



HFPA Board Supports “Best Interests of the Child” Standard in Decision-making

Daniel Ziegler, Board President

There has been an outpouring of community concern about the safety and well-being of children in foster care because of recently posted DHS directives requiring social workers to recommend kin for placement and using Safe Home Family Guideline (which was intended only for determining basic safety of the parents’ home) as the “best interests” standard for placing children with relatives. One expression of this concern by some community members was the submission of several bills in the legislature. HFPA chose to support the intent of these bills, in an attempt to move the standard for decision-making back to the best interests of the child.

HFPA’s Position

- DHS should make a diligent search for qualified, interested relatives at the beginning of a case, not 1, 2 or even 3 years later. Once fit and willing relatives are identified, there should be a thorough assessment prior to placement, not the presumption that if it’s a relative, it must be ok and the

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QUESTIONS JUDGES AND LAWYERS SHOULD ASK CONCERNING PLACEMENT

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges provides cutting-edge training, wide-ranging technical assistance, and research to help the nation's courts, judges and staff in their important work. The following is from a Technical Brief published in 2002. You can review the entire article on-line at www.pppncjfcj.org. The checklist below regarding placement clearly states the importance of a stable, nurturing, protective, environment as well as the value of special training and treatment services.

Are all efforts being made to keep the child in one consistent placement?

An adverse prenatal environment, parental depression or stress, drug exposure, malnutrition, neglect, abuse, or physical or emotional trauma can negatively impact a child’s subsequent development. Therefore, it is essential that all children, especially young children, are able to live in a nurturing, supportive, and stimulating environment.¹ It is crucial to try to keep children in one, consistent, supportive placement so that they can develop positive, secure attachment relationships.



To develop into a psychologically healthy human being, a child must have a relationship with an adult who is nurturing, protective, and fosters trust and security. Attachment to a primary caregiver is essential to the development of emotional security and social conscience.²

What happens during the first months and years of life matters a lot, not because this period of development provides an indelible blueprint for adult well-being, but because it sets either a sturdy or fragile stage for what follows.³

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My Advice to Foster Parents

by Jackie Hammers-Crowell © 2005

Jackie Hammers spent 10 years in Iowa’s foster care system. Since aging out in 1999, she has become a Department of Human Services volunteer, involved herself with the Iowa Youth Connections Council, and worked to raise awareness about the ongoing need for foster and adoptive parents. Jackie has also completed Iowa’s PS-MAPP training for foster parents and plans to receive her foster care license this summer.

I firmly believe that the hardest and most rewarding job in the world is parenting. Fortunately, with birth children, parents at least know where their children have been and what they have gone through. All too often, however, foster and adoptive parents count themselves lucky just to know what vaccinations their child has had and the names of a few birth relatives.

Foster and adoptive parents can and should get information about children in their care. Social workers, birth family members, and former foster parents all hold puzzle pieces of that child’s life. Though none is likely to know everything about a child, each has the potential to provide valuable tidbits and offer support to the child later in life.

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child must be moved right away. This assessment should take into account the best interests of the child, including safety, health and well-being. This assessment should also look at the capacity and willingness of the family to meet the child's long-term needs.

- While research tells us a lot about kinship care, it does not provide evidence that kinship care is always best for a child. We certainly have not seen research that supports the removal of children from stable non-relative homes as a matter of policy. Also, the country's leading researchers agree that their work does not support a premise that kinship placement as a matter of policy is better for a child.
- Attachment theory research shows that the secure attachment of a child to a primary caregiver plays an undeniably important role in a child's development. Also, research on resiliency does not support the department's suggestion that multiple attachments are the basis for the development of resiliency.
- It is our clear understanding that Federal law encourages consideration of kinship care placement, but by no means requires it and funding will not be lost if the Department utilizes a best interests standard in decision-making.
- HFPA believes this position to be pro-child, not anti-family. We agree that placing foster children in good, stable relative homes can be the first and best option when it is done promptly and without undue pressure to place with relatives. We are committed to seeing relative caregivers succeed—that is why we have developed and administer the best foster parent training in the State, specifically for relative caregivers.
- Ultimately, we believe that there is no magic bullet—kin or non-kin—and that cases must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration that particular child, history, relative situation, current placement, etc. Case-by-case review should be the rule, *not* the exception, as it is under current Department policy.



To learn more, check out these references:

Forced Separations and Forced Reunions in the Foster Care System

This article, from the July 2005 *Zero to Three: National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families* journal, emphasizes the importance of understanding the emotional needs of infants and toddlers when making decisions about placement. The importance of attachment to a primary caregiver is discussed. "The longer a child has been cared for in a safe, nurturing relationship, the more compelling the reasons would have to be to remove him or her from a positive environment (whoever is the caregiver) to return to another caregiver; to do so would undermine the infant's rights to security, self-esteem, and the capacity for intimacy." (p. 38). The article in its entirety can be found at www.hawaiifosterparent.org, Articles, Legislative Issues 2006.

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The Hawaii Foster Parent Association nurtures and provides education, resources and support to foster and adoptive families. HFPA is also an independent and responsible voice that advocates for improving the system of care for foster children.

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The HFPA Bulletin is published quarterly by HFPA for foster and adoptive parents, legal guardians, service providers, friends and supporters of HFPA. It is made possible through grants and donations.

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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.

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Attachment 101 for Attorneys: Implications for Infant Placement Decisions

Eleanor Willemsen, *Santa Clara University*; Kristen Marcel, *Professional School of Psychology, Fresno, California*
 According to this article, "when we deliberately remove a very young child from the only home he or she has ever known, we move that child into the group of children who mentally represent close relationships as untrustworthy. In other words, when the state places any child at risk of failing at human connection, we are effecting an irreparable harm." (p. 16). We invite you to read this article for an informed understanding about the concept of attachment and the challenges facing the courts.
<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/other/lawreview/attachment101.html>
 or www.hawaiifosterparent.org, Articles, Legislative Issues 2006.

Kinship Care: Making the Most of a Valuable Resource, edited by Rob Geen, *Urban Institute*


Since the early 1980s, states child welfare agencies' use of relatives as foster parents has grown rapidly, yet little information is available on this practice. This lack of information has made it difficult to evaluate how well kinship care ensures children's safety, promotes permanency in their living situation, and enhances their well-being—three basic goals of the child welfare system. *Kinship Care: Making the Most of a Valuable Resource* sheds light on this changing issue. The first chapter of this book can be accessed at the <http://www.urban.org/pubs/KinshipCare/chapter1.html>

Kinship family foster care: a methodological and substantive synthesis of research

Gary S. Cuddeback, *University of Tennessee*
 "There is evidence that kinship foster families have fewer resources and receive less training, services, and support, as well as concern that kinship families are less qualified to foster than their non-kinship counterparts. However, the kinship literature has methodological limitations and significant gaps that restrict our knowledge. Therefore, it is important to synthesize substantive finding and methodological limitations in an attempt to evaluate what we know about kinship family foster care as a child welfare service, and such an evaluation can shape practice, policy, and research." The article in its entirety can be found at www.hawaiifosterparent.org, Articles, Legislative Issues 2006.

Kinship Care Report to Congress, June 2000

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 directed the Secretary of HHS to develop this report to Congress. Part I reviews the academic and related research literature on kinship care, including what is known about current practices in the use of relatives as foster parents. Part II is the Secretary's Report to Congress, which presents the Department's conclusions and recommendations based on the Advisory Panel's input, on internal deliberations, and on available research and data. The report can be found at www.hawaiifosterparent.org, Articles, Legislative Issues 2006. It is also available on the Internet at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/kinr2c00/index.htm>



When the Policy Doesn't Work

We would like to alert workers and foster parents to the DHS clarification of the procedure in place to be used when a worker believes it is in the best interests of the child to recommend something other than placement with or a move to a relative. This procedure can be used for other issues in which the worker advocates for something other than the stated policy. This process is described in a DHS clarification that can be viewed on-line at www.hawaiifosterparent.org, Articles, Legislative Issues 2006.

We welcome the process for exception described in the clarification but believe the ability to make case-by-case decisions regarding the best interests of the child should be the rule rather than the exception.

Why?

Why do I love my mom?
 She's really cool
 Awesome
 Always been there
 Lets me enjoy life
 Takes care of me
 Listens to me
 Watches over me
 Adopted me
 That's why I love my mom!

I love you mom. Thank you for being such a good parent. I love you!

Written by
 former foster child



Maui CWS Celebrates Foster Parents at Luncheon

Scott Seto, DHS Supervisor

Maui Child Welfare Services celebrated its 7th Annual Foster Parent Appreciation luncheon at the Maui Tropical Plantation Restaurant in Waikapu. Nearly 100 people attended this event, including adoptive parents, legal guardians and therapeutic foster parents. Representatives from various Maui community agencies also attended, including the Maui Police Department, the About Face and Community All-stars Program, the Neighborhood Place of Wailuku, The Maui Friends of the Children's Justice Center, Maui Youth and Family Services, Hawaii Behavioral Health, Maui Foster Parent Association, Maui Family Court, Department of Education, Maui Mayor Arakawa's office and the Maui Prosecutor's Office.

A presentation by Jerry Sheppard and Timothy Tate from the Prosecutor's Office provided information on the Juvenile justice system and internet safety for keiki. Adele Rugg from the Mayor's office



Scott Yoshida, DHS Foster Licensing; Kim Bowlin, foster parent of the year; and Scott Seto, DHS Supervisor.



Donna and George Arcangel, DHS foster parents, enjoy the luncheon celebrating foster parents.

presented foster parents with certificates of recognition signed by Mayor Arakawa. A special certificate of recognition signed by the Maui Section Administrator was presented to Kim Bowlin, foster parent, for her dedication and assistance in participating with the Hanai Coalition of Maui. Social Services assistant Ramon Garcia provided entertainment by enchanting the crowd with karaoke serenades.

Congratulations to the Pestana and Barberos families, each of whom won brand new mountain bikes donated by the Maui Friends of the Children's Justice Center and grand prize winner Pam Newton who won a \$100 Outback Steak House gift certificate. This event was made possible by the support and contributions of the Rolfing Foundation, Maui Art Gallery, Maui Friends of the Children's Justice Center and Michelle Christensen, Lisa Belongie and Scott Yoshida of the Maui Child Welfare Services, Special Services Unit.

Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions

North American Council on Adoptable Children

Beginning in tax year 2003, families adopting a child with special needs from foster care were allowed access to this tax credit without needing to document expenses. For tax year 2005, the tax credit is \$10,630 per child and you have this year and up to the next five years in which to use it. For families that adopted in 2002 or earlier, you can only claim the credit against expenses you paid related to the adoption process. For detailed information, go to http://www.nacac.org/pub_taxcredit.html. Also, you can contact NACAC at 651-644-3036.

My Advice to Foster Parents

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I joined my first foster family at age eight. By then I had a pretty good idea of who I was and where I came from. I could tell my foster parents a lot of things about myself and my experiences. At the same time, though, there were things I could not tell them, either because I did not know or because I was afraid to speak up. Now that I am nearly a foster parent, I would like to share some things I wish my foster parents had known.

- You cannot and do not need to replace the parents who came before you. My birth mom and each of my foster parents hold unique places in my heart, even to this day. The foster parents of my second placement, who took me back for my sixth placement, earned the special title of Mom and Dad by being there for me and parenting the best they could with what they knew at the time. They were not perfect, but they loved me and never tried to compete with my mom or any of my past foster parents.
- Do not break a child's spirit just to make her more docile. The outspoken nature of some foster children is a sign of intelligence and confidence, and they will need these tools to make it through foster care emotionally intact. At some point in time, children may have to advocate for themselves because of incompetent professionals or abusive adults in their lives. One thing I could have used as I tried to leave a bad placement at 15 was the big mouth I had at 10. Unfortunately, it took me years to get back to that level of self-advocacy after being taught that I would get along better if I just kept my mouth shut.
- Foster kids think about moving all the time. If they are happy, they worry that they will be moved. If they are unhappy, they think about asking to be moved or running away. When I was in care, I felt that everything was contingent upon

where I would be when things happened. For example, I never let myself get excited about family vacations until just before they happened because in the back of my mind I knew I might move by then.



- Children have opinions about services they receive. Listen to what they say, even if you do not agree. I once had a psychologist who fell asleep during sessions, but no one listened when I said I did not want to go to appointments until my foster dad witnessed one of the catnaps for himself.
- Foster children are who they are. Instead of trying to turn a child into someone else, encourage each child to be—and be proud of—the best person he or she can be. One of the ways my foster parents did this was to tell me how smart I was and that I could go to college if I wanted. Though they would have liked me to get into sports, they learned that I was a brainiac and came to embrace that.
- Children need to identify talents and be something special. Help them find what they are good at. As a foster child, my biggest fear was not that I would be bad at something, but that I would be good at it and then have to move to a family who would not let me do what I loved. One of the greatest services anyone ever did for me was to point out my talent as a writer. It was a gift no one could take away or stop me from developing.
- Kids who live in a foster home together become close. Denying a child the opportunity to see their foster siblings is one of the most hurtful things the system can do. There is seldom an excuse for it and when it happened to me, I felt the foster parents were only trying to hurt me. Consequently, I chose to never have contact with those parents again.
- Your foster child is just a kid and kids will make mistakes. Like all children, foster kids need to know that you will still love them when they mess up. This does not mean there aren't consequences; it just means you will forgive them. Never assume they know this. Even after 10 years and dozens of trials, it is always good to hear it again.
- After foster children leave, they will not forget you or anything that happened in your home. If you loved a child and gave her good memories, she will recall that later. By the same token, if you hurt a child, do not expect that he will forget and be unfazed by it later. Childhood memories follow us all and shape who we are as adults. This is no different for children in foster care.
- When foster children become adults, they are not under your control anymore. The things you teach them in the mean time, however, are crucial. While it is important to teach your foster children practical things like how to keep a clean home and manage money, it is more important still to convey lessons about accountability, forgiveness, love, and respect. You can do that by being accountable for your own actions, forgiving their mistakes, and showing them—and the rest of your family—love and respect.

Though every foster parent I lived with made his or her share of mistakes, I am grateful each day that they chose to become foster parents. Had I not had places to call home, or people who facilitated good medical care and encouraged me to pursue good grades, I might never have finished high school, let alone gone on to college and earned a degree.

I want to thank every foster parent who reads this for continuing to suffer the heartache that goes along with helping children in foster care. As one of those children, let me just say that your efforts can make a world of difference.

Spring 2005, Adoptalk, published by the North American Council on Adoptable Children, 651-644-3036, www.nacac.org.

Questions to Ask *(Continued from page 1)*

Is the child placed with caregivers knowledgeable about the social and emotional needs of infants and toddlers in out-of-home placements, especially young children who have been abused, exposed to violence, or neglected?

Do the caregivers have access to information and support related to the child's unique needs?

Are the foster parents able to identify problem behaviors in the child and seek appropriate services?

Childhood abuse increases the odds of future delinquency and adult criminality by 40 percent.⁴ Maltreated infants and toddlers are at risk for insecure attachment, poor self-development, and psychopathology.⁵ Children in out-of-home placements often exhibit a variety of problems which may be beyond the skills of persons without special knowledge or training. Therefore, foster parents need and should receive information about the child's history and needs as well as appropriate training.⁶ Early interventions are key to minimizing the long-term and permanent effects of traumatic events on the developing brain and on behavioral and emotional development. It is imperative that caregivers seek treatment for their foster children

and themselves as soon as possible.⁷

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics, Developmental issues for young children in foster care. *Pediatrics*, Vol.106, No. 5, pp.1145-1150. November 2000. American Academy of Pediatrics, Health care of young children in foster care. *Pediatrics*, Vol.109, No.3 pp. 536-541. March 2002.

² Ibid.

³ Shonkoff, J. P. and Phillips, D. A., From Neurons to Neighborhoods: Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. 2000.

⁴ Widom, C.S., The role of placement experiences in mediating the criminal consequences of early childhood victimization. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 61 (2), pp. 195-209. 1991.

⁵ Widom, C.S., Motivations and mechanisms in the "cycle of violence." In D. Hansen (Ed.), *Motivation and child maltreatment: Nebraska*

⁶ National Foster Parent Association, Board manual: Goals, objectives, position statements, and by-laws. Gig Harbor, Washington. 1999.

⁷ Carnegie Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children, Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of our Youngest Children. New York, NY, Carnegie Corporation. 1994.

This excerpt is taken from "Questions Every Judge and Lawyer Should Ask about Infants and Toddlers in the Child Welfare System," published by the National Council of Juvenile and Judges, Reno, 2002, National Juvenile and Court Judges. reserved.



Federal Tax Benefits for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers

The Casey Family Programs produced an excellent booklet in 2003, **"Federal Tax Benefits for Foster and Adoptive Parents and Kinship Caregivers."** As far as we know, there is not an updated version. However, you may still find the document to be useful. It covers information regarding tax-exempt payments, dependency exemptions, earned income tax credit, charitable deductions, adoption tax credit, child tax credit, and special rules for legal guardians, as well as other information.

You can download it at our website at www.hawaiiosterparent.org, click on Articles, Financial. Or go to <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/2003FederalTaxBenefits.htm> You should give a copy of this booklet to your tax advisor, and discuss whether you qualify for any of the benefits discussed. Also, check out IRS Publication 501, *Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information* found on the web at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p501.pdf>.



Child Specific Foster Parent Training

The Hawaii Foster Parent Association recently completed its fifth year of providing Child Specific Foster Parent Training classes. This past year represented a dramatic increase in the number of classes offered, thanks to funding from the Department of Human Services. Classes have been offered on all the main islands and on a regular basis in Waianae, Pearl City, Waimanalo and other Oahu locations.

Foster parents have made the following comments about the 15-hour series of classes:

- Very well presented. Very knowledgeable, very well experienced and professional. I sure gained a lot even though I was reluctant to come as being a grandmother with experience. However, we are never too old to learn. Wonderful!
- The training was so good and easy to understand that I feel all parents should go thru this. If I knew what I learned today, I would have been a better parent with my own children. Thank you.
- I am so glad that it's mandatory to attend this class.
- Did not feel I needed to attend but was wrong. I learned and grew by attending.
- Very informational. I always looked forward to classes. So much info. Left me talking the whole week about what I learned. My boyfriend asked, are you happy it's your last class? I say No! I'm sad!
- Thank you for making this the week that my grandson will benefit from for his entire life.
- This was a wonderful experience. I will recommend the class to those who are thinking about foster care.
- Thank you for the time, input and concern you have for us. Prior to this class I felt like I was lost in the dark with this whole foster parent concept. At least now it feels like I have a floodlight to help find my way.

Because of changes being made by DHS, these next few months may be the last Child Specific classes HFPA will be offering. Please call Barbara at **261-9569** or Candy at **306-4520** to sign up now. Also, if any child specific foster parents would like to take a refresher class, just call to let Barb or Candy know which topic you want to sit in on.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

Nanakuli

Kamehameha Schools

February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11
9:00 am - 12:00

Pearl City

Leeward Community Church

February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Nanakuli

Kamehameha Schools

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
9:00 am - 12:00

Honolulu

Queen's Medical Center

April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm



Heart Gallery Project Explored in Hawaii



Children who have been left in State care are partnering with photographers and volunteers to find a place to call “home” through a Heart Gallery exhibit. Heart Gallery exhibits feature children that want adoptive homes. Volunteer professional photographers take beautiful, insightful, and even humorous museum-quality portraits that are displayed in art galleries and community centers to raise awareness about their needs. On November 1, 2005 the first National Heart Gallery exhibit opened in Washington, DC.

The Heart Gallery project started in New Mexico in 2001 to raise awareness about adoption and find homes for older children and sibling groups in protective custody with the state. Former recruitment supervisor (and former volunteer for HFPA when she lived in Hawaii) Ellie Ortiz thought creative, beautiful portraits of the children taken by professional photographers would present children in a way that would speak to people and show the personality

of the child. The project was implemented by Diane Granito when she was hired as a grassroots recruiter. Diane’s first step, after naming the project, was to approach a local gallery to host the exhibit. Over 1,000 attended the opening of the exhibit featuring stirring photographs of children waiting to find permanent, loving homes.

Over 40 states have created or are in the process of creating a Heart Gallery exhibit. According to reports, many children who are normally difficult to place have found families as a direct result of these exhibitions.

Hawaii has its own advocate for hosting a Hawaii Heart Gallery. Former foster child David Louis is taking steps to host a Hawaii Heart Gallery in the summer of 2006. Call (808) 523-1983 or e-mail heartgalleryhawaii@verizon.net for more information. Also, go to www.adoptuskids.org for information about this nationwide initiative. You can also read an article by Diane Granito at <http://www.nacac.org/newsletters/nm.html>.



FOSTER FAMILY PROGRAMS
OF HAWAII

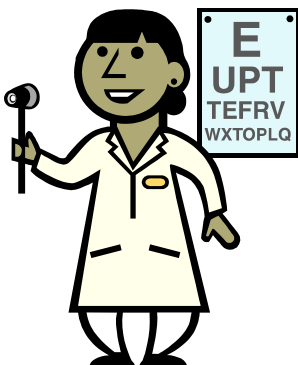
Foster Family Programs of Hawaii Seeks People Who Want to Make a Difference

Keith Kuboyama

Want to make a difference to a youth who needs a home?

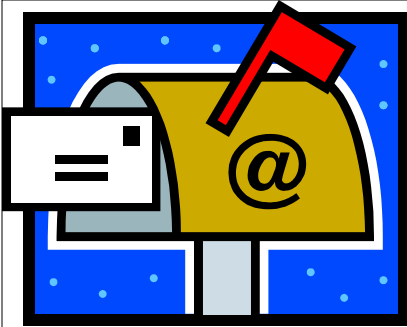
Then consider becoming a foster parent with the Foster Family Programs of Hawaii. We are working with pre-teens and teenagers who were placed in foster care with the Casey Family Programs. They are in need of loving and dedicated adults who are willing to help them to become healthy, self-sufficient adults.

You don’t need a fancy home or extensive experience to become a foster parent. But you’ll need a commitment to working as part of a team with our social workers and a desire to provide a stable and supportive home for a young person. And of course, having a sense of humor, flexibility and a lot of patience is always welcomed. Training will be provided. *It will be the toughest job you’ll ever enjoy!*



Health Assessment for Children in Foster Care

Every child in foster care who is under DHS foster custody is required by law to undergo a comprehensive health assessment within 45 days of removal from home. This requirement is met by the **Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)** program. Foster parents are usually the ones responsible for taking the child to the physician for an EPSDT health assessment. To find out more about this assessment, go to www.hawaiifosterparent.org, Resources, Health. You can also ask your pediatrician to conduct an EPSDT assessment when you take your child in for his physical.



Dear Editor,

Your recent article regarding sibling placement was quite excellent and very much parallels a similar problem being faced by many foster children on Hawaii

Island. In the name of parent rights, children are being threatened, and in some cases deeply traumatized, by being taken away from their foster parents after having formed a secure attachment with those parents. I strongly support efforts at reunification with parents and placement with biological relatives. However, when so much time has passed, in some cases more than two years, that children have formed secure attachment bonds in their new home, the emphasis of all involved needs to be on the best interests of the children. To move children from their new parents and families, once secure, is to traumatize them all over again. The Department of Human Services needs to ensure that all efforts are made towards reunification and guaranteeing the rights of parents and families, but not at the price of systematically damaging those for whom they are entrusted to care.

*Mahalo nui loa,
Scot Liepack, Ph.D.*

Hello,

My husband and I were at the 10th Annual HFPA Conference. It was our first time since we are new child specific foster parents. Thanks for putting on such a great conference with great speakers. We learned a lot. I think the most important thing we learned was that foster parents have no rights. It is so sad because without the foster parents, where would all the children

go? The sadder part is that the biological parents who have messed up, have more rights than the people who are putting their hearts and homes out to strangers and in our case, a family relative. But it doesn't stop us from being foster parents. The child did not ask to be put in that situation and they are the innocent victims. Thanks again for the great conference and for all HFPA does for foster parents.

*P and S,
Child Specific Foster Parents*

Because we are child specific foster parents, we were required to go to the conference in October. We didn't want to go. It turned out to be a blessing in disguise. The things that were discussed were very helpful for us. It was surprising how the time flew by; it wasn't drudgery at all. I don't know if I'll remember it all, but I did learn a lot. We appreciated the condensed format of two days, since it is hard to make the five classes in the regular training. The conference should happen again.

*V and L,
Child Specific Foster Parents*

Dear Hawaii Foster Parent Association,
It was such a nice surprise to see you at my retirement luncheon as it gave me an opportunity to thank you for your support and friendship as well as to wish you well in your future endeavors. I look forward to hearing about regular, mandated ongoing in-service training for foster/adoptive parents through your assistance with the Training Academy. I also wish you well in your Annual Foster Parent Conference which has become an outstanding venue for staff, community providers and foster/adoptive parents alike. My best wishes in your continued success.

Debby Lee

Healthy Snacks for Children

Star fruit sandwiches. Place banana slices between sliced star fruit for funky, filling sandwiches.

Nuked sweet potatoes. Thinly slice a sweet potato, spread it out on a plate, sprinkle with a little salt and pepper and microwave for three to five minutes. These "potato chips" are more filling than the fried, bagged kind, and they're chock-full of beta-carotene.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches. Don't shy from the classics. Traditional kid favorites like peanut butter and

jelly are still better choices than processed snacks. Just choose whole grain bread and go light on the sugary jelly.

Ants on a log. Take celery sticks, smear them with light cream cheese or natural peanut butter and sprinkle with a line of raisins.



Competency Based High School Diploma Program



Laura Siewny

Child and Family Service, Hawaii's oldest and largest nonprofit human service provider, is launching a new program called GATE. GATE, Geist Advanced Training and Education, is offering the Competency Based High School Diploma Program (CBHSDP) to young adults within the foster care system, ages 18-21, who have not received their high school diploma. CBHSDP provides young adults, who are non-high school graduates, a valid option to obtain a Hawaii high school diploma through a partnership with the Waipahu Community School for Adults.

The GATE program consists of two phases, which are required for the successful completion of the program. The first phase is the Competency Based High School Diploma Program academic curriculum. The purpose of the CBHSDP academic classes is to enable students to further develop their communication skills, computation skills, problem solving skills and interpersonal skills through reading, writing, listening and speaking. The curriculum is designed to help young adults become functionally competent within five academic units.

The second phase of the GATE program is the employment or career goal requirement. The GATE program will assist young adults in seeking employment or volunteer assignments. In combination with the JET program (Job, Education and Training), GATE will provide a comprehensive range of employment services includ-

ing; pre-employment training, job referrals, research and contact resources, employment counseling and job retention skills.

Students within the GATE program will be provided counseling services throughout their enrollment. These services can assist students in handling family and social issues as well as provide information, resources and services about other concerns such as finance, child care, and transportation.

The staff of GATE will be pleased to provide additional information to any interested young adult, family or community organization.

Address:

Child and Family Service
Hale O Ulu – GATE
91-1841 Fort Weaver Road
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

Contacts:

Jeremy Garrett, Instructor/Case Manager
Phone: (808) 681-1413
jgarrett@cfs-hawaii.org

Laura Siewny, Employment Specialist
Phone: (808) 681-1471
lsiewny@cfs-hawaii.org

Hours:

Monday through Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Scholarship Opportunities

Check the HFPA website at www.hawaiifosterparent.org for information about scholarships for youth in foster care or exiting the foster care system. Click on **Resources, Youth Resources, Scholarship Opportunities for Youth** to read more.

Also, there is a link there to the Hawaii Community Foundation, which lists many more scholarship opportunities. Go to www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org and click on Scholarships.



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

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

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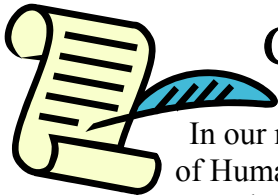
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- My company will match my gift—the necessary form is enclosed.
 Yes, please send me the next four quarterly newsletters, mailed directly from the HFPA office.

❖ **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.



Correction

In our newsletter of September 2005, we made reference to change in the way the Department of Human Services handles certain foster care situations. We said that many child advocates were alarmed that the recent trend toward removing children from good, long-term foster care environments as a matter of policy may not be in the child’s best interest. We count ourselves among those child advocates, and hope that the DHS will see its way to include the non-relative foster family as a real option for a permanency solution for the child, not simply as an exception to a rule that children must always be placed within a kinship home, no matter how much time has passed, nor how marginal the kinship care home may seem.

Our article prompted an impassioned response from Director Lillian Koller in a letter sent to all foster parents that complained of “misinformation.” We immediately asked her office what had been misleading. As it turns out, the Director takes issue with the description of the recent trends in activity as a “new policy.” The policy from which the DHS is operating is not “new,” although the June ’05 policy *directive* – which drives the recent trends – is. In the article, we first referenced the “recent policy directive” which seems to be the accurate terminology. Only later in the article did we slip and call it a “new policy,” inadvertently dropping the word “directive.” We apologize for the error.

We were told of no other inaccuracies in the newsletter.



Hawaii Foster Parent Association

PMB #261
111 Hekili Street, Suite A
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Resources



Housing and Support Services Available

Hale Kipa's Independent Living Program has immediate openings at Haloa House, a residential program for young women over age 18 exiting or who have exited from foster care. Primary focus is group and individual services to teach health, nutrition, vocation/education, employment and home maintenance. Program expectation is 9-12 months residence with the young women being prepared to begin life as fully-functioning, independent adults. Resident Advisor and Case Manager on staff. Located near Radford High School. Foster parents or social workers can refer any young women over age 18, who have aged out of foster care and need a supportive home environment and independent living skills. Contact Jennifer at 589-1829 Ext. 205.

Hawaii Foster Parent Association
www.hawaiifosterparent.org

Hawaii Department of Human Services
www.hawaii.gov/dhs

Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting
www.lapponline.org

Children's Rights, Inc
www.childrensrights.org

Connect for Kids
<http://www.connectforkids.org>

Generations United: Legal Information for Grandparents
www.gu.org

National Center for Youth Law
www.youthlaw.org

National Foster Parent Association
www.nfpainc.org

National Resource Center on Foster Care and Permanency Planning
www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp

New York State Citizens Coalition on Children
www.nysccc.org

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families
www.acf.dhhs.gov



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