



Federal Tax Benefits for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers

Source: O'Connor, M., *Federal Tax Benefits for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers: 2002 tax year*. Publishers: Seattle: Casey Family Program.

Federal Tax Benefits for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers: 2002 Tax Year is an invaluable resource for foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers and the professionals who work with them. Many foster and adoptive parents and kinship caregivers (all three groups hereafter referred to collectively as “resource families”) are eligible for valuable tax benefits, but most don’t know that. This 19-page guide explains basic rules and offers tips on ways that resource families can legally claim the maximum tax benefits available to them.

The guide is available on the web site of the Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support at: www.casey.org/cnc. This information on tax benefits is of a general nature, and should not be acted upon except in consultation with a tax advisor.

Foster and adoptive parents should also be aware that newly discovered tax benefits may be claimed retroactively for up to three years. Form 1040X can be filed to correct an error in a prior year return, and collect a refund if one is due. The deadline for filing an amended return that claims a refund for the 1999 tax year is April 15, 2003.

The following information is taken from the guide:

Tax Exempt Payments

As resource families, most payments you receive are excluded from taxable income and are not reported on your tax return. These include

- cost of care reimbursements;
- specialized or difficulty of care payments;
- most other reimbursements from government or private non-profit child welfare agencies;
- child-only cash assistance (referred to in many states as “TANF” or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families); and
- Food Stamp Program.

Some payments are treated as taxable income, when a foster parent:

- cares for more than ten children;
- is paid to keep a bed available even if it is not used;
- operates a group home and is paid for his or her time;
- cares for more than five persons over the age of 19.

NEW in 2002: in previous years, payments from for-profit child welfare agencies were considered taxable. Effective in 2002, payments from for-profit child welfare agencies operating under contract with a state or local government agency are tax exempt to the same extent that payments from non-profit and government agencies are tax exempt.

If a foster parent receives taxable payments, the agency issues a Form 1099 to both the foster parent and the IRS. The gross income must be reported on the tax return. All expenses incurred in caring for the child are deducted to arrive at net income. For more information, see IRS Publication 587, *Business Use of Your Home*.

Adoption assistance payments and related subsidies for childcare or other special needs that are paid by government child welfare agencies for adopted children are also excluded from taxable income. These payments should not be reported on your tax return.

TIP: If a resource family receives a 1099 in error, contact the issuing agency and ask for a corrected 1099. Also, be sure to advise your tax advisor.

Dependency Exemption

Dependents of a taxpayer who meet a five-part test can be claimed as exemptions and listed on the front page of the tax return (Form 1040 or 1040A). The dependency exemption is worth \$3,000 for each depend-

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

ent, and can also trigger eligibility for other valuable tax benefits such as the child credit, the childcare credit, and education credits. Two of the five tests are most significant for resource families:

- **Relationship/living arrangement** – The dependent must be related to the taxpayer, OR must live in the taxpayer’s home for the entire year, January 1 – December 31. An adopted child is related to you. Note that temporary absences for summer camp, school, or even institutional care do not disrupt the child’s residence. Also, a child born during the year and placed in a home for the balance of the year meets the living arrangement requirement.

TIP: A foster child placed in your home for purposes of adoption by you is considered by the IRS to be an adopted child, even if the adoption is not finalized for a year or more. Therefore, the full year residence is not required in this situation.

- **Financial support** – The taxpayer must provide over half of the support for the person claimed as a dependent.

The support test can be a challenge, because all payments for cost of care reimbursement, all adoption assistance payments and TANF, SSI or other cash assistance count as support, but not support provided by the taxpayer.

Example: You receive \$400 per month (\$4,800 for the year) in cost of care reimbursement payments for one child. You must show that it cost at least \$9,601 to support that child (\$4,801 over and above the cost of care payments).

Despite this challenge, many moderate-income taxpayers can meet the support test. The IRS counts as “taxpayer support” a **pro-rata share of household expenses** including rental value of the home, food, transportation, utilities, etc., in addition to whatever expenses are incurred directly for the child’s care. IRS Publication 17 and IRS Publication 501 each have a useful worksheet to help calculate whether a taxpayer meets the support test.

Caution: Foster parents who claim a charitable deduction cannot use those expenses to meet the financial support test.

For more information, see IRS Publication 501, *Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information*.

Special note for resource caretakers who are single, or who are married but separated from your spouse: A child placed in your home who qualifies for a dependency exemption may help you qualify for Head of Household filing status, which will further reduce your tax liability. See IRS Publication 501 for more information.

The mission of HFPA is to educate, support and nurture caregivers, empowering them to provide quality care to children in Hawaii affected by foster care.

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The HFPA Bulletin is published quarterly by HFPA for foster parents, friends, and supporters of HFPA. It is made possible through grants and donations. Please send comments and change of address to:

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The comments of individuals are not necessarily those of HFPA.

HFPA is a non-profit organization registered with the Hawaii State Dept. of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

Sharing Information with the Foster Parent



In order to assist the foster parent in providing quality care to the children in out-of-home placement, the Department of Human Services (DHS) is to share with the foster parent important information concerning the child. Any information you are given is considered confidential and is not to be duplicated or shared with others without consent from the DHS.

The department is allowed to provide the foster parent with information such as, but not limited to, the child's psychological evaluations, medical and treatment reports, court reports, safe home guidelines, service plans, immunization records, educational reports, IEPs, and school documents.

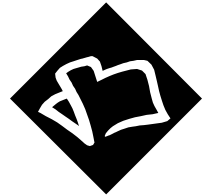
The department's Confidentiality Rule 17-920.1-8 (c)(8) allows for the sharing of case information with the foster parent, such as the Safe Family Home Report and the Family Service Plan. The rule states, *"The original record may be reviewed as provided for in this section, but copies of that record and other information shall be released at the discretion of the department or pursuant to a court order. Copies of the record and other information may be released, at the discretion of the department, to the following: A person including, but not lim-*

ited to, a guardian ad litem or foster parent, who is responsible for the welfare of the child named, with protection for the identity of reporters and other appropriate persons."

According to a department memo dated 2/12/02, staff members are to share at least one Family Service Plan in its entirety with the foster parents. In the event that you disagree with the social worker regarding the sharing of information, you may contact the supervisor to discuss in greater detail.

The DHS rules regarding this and other foster care and adoption topics may be found in the administrative rules of the Department of Human Services. You can take a look at them yourself on the Web. Here's how you get there: first, go to www.state.hi.us. Click on **Government in Hawaii**. When that page opens up, click on **Hawaii's Laws**. Next, click on **Administrative Rules**. Then, click on **Department of Human Services (Title 17-DHS)**. Scroll down to review the Administrative Rules you are interested in. The ones we referred to here can be found under 17-920.1.

Note from HFPA: Please feel free to call us at 263-0920 or toll-free at 1-877-775-4400 if you encounter any difficulties obtaining information you need in order to meet the needs of the child in your home.



I've learned that....

- ♥ *When you are in love, it shows.*
- ♥ *Just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.*
- ♥ *Being kind is more important than being right.*
- ♥ *You should never say no to a gift from a child.*
- ♥ *Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.*
- ♥ *Under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.*





Foster Parents Are to be Notified about Court Hearings

Q: Why should a foster parent go to court?

A: Foster parents should consider attending the court hearing for the following reasons:

- To provide information about the child in your care.
- To request information or services that you or the child are entitled to but that you have not been able to obtain outside of court.
- To be available to answer questions raised during the hearing about the child's progress and needs.
- To learn the progress of the case so that you can work more effectively toward reunification, planning for permanency, or caring for the child.
- To establish credibility with the judge so that you become a valued participant in the family court process.
- To demonstrate the importance you place on caring for the child.



Q: What are the foster parents' right regarding court hearings?

A: Foster parents have the legal right under Federal and/or State law to:

- Written notice of any review or hearing
- Notice no less than 48 hours before the hearing
- Notice by hand delivery, regular mail, or last court order
- Participate as a party, if party status has been requested and granted

Q: Should the foster parent submit a written report?

A: Foster parents are strongly encouraged to submit a written statement to court as well as to attend.

Written reports should

- be short (no more than 2-3 pages, double-spaced),
- be well organized,
- be typed or neatly handwritten, and
- include the child's name, birth date, and case number (referred to as the FC-S number)
- list the parties to whom you are sending a copy

The written report or letter should be provided at least a week and preferably two weeks before the hearing to the court, the social worker, the guardian *ad litem*, and the parents' attorney, if you know who that is. Bring multiple copies to the court hearing in case someone didn't receive their copy. Remember that no information may be given to the judge that isn't shared with all the parties.

Submitting your written information to court is done slightly differently on each island.

- On Oahu (First Circuit), you may fax it to the attention of the court officer in Juvenile Intake at **539-4402** or mail it to: **Juvenile Intake, ATTN: name of court officer, P.O. Box 3498, Honolulu, HI 96811-3498.**
- On Kauai (Fifth Circuit), fax your report to 246-3367 or mail it to: **The Honorable Calvin Murashige, Family Court of the Fifth Circuit, 3059 Umi St., Room 201, Lihue, HI 96766.**
- In East and West Hawaii (Third Circuit), send the report to the guardian *ad litem* and the social worker, requesting that they attach the entire report to their report to the court. Currently, the court does not have a mechanism for the foster parent to send the report directly. At the court hearing, be sure to confirm with the judge that he received your report.
- On Maui, mail the report to: **Court Officer, ATTN: Marsha Yamada, 2145 Main Street, Suite 226, Wailuku, HI 96793.**

Please feel free to call HFPA at 263-0920 or toll-free at 877-775-4400 to comment on your experiences with the court process on your island.

Scholarship Opportunities for Youth in or formerly in Foster Care

The **Hawaii Community Foundation** is accepting scholarship applications for the 2003-2004 academic year. Applicants must be residents of Hawaii attending an accredited two- or four-year college or university here or on the mainland. There are many scholarships available.



courses, including GED. Visit their website at www.nfpainc.org or request for an application from: **NFPA Scholarship Committee, 7512 Stanich Ave., #6, Gig Harbor, WA 98335**. Scholarship applications must be returned or postmarked by March 31st.



The **Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation** offers scholarships that are of direct interest to the foster care community. The Geist scholarship provides financial assistance for students who are permanently separated from their parents and who are currently or were formerly in the foster care system. A letter of confirmation from a social worker or foster parent is required. There is no minimum GPA requirement and no deadline, so you can apply at any time.

Casey Family Scholars/Orphan Foundation (open to non-Casey youth, too)

This program awards between \$1,500 and \$10,000 a year to students pursuing a two- or four-year degree or vocational training certificate. In addition to financial aid for tuition and living expenses, the program provides an online mentor or education coach as well as individualized "care packages" throughout the school year. To be eligible, applicants must be under the age of 25 and currently be in foster care or have been in foster care for more than a year at the time of their 18th birthday or high school graduation. Application deadline is April 15, 2003. See the Orphan Foundation Web site for complete eligibility information and application guidelines at www.orphan.org or call **571-203-0270**.

Ho'omaka Hou Scholarships are for students who have turned their lives around after facing social problems (i.e. substance abuse, domestic violence). Students must demonstrate financial need and enroll in a degree-seeking or certification program in Hawaii. Applications are accepted



year-round but applicants are strongly encouraged to apply no later than March 1 to meet fall semester payment deadlines.

For the scholarships listed above, please call (808) 566-5570 or toll-free (888) 731-3863 for an application, or visit HCF's website at www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org

Hildegard Lash Merit Scholarship (<http://www.orphan.org/programs/hildegard.html>)

\$5,000 per academic year, available to students who are currently in foster care or were in foster care at the time of their high school graduation and/or 18th birthday, who are entering their sophomore, junior or senior year as a full-time student at a four year college or university. For more information please contact scholarships@orphan.org.



Other Scholarships and Loans for Youth in Care

The **National Foster Parent Association** (NFPA) offers scholarships for foster youth who wish to further their education beyond high school, including college or university studies, vocational and job training, and correspondence

Burtrez Morrow Educational Loan Program (<http://www.orphan.org/programs/burtrez.html>)

Low-interest loans for young women currently in foster care or in foster care at the time of their high school graduation. Recipients must also be enrolled full-time at a four-year college or university and entering their junior or senior year in college. For more information please contact scholarships@orphan.org.

Summary of Services & Support Available to Foster Parents (some specific to Oahu)

*This is a summary of supports & services that may be available to help you and your foster child. Much of this information is taken directly from the DHS Procedures Manual. If you need more information about any particular item, call your licensing worker. Availability of any item listed is subject to change. (Note: Payments are issued by the Child's Social Worker, **not** the licensing Social Workers)*

SERVICE or SUPPORT	DESCRIPTION
After hours pager number-- 832-5300	For after-hours, weekend and holiday emergencies, call the pager to reach a social worker on-call.
A+ Program	Foster children may qualify for a reduced A+ fee. Discuss the need for after school care with the child's social worker.
Assistance for Private School Tuition for Foster Children	Check with your social worker & GAL before you start process of changing schools for your child. Check if the private school you are looking at has Weinberg scholarship funds, as foster children often qualify.
Casework Services to Foster Parents	Foster parents shall receive support from the child's social worker and the licensing social workers. Casework services include information about the child's history, on-going support and regular visits by social workers, information on all court hearings, training, etc.
Clothing Allowance	Child below 6 years old - \$300 per year maximum Child below 12 years old - \$400 per year maximum Child 12 & older - \$500 per year maximum Contact the child's social worker BEFORE purchasing any clothing.
Clothing for special circumstances/ events	An additional amount up to \$125 can be issued in excess of the above amounts if the child needs clothing for special events such as proms or for sports uniforms, etc. Contact the child's social worker BEFORE purchasing any clothing.
Counseling Services	Contact the child's social worker if you feel your foster child may need counseling help. Also, work closely with the child's therapist because he or she may be able to help you cope with and understand the child's behaviors and needs.
Difficulty of Care Payments	You may qualify for extra money if your foster child needs a higher level of care. For example, the child may need additional daily care & supervision because of physical, mental, emotional or behavioral problems. Upon placement, the foster child's social worker should discuss this option with you or you can ask the social worker about it at any time if you feel that your foster child may qualify.
Driver's license for foster youths	The Department does not allow foster youth to obtain a driver's license because it will not assume any liability. (<i>Reference: 7/25/00 ICF</i>)
Enhancement Funds from the Friends of the Children's Advocacy Center or Friends of Foster Kids	Child victims of abuse and neglect may qualify for grants to buy special items that cannot be provided by the Department or others. For example, grants have been given for a child to attend camp, sports and school functions, airfare for family vacations, etc. The child's social worker, VGAL or other professional may submit a request on the child's behalf.
Foster Board Payments for Foster Children in Higher Education	If a foster child wishes to attend an institution of higher education, foster board payments may continue until the child is 22 years old. Discuss this with the child's social worker.

Foster Parent Information Handbook	Review your foster parent handbook for basic information. Call your licensing worker if you have any questions.
Foster Parent Support Groups	For a Windward support group (Parent Connections Support Group), call Nani Burgess or Linda Thomas at Maunawili School, 266-7822 .
Foster Parent Workshops	You will be notified of foster parent workshops and all foster parents are encouraged to attend. HFPA sponsors an annual foster care conference on Oahu.
Free School Lunch	Foster children qualify for the free lunch program at the public schools. Ask the child's social worker if an application has been submitted for your foster child. You can fill out the form provided by the school.
Group Activity Fee	Fees can be paid for community organized GROUP activities that have been determined by you and the child's social worker as necessary for the foster child's growth and development.
Hawaii Foster Parent Association (HFPA)	The HFPA is an independent non-profit organization whose mission is to educate, support and nurture caregivers, empowering them to provide quality care to children in Hawaii affected by foster care. Call them at 263-0920 or 877-775-4400 for more information.
Independent Living Services	The social worker of a child 12 years old and older shall refer the child for appropriate independent living services. Contact the child's social worker for more information about the services that are available through this program.
Liability Insurance	A foster parent liability insurance policy provides protection in the event that the foster child accidentally injures others or damages the property of others for which you could be sued for negligence. It also covers libel, slander, defamation or alienation of affection of a foster child from the birth parents.
Medical Care for Foster Children	Foster children are covered by the State's Quest & Medicaid programs and you should receive a medical card for each child. If you haven't received a medical card but the child needs a prescription filled, contact the child's social worker. Caution: if you pay cash for any medical or dental services or for prescriptions, you might not be reimbursed.
Medical Treatments for Foster Family	Up to \$500 per incident or \$500 per person may be approved when cleaning supplies or special immunizations, testing or treatment is needed to ensure the foster family's well being. For example, if a foster child was found to have hepatitis B following placement with a foster family, the Department may pay to have the foster family members tested, immunized and/or treated for hepatitis B.
Mileage Reimbursement	If you transport your foster child to school because free bus transportation is not available, you may be reimbursed at the current rate of 37 cents per mile. You may also be reimbursed for taking the child to medical or dental appointments, therapy appointments, etc.
Payment for Child Care (Preschool or babysitter)	Discuss childcare needs with your foster child's social worker. Child care costs for foster children may be paid by the Maximus Child Care Connections (483-7340) or Preschool Open Doors (587-5354) when funds are available .
Respite Care (Dept. of Human Services)	DHS can give you extra money to pay someone to care for your foster child if you need a break. The number of days allowed per child & the amount per day is determined annually. Call your licensing worker for general information & call the child's social worker to request respite funds.
WIC Program	Foster children less than 5 years old may qualify for nutritious foods, health care referrals, nutrition education, etc. Call the WIC Program at 586-8175 .

News from the Neighbor Islands

Fair Wind Cruises plays Santa

by Shelly Johnson



On December 15th, families with foster children in West Hawaii enjoyed an early Christmas present. The Fair Wind Cruises put together an afternoon snorkel trip at Kealakekua Bay. The children and youth had fun with inner tube races, the water slide, cannonball competition, and jumping off the high dive. A wonderful lunch was provided for all aboard. We even got to see a whale on the return trip. Towels, caps, t-shirts or bears were given out to all the children and youth on board. Everybody had a wonderful trip.



Foster families enjoy an afternoon snorkeling trip on the Fair Wind in West Hawaii.

Maui News

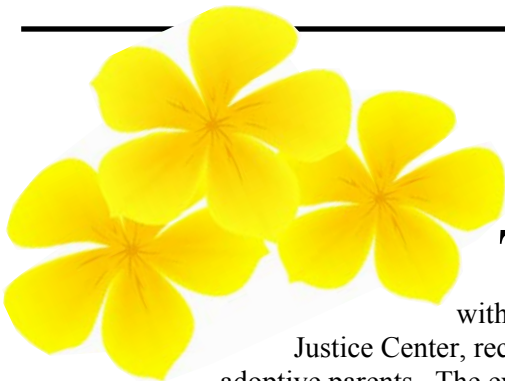
by Scott Seto

The Maui Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the Hanai Coalition and the Maui Friends of the Children's Justice Center, recently held its 4th Annual Appreciation Luncheon for foster and adoptive parents. The event was held at the Maui Tropical Plantations restaurant in beautiful Waikapu Valley. Approximately 35 foster/adoptive parents attended, along with various community guests.

Attorney John J. Baker gave a short presentation regarding guardians *ad litem* and their role in Family Court CPS cases. Mercedes Neir of the Office of the Mayor Alan Arakawa presented certificates of merit to the foster parents and thanked them for all that they do for abused and neglected children on Maui.

Our guest speaker was Mervlyn Kitashima, who spoke about children being "at promise" rather than "at risk." Weaving her personal story into her message of hope and resiliency, she brought tears of empathy as well as tears of laughter to the audience.

Watch for information about a training in May regarding higher education with speakers from Upward Bound and the Educational Opportunities Program at Maui Community College.



From the Heart



Our thanks to all the wonderful friends who have provided support to HPPA this past quarter.

It is your support that enables us to meet our mission to educate, support and nurture caregivers, empowering them to provide quality care to children in Hawaii affected by foster care. We couldn't do it without you!

Partner—\$1,000+

Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
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In honor of Naomi and Luis Mena

Builder--\$500-\$999

John and Sarah Casken

Sustainer--\$100-\$499

R. Mark Browning
Dana and Orlando Davidson

Supporter—up to \$99

Ruth Baldino

In honor of Elizabeth Casken

Joshua and April DeFreitas

Teresita Eleno

Terry and Donna Farley

Paul and Jodi Henkels

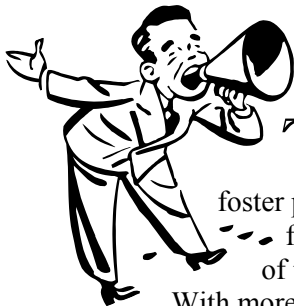
John and Feona Kahooohanohano

Sheba Kahunanui

Winona Rubin

Judith A. Schevtchuk, Esq.

Michael Troy



UPDATE ON DHS RESPITE FUNDS

The Department of Human Services has made available \$116,367 in respite funds for foster parents for the fiscal year from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. Over 70% of those funds have been spent as of February 5, 2003, though Kauai and Maui still have over 50% of their funds available.

With more than 1600 DHS foster parents, your cooperation is requested to ensure equitable use of the limited remaining funds. Please take this into consideration when submitting your request and please know that you might not be reimbursed for your total respite amount once the funds run out.

To access these funds, find a provider whom you believe can provide a safe, nurturing environment for the child. Please note that you do **not** need to use a licensed home. Call your caseworker with the name and phone number of your respite provider and the dates you need respite. You do not need to request respite funds for all the days you are gone. Just request for the days you will be paying at the respite rate of \$25/day.

Island	Amount Allotted	Amount used by February 5, 2003	Amount remaining until June 30, 2003
Oahu	\$65,367	\$50,330	\$15,037
West Hawaii	\$17,000	\$12,045	\$4,955
Maui	\$9,000	\$3,450	\$5,550
East Hawaii	\$17,000	\$11,640	\$5,360
Kauai	\$8,000	\$3,890	\$4,110
Total	\$116,367	\$81,355	\$35,012

Mailbag



Thank you for all your great information!

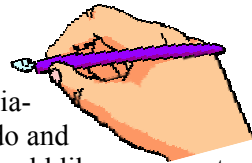
*E. Santos-Vida
foster parent*

We just want to thank all of you for all the time and energy put into the annual HFPA conference. Jim and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The instructors/speakers did well, opening our eyes and hearts to all the possibilities. And we're now ready to jump back on the horse and continue the healing process for our children. It is always so helpful to hear different aspects of the issues we deal with day to day, and realize progress can be and is possible.

*S. and J. Walsh
foster parents*

I want to thank you and the Hawaii Foster Parent Association for all the good work you do and the love that you give. I also would like to thank you on behalf of Project Visitation for the Starfish Award. I cannot tell you how much it means to me for Project Visitation to be acknowledged by the Hawaii Foster Parent Association. The Project has received kudos from other groups but none has been more meaningful than the Starfish Award.

*R. Mark Browning
District Family Court Judge*



In recognition of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association's service to the children of Hawaii, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Incorporated is pleased to contribute \$10,000 to support the continuation of services to foster parents caring for poor and needy children. On behalf of all the Trustees of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Incorporated, best wishes for the continued success of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association and your Weinberg Fellow Sarah Casken.

*The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Foundation, Incorporated*



HFPA President Michael Troy, Weinberg Fellows Program Trainer Helen Varner, and HFPA Executive Director Sarah Casken at the AIM Awards luncheon.

If someone listens, or stretches out a hand, or whispers a kind word of encouragement, or attempts to understand a lonely person, extraordinary things begin to happen



Loretta Girzatlis

Hawaii Foster Parent Association, PMB 261, 111 Hekili St., Suite A, Kailua, HI 96734
 Phone: (808) 263-0920 Fax: (808) 263-0921

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Yes, I want to support quality foster care for Hawaii's children. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

- \$35 \$75 Other \$ _____
 \$50 \$125

Payment Method:

- Check enclosed

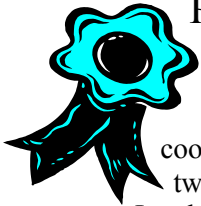
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- My company will match my gift—the necessary form is enclosed.
 Yes, please send me the next four quarterly newsletters, mailed directly from the HFPA office.

❖ **This gift will be acknowledged in the HFPA Bulletin unless requested otherwise.**

In accordance with IRS regulations, your gift to the Hawaii Foster Parent Association is fully tax-deductible.



Prize-winning Cookie Recipe



Foster parent **Renee Silva** was recently featured in the Honolulu Advertiser for her prize-winning cookie recipe in a contest sponsored by Kakaako Kitchen. She won 2nd place, which gives her a dinner for two at 3660 on the Rise. Congratulations!

In addition to sharing her recipe with us, she offered these words of advice, “If you don’t enter, you don’t win.” She enters many contests each year and says the key is to just keep entering. At any rate, this cookie recipe is a winner.

Cracker Cookies

- 1 package saltines (or enough to cover the bottom of a cookie sheet with sides)
- 1 cup butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 12- to 16-ounce package chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts



Preheat oven to 345 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with foil (*important for easy clean-up*). Place the cracker squares side by side until you have covered the bottom of the pan.

Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat, then add sugar. Stir to dissolve sugar. Pour over saltines. Bake 11 to 12 minutes, until light brown.

Remove and immediately sprinkle evenly with chocolate chips. Wait 3 to 4 minutes, until chips melt, then spread chocolate evenly over crackers. Sprinkle with nuts. Refrigerate 1 to 2 hours, then break into pieces and ENJOY!



**Hawaii
Foster Parent
Association**

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Inside This Issue	
Federal Tax Benefits for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers	1-2
Sharing Information with Foster Parents	3
Notification about Court Hearings	4
Scholarship and Funding Opportunities for Youth	5
Summary of Services and Supports for Foster Parents	6-7
Neighbor Island News	8
Respite Funds; From the Heart	9
Mailbag	10
Donations; Prize-winning Cookie Recipe	11

**Mark Your Calendar for
October 3 and 4, 2003**

About the time you receive this newsletter, there will be less than 200 days until this year's annual foster care conference, scheduled for October 3 and 4, 2003.

We have had a wonderful response to our Call for Proposals and are lining up an exciting schedule of dynamic and informative speakers, locally and from the mainland.

Topics on our tentative list of workshops include grief and trauma, conflict resolution through wisdom of native cultures, reactive attachment disorder, responding to sexual abuse, drugs and music in teenager's lives, the adoption process, transitions, and many other topics.

We are pleased to be bringing Denise Goodman back for an encore presentation, based on the overwhelming positive response last year. She provides reality-based suggestions in a presentation style that has us laughing and learning at the same time. We also look forward to a keynote presentation by the powerful voices of the foster youth who presented last year in a smaller workshop setting.

So, mark your calendar for October 3 and 4 and start the countdown for the 8th Annual HFPA Conference.