Books:**

Van Wormer & Walker, Eds. 2013, *Restorative Justice Today: Practical Applications*, Sage.

Walker, 2012, *Aging With Strength*, CreateSpace.

Walker & Greening, 2011, *Reentry & Transition Planning Circle for Imprisoned People*, Hawai‘i Friends of Justice & Civic Education.

**Articles:**

Walker (2026, forthcoming). Restorative Justice in Hawai‘i, *International Encyclopedia of Restorative Justice*, North America. De Gruyter Brill.

Walker (2026, forthcoming). Apology, real and imagined, for healing harm. In B. Morrison & L. Winn (Eds.), *Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Social Justice* (Vol. 9: Restorative Justice). Bloomsbury.

Walker, Goldstein, Rinkliff & Humphreys (2026, forthcoming). Education for Transformation: Cooperative Learning, Incentives, and Reentry Planning in Prison, *Journal of Correctional Education*.

Richardson & Walker (2023). The Cost of Recidivism: A Dynamic Systems Model to Evaluate the Benefits of a Restorative Reentry Program, *Justice Evaluation Journal*. DOI: 10.1080/24751979.2022.2123746

Walker (2023). The ACE Controversy, In *Trauma Informed Law: A Primer for Practicing Lawyers*, H. Maki, J.K. Wright, et al, Eds., American Bar Association.

Walker & Goldstein (2022). Creating Peace by Restoring Relationships for Hawai‘i’s Imprisoned Women with Cooperative Learning & Restorative Justice. In Velez, G. and Gavrielides, T. *Restorative Justice: Promoting Peace and Wellbeing*, (Eds). New York: Springer.

- Walker (2022). Childhood Adversities Don't Have to be Damaging, In *Women and the Criminal Justice System: Gender, Race, and Class*, Eds. K. van Wormer & C. Bartollas. Taylor & Francis.
- Walker, Kobayashi & Lum (2021). Kapilipono Federal Specialty Court Program to Decrease Incarceration, *Idaho Law Review*.
- Kaulukukui & Walker (2021). Comparison of Native Hawaiian Traditional Ho'oponopono and Modern Restorative Justice Practices, *Comparative Restorative Justice*. Ed. T. Gavrielides, New York: Springer, 305-323.
- Walker & De Reu (2021). How Reentry Planning Circles Help Loved Ones Heal and Benefit Incarcerated People, In Auer Verlag, C., (Ed.) *The "Power of We" Community-based Interventions in Counseling and Therapy*, Heidelberg, Germany.'
- Walker & Kobayashi (June 2020). Hawai'i Federal Court Restorative Justice Circle Pilot Project, *Federal Probation Journal*.
- Walker & Bilmes Goldstein (2019). The Implications of Hawai'i's Multicultural Contexts and Victim Participants' Shuttled Information Provided for Restorative Reentry Planning Circles, In *Global Perspectives on Victimization Analysis and Prevention*, Ed. J. Ayodele, IGI Global Publications.
- Walker, Rodgers & Umbreit (2018). What's Restorative About Teen Court? *Internet Journal of Restorative Justice*.
- Walker & Davidson (2018). Restorative justice reentry planning for the imprisoned: An evidence-based approach to recidivism reduction, In Gavrielides, T., (Ed.) *The Routledge International Handbook of Restorative Justice*. London: Routledge.
- Walker, Tarutani & Furman (2017). The Power of Restorative Apologies (Real and Imagined) for Victims & Offenders, *Temida*.
- Walker (2017). *Restorative Reentry Planning Circles for Imprisoned People*. European Conference on Restorative and Therapeutic Justice, San Sebastian, Spain.
- Walker (2017). Restorative Justice & Race Inequality, Hawai'i, USA. In T. Gavrielides, *25 Restorative Justice Case Studies*, RJ4ALL Publications: London.
- Walker & Tarutani (2017). Restorative justice and violence against women: an effort to decrease the victim-offender overlap and increase healing. In D. Halder & K. Jaishankar (Eds.) *Therapeutic Jurisprudence and Overcoming Violence against Women*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- Walker (2016). Brazil's APAC Prisons: Applying a Restorative Justice, Solution-Focused, and Public Health Approach. In Wright (Ed.) *Lawyers as Changemakers*, Chicago: American Bar Association.
- Walker (2016). Restorative Practices in Hawai'i's for Juveniles. In K. Jaishankar, (Ed.) *Interpersonal Criminology*, New York: CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group.
- Walker (2015). Reentry circles for the innocent: the psychological benefits of restorative justice and taking responsibility in response to injustice. In Gavrielides, (Ed.) *The Psychology of Restorative Justice*, Farnham, England: Ashgate Publishing.
- Walker, Tarutani & McKibben (2015). Benefits of Restorative Reentry Circles for Children of Incarcerated Parents in Hawai'i. In *Promoting the Participation of Children across the Globe*, Gal & Faedi Duramy (Eds.), London: Oxford University Press.
- Walker & Kobayashi (2015). Restorative & Therapeutic Reentry Rituals. In *Offender Release and Supervision*, Evans (Ed.), Netherlands: Wolf Legal Publishing.

Walker (2015). Applied positive criminology: Reentry and transition planning circles for incarcerated people and their loved ones, In *Positive Criminology*, Ronel & Segev (Eds.), London: Routledge.

Walker (2013). Restorative Justice: Definition & Purpose; Remembering Bob Shapel; Brazil's Restorative Prisons; Restorative Celebrations for Parolee and Probationer Completion. In van Wormer & Walker, *Restorative Justice Today: Practical Applications*, Sage.

Walker (2012). Solution-Focused Reentry and Transition Planning for Imprisoned People. In De Jong & Berg's *Interviewing for Solutions*. New York: Norton.

Walker (2010). Huikahi Restorative Circles: Group Process for Self-Directed Reentry Planning and Family Healing, *European Journal of Probation*, 2:2, p. 76-95.

Walker & Greening (2010). Huikahi Restorative Circles: a public health approach for reentry planning, *Federal Probation Journal*, 74:1.

Walker (2009). Modified Restorative Circles: A Reintegration Group Planning Process That Promotes Desistance, *Contemporary Justice Review*, Vol. 12, No. 4, 419-431.

Walker & Hayashi (2009). Pono Kaulike: Reducing Violence with Restorative Justice and Solution-Focused Approaches, *Federal Probation Journal*.

Walker (2008). Waikiki Youth Circles: A Goal Setting Group Process for Disconnected Youth, *Journal of Family Psychotherapy*, 19:1.

Walker & Hayashi (2007). Pono Kaulike: A Hawai'i Court Provides Restorative Justice Practices for Healing Relationships, *Federal Probation Journal*, 71.

Walker, Sakai & Brady (2006). Restorative Circles: A Reentry Planning Process for Inmates, *Federal Probation Journal*, 70:1.

Walker (2005). A Cohort Study of 'Ohana Conferencing in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, American Humane Society, *Protecting Children*, 19:4.

Walker (2002). Conferencing: A New Approach for Juvenile Justice in Honolulu, *Federal Probation Journal*, 66:2.

Walker (1999). Drug Baby Myth and Its Consequences on Children, *Journal of Child & Youth Care*, 13:4.

### **Book Reviews:**

Walker (2025). Review of: Gavrielides, T., 2021. Power, Race and Justice: The Restorative Dialogue We Never Had. *Internet Journal of Restorative Justice*.

Walker (2019). Review of: Safeguarding and Empowering Crime Victims, *Training manual: Restorative Justice and the Victims' Directive*, Gavrielides & Lyon.

Walker (2018). Review of: Irwin, K. & Umemoto, K., 2016. Jacked Up and Unjust: Pacific Islander Teens Confront Violent Legacies. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

Walker (2014). Review of: Givelber, D. & Farrell, A., 2012, Not Guilty: Are the Acquitted Innocent? *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 58:993-994.

### **Working Papers:**

Walker, et al. *Hawai'i's School to Prison Pipeline Problem*

Walker & Griffith. Compassionate Listening Practice to Promote Peace and Conflict Management, *Inter-community & Inter-state Conflicts: Restorative Justice Peacebuilding*, Palgrave Macmillan – Springer.

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## **EDUCATIONAL MEDIA PRODUCTIONS**

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- *The Redemption Project*, CNN 2019. Facilitated a restorative circle at Alaska's maximum security prison.
- Sage restorative justice videos, Sage Publications 2017. Three educational videos on *RJ for Schools*, *RJ for Violent Offenses*, and *Restorative Reentry Planning Circles*.
- *Confronting*, Oprah Winfrey Network, 2011. Facilitated restorative dialogue at Washington State Penitentiary.
- *Apology & Forgiveness* website: [www.apologyletter.org](http://www.apologyletter.org), co-developed with Ben Furman, M.D., 2009 – present.
- *Ice: Advice from Recovering Users*, video crystal methamphetamine prevention, 2000.
- *Conferencing: A New Approach to Juvenile Justice in Hawai'i*, video restorative conferencing, 2000.
- *Success Against the Odds*, video teen pregnancy prevention, 1996.
- *Smoking Sucks*, video youth non-smoking promotion, 1995.
- *Jimmy Cliff interview* video to motivate high school students to stay in school, 1992.

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## **EDITORIAL REVIEWER**

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*Traumatology*, American Psychological Association, 2014 – present  
*Alaska Journal of Dispute Resolution*, editorial board, 2013 – present  
*Internet Journal of Restorative Justice*, editorial board, 2013 – present  
*International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 2012 – present  
*Oxford University Press*, 2012  
*Contemporary Justice Review: Issues in Criminal, Social and Restorative Justice*, 2003 – present

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## **PRO BONO & OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES CERTIFICATIONS**

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Clean Slate Expungement Task Force, 2025–2027, Hawai'i State Legislature appointment for HFRJ representative

Conceptualized & led organization for Justice Innovations Summit, February 2024, University of Hawai'i

Women's Prison Project, 2021–present — bipartisan professional women's group working for the de-carceration of women and girls in Hawai'i

Senior Research Fellow, 2020–present, Restorative Justice for All (RJ4All) International Institute, London, England

Lifetime Member, Hawai'i Public Health Association, 2020–present

U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, 2019–2025, grant reviewer

Fulbright Specialist Peer Reviewer, 2018 & 2019

American Public Health Association, member 2016 – present

Hawai'i State Task Force on Juvenile Justice System, August – December 2013 (decreased juvenile incarceration from about 80 to 8 youth)

Committee on Education, Communications, and Conference Planning, Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, 2012 – present

The Forgiveness Project, London, England, speaker's bureau member for United States, 2011 – present

U.S. Dept. of Justice, OJJDP, National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC), Consultant, December 2009 – 2025

Apology & Forgiveness website: [www.apologyletter.org](http://www.apologyletter.org), co-developed with Ben Furman, M.D., 2009 – present

Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, Child Protective Services Mediator, 1997 – 2001

Hawai'i State Employment Arbitration Panel, Arbitrator, 1996 – 2000

Hawai'i State Bar Association, Child & Parent Advocates, President, 1998 & 1999

Hawai'i State Bar, Member, 1983 – present

Central Oahu Youth Services Association, Board Member, 1984 – 2019

Waialua High School Mock Trial Attorney Coach, 1984 – 1998

Hawai'i Women's Community Correctional Center, intern & volunteer drama, meditation & sewing instructor, 1978 – 1980

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## HONORS & AWARDS

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2015 Steve de Shazer Memorial Award, Solution Focused Brief Therapy Association

2013–2018 Fulbright Specialist (since 2015 Senior Fulbright Specialist), US State Department

2013 Outstanding Leadership, Honolulu, Hawai'i YWCA

2011 John W. Byrd Pioneer Award for Restorative and Community Justice, National Conference on Restorative Justice

2007 Honorable Mention Nonfiction Writing Contest, O'ahu Arts Center

2005 Hawai'i Hero of Forgiveness Award, Hawai'i Forgiveness Project

2005 Rhoda Lewis Public Service Award, Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation

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## 2014 – 202 SELECT SPEAKING & TRAINING

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October 2025, Plenary Speaker, Restorative Justice & the Judiciary, Governor's State University, Chicago

June 2025, Presenter, organizer & delegate, 4th International Symposium on Restorative Justice, Cyprus

July 2024, Panelist, Restorative Justice for Schools, Educational Leadership Institute, Hawai'i Department of Education, Honolulu

May 2024, Keynote Speaker, Restorative Practices for Behavioral Change, Second International Seminar on Restorative Justice & the Environment, Campo Grande, Brazil

February 2024, Keynote Speaker with Cheri Tarutani, MSW, LCSW, Apology, Restorative Justice & Forgiveness, Hawai'i Forgiveness Project Conference, Honolulu

February 2024, Speaker & trainer on reentry planning circles, Justice Innovations Summit, University of Hawai'i

November 2023, Keynote Speaker with Leela B. Goldstein, PhD, the Value of Shuttled Information and Asynchronous Participation in Reentry Planning Circles, Victimology Society of Serbia Annual Conference, online

June 2023, Keynote Speaker, The value of the courts and how they can promote restorative justice, Public Prosecutor's Office in São Paulo, Brazil, online

September 2023, Seminar on Reentry Planning Circles, Insubria University, Como, Italy

December 2022, Keynote Speaker & trainer, Restorative Justice for Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence, International Society of Family Law Caribbean Regional Conference, Trinidad and Tobago

May 2022, Keynote Presenter & trainer, The Power of We: Community-based Interventions Counseling & Therapy, Berlin, Germany

April 2022, Trainer, Reentry & Transition Planning Circle Facilitation, Restorative Encounters, Delaware, online

August 2021–July 2024, Developed and conducted research on GED peer tutor training for higher & continuing education program for imprisoned women in Hawai'i

November 2020, Keynote Speaker with Mark Van Ryzin, Effective Approaches to Promote Positive Adolescent Behavior, Hawai'i State Department of Education, online

August 2020, Presenter with Judge Ginger Lerner-Wren, Therapeutic Jurisprudence, Karnavati University, India, online

June 2019, Keynote Speaker, Restorative Justice in Prisons, Russell Island, New Zealand

May 2019, Keynote Speaker & trainer, Restorative Justice Process for Individual Women Escaping Domestic Violence, Nepal Institute of Justice, Katmandu, Nepal

October 2018, Plenary Speaker, Restorative & Solution-Focused Reentry Circles, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand

May 2018, Keynote Speaker, Restorative Justice & Reentry Planning, Science & Crime Prevention Conference, European Union, Budapest, Hungary

August 2017, Keynote Speaker, Restorative Justice and Public Health Approaches for Brazilian Courts, Brazilian Judicial College, Porto Alegre, Brazil

June 2016, Keynote Speaker, New Models of Collaborative Justice: Restorative, Therapeutic and Procedural Justice, San Sebastian, Spain

June–July 2015, Senior Fulbright Specialist, Restorative Justice & Solution-Focused Training & Research, Instituto Vasco de Criminología, University of the Basque Country, Donostia, Spain

May–June 2015, Fulbright Specialist, Restorative Justice & Solution-Focused Training & Research, Victimology Society of Serbia, New Belgrade, Serbia

February 2014, Reentry Circle Training for therapists & teachers, Tokyo, Japan

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## REFERENCES

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**Leslie Kobayashi**

U.S. District Court Judge  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850

[leslie\\_kobayashi@hid.uscourts.gov](mailto:leslie_kobayashi@hid.uscourts.gov)

**Shadd Maruna**

Head of Sociology, University of Liverpool

[shaddmaruna@outlook.com](mailto:shaddmaruna@outlook.com)

**Howard Zehr**

Retired Professor of Restorative Justice

[howard.zehr@emu.edu](mailto:howard.zehr@emu.edu)

**Maya Soetoro-Ng**

Peace Educator, Obama Foundation

[msoetorong.consultant@obama.org](mailto:msoetorong.consultant@obama.org)

**Alan Katz**

Graduate Chair & Professor of Public Health  
University of Hawai'i

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**John Braithwaite**

Criminologist & Distinguished Professor  
National University of Australia

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**Fania Davis**

Restorative Justice Author & Expert

[fanias.davis@gmail.com](mailto:fanias.davis@gmail.com)

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Therapeutic Jurisprudence Co-founder

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**Francis T. Cullen**

Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus  
University of Cincinnati

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**Liam Skilling**

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