The Social Science Research Institute facilitates and supports interdisciplinary research addressing critical social, economic, and environmental problems primarily in Hawaii and the Asia Pacific region.

In carrying out its mandate, SSRI:

- Works with faculty and students from throughout the University of Hawaii and with other educational and research institutions, federal, state, and county agencies, regional and international organizations, and the private sector to plan and implement problem-oriented research projects;

- Provides practical experience to students at the University of Hawaii through involvement in research, planning and training projects;

- Assists county, state, and federal agencies and local community groups in Hawaii with training and technical assistance;

- Works with instructional units to integrate SSRI research efforts into courses offered at the University of Hawaii;

- Secures contracts and grants to support its work from public agencies and private organizations.

The Institute is currently working in five program areas: Crime, Drug Abuse, Youth Problems, and Poverty; Resource Management, Sustainable Development and Futures Research; Culture, Language and Social Problems; Health Services and Health Policy; and Telecommunications and Information Policy.

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The Center for Youth Research of the Social Science Research Institute provides the following:

- Conducts research related to youth in collaboration with University researchers, organized research centers at other universities, and/or community organizations.
- Serves as an information center for youth-related research at the University.
- Disseminates information on youth research, programs, and issues through publications, consultation, workshops, conferences, and expert testimony.
- Provides research and practicum opportunities for graduate students.

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