



Announcing Child Specific Foster Parenting Classes on Oahu and the Big Island!

What foster parents are saying about these classes:

- *Wish we had this class earlier!*
- *Content and binders were excellent and easy to understand.*
- *I liked it a lot, very clear, easy to understand and interesting.*
- *Before coming to the training I had so many thoughts and questions about fostering as well as adoption. Through this training all of the questions have been answered very clearly & thoroughly.*

These classes are offered to provide you with the support and information you need to make your foster parenting job just a little easier, to introduce you to others facing the same challenges as you and who understand what you are going through and to meet the requirements of the law.



Child Specific class attendees pose for a photo with instructor Barbara Wright (r., front row) after final class of the 5-week session.

Schedule for West Hawaii Training in June

Thanks to the diligence of foster parent Charlene Ignacio and the generosity of the Kapiolani Child Protection Center, with funding from DHS Title IV-B funds, Child Specific Foster Parent classes are being held in West Hawaii June 11, 12, 17, 18, and 19. Flyers were sent out to the Child Specific foster parents in West Hawaii. We look forward to working

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Just When You Thought Things Were Settling Down

Family Court of the First Circuit (Oahu) will be undergoing a major transition in Chapter 587 (CPS) cases. The primary reason for creating the changes is that there is not enough money to continue providing guardians *ad litem* (GALs), volunteer guardians *ad litem* (VGALs), and parents' attorneys in the way they have been provided.

The guardians *ad litem* and the parents' attorneys are being assigned to five courtroom teams (one team for each presiding judge). Because of severe budget constraints, there will be a system of "consulting" attorneys for the parents. No longer will there be full representation for eligible parents.

All current contracts with GALs, VGAL Program, and parents' attorneys will end on June 30th. The cases

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with West Hawaii foster parents and social workers as we adapt these classes to meet their needs. And we look forward to the opportunity to offer more classes in the future on the Big Island.

Schedule for Child Specific Foster Parent Classes on Oahu*

*Schedule subject to change.

Honolulu

July 5, 7, 12, 14 & 16, 2004
Mornings, 9:30 am—12:30 pm
Kamehameha Schools-Kapalama Campus

Kailua

July 6, 8, 13, 15, and 16, 2004
Evenings, 6:00 pm—9:00 pm
St. Christopher's
Windward Senior Day Care Center

Nanakuli

July 21, 22, 23, 24 & 26, 2004
Mornings, 9:30 am—12:30 pm
Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center

Nanakuli

September 4, 11, 18, 25 and Oct 2, 2004
Saturday mornings, 9:30 am—12:30 pm
Kamehameha Community Learning Center

Nanakuli

October 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 2004
Saturday mornings, 9:30 am—12:30 pm
Kamehameha Community Learning Center

To sign up for these classes, call **Barbara Wright at 261-9569**. She can answer any questions you might have.

Both foster parents are expected to attend all five sessions. Sessions will begin and end on time. Unfortunately, childcare cannot be provided and children cannot be in the classroom.



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 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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will be re-distributed based on which judge has been hearing the case. Thus, if your child's case has been heard by a certain judge, but your GAL is assigned to another judge's courtroom, then your child's case will be taken from your GAL and moved to the GAL that is assigned to your child's judge's courtroom. So, the judges are going to stay the same, but it is highly likely that your child is going to get a new GAL or VGAL. This is true even for those children who have been in the system for years and for whom the only stable adult in their life has been their GAL or VGAL. There are no allowances being made for special cases in which the loss of the GAL or VGAL is clearly detrimental to the best interests of the child or children.

As of July 1, all VGAL cases are going to be heard in Judge Luke's courtroom. Thus, if your child has a VGAL, but the judge has been someone other than Judge Luke, your child will be getting a new GAL. Judge Luke will hear all the cases that have a VGAL. The other judges, Judge Murakami, Judge Enright, and Judge Broderick, and the one courtroom without an assigned judge, will hear cases with the GALs who win the contracts for their courtrooms. The GALs (the attorneys who are paid for their work, as opposed to the VGALs, who do this job as a volunteer) have "bid" on each courtroom and as we go to press, the decision about which GALs will win the contracts hasn't been determined yet. It is anticipated that many GALs and parent attorneys will leave this profession due to these changes.

The court is very aware of how disruptive this change is going to be, particularly since there is going to be no transition time. They have put a transition planning team together, consisting of the judges of the Juvenile Division, the Special Services Unit, the Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program, and the Program Specialists of the Office of the Chief Court Administrator/Family Court Director of the First Judicial Circuit. But for birth families and foster families, it probably won't feel like enough.



The Hawaii Foster Parent Association acknowledges that the current system has not always resulted in quality representation for parents or children. However, we are deeply concerned about the proposed change, in light of the fact that the changes are being made not because of best practices or that it will be better for children and families, but as a way to save money. It is a sad fact that our state (including the Legislative and the Executive Branch) is unable or unwilling to make the financial commitment to these children who so desperately need our commitment. Meeting the needs of abused and neglected children is not a priority and good people in the Judiciary are being forced to make decisions that are clearly not in the best interests of children.

Training Opportunity

What: "Love and Diane", an informative PBS video regarding the child welfare system, substance abuse, poverty, foster care, and most of all, mother and daughter bonding. At mid-point, we will stop the video and have a brief discussion on what we've seen. We will share opinions and suggestions again at the conclusion of the video.



When: Saturday, June 26, 2004

Time: **Promptly** at 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Door opens at 8 a.m.

Where: VGAL Office Training Room
5th Floor, One Waterfront Plaza,
Restaurant Row
Parking free underground

RSVP: VGAL office, 538-5930, by June 21, 2004
Coffee/tea and light refreshments will be provided.

Graduates Luncheon (youth, tell your social worker to sign you up!)

When: Tuesday, June 22, 2004

Where: Washington Place, Honolulu

Who: Foster youth successfully completing high school this year and one guest

RSVP: Lee Dean at DHS, 586-5704

Respite Funds for DHS Foster Parents

Are you experiencing a crisis, taking a planned vacation or just need a break? DHS has respite care funds available for DHS foster parents who need to leave their foster child/children with someone else while they take respite.

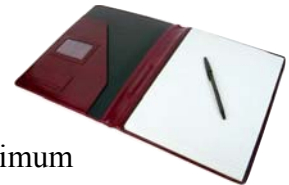
How do I access respite care funds?

- Call your caseworker and inquire if respite funds are available for use for the times you need.
- 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.



Who pays the respite care provider?

- The foster parents are responsible for paying the respite care provider after respite care has been provided.
- For reimbursement, send a note or a letter to the child's worker with the following:
 - ✓ Child's name
 - ✓ Your name
 - ✓ Name, address, phone number of the respite care provider
 - ✓ Actual dates: initiation date and termination date. This should not be more than what you and the worker agreed on because there are maximum limits.



How much do the respite care providers receive?

- Payment will be made at a rate of \$25 a day for a 24-hour period. If you are gone part of one day, you might decide not to request respite funds for that partial day in order to preserve that respite day for future access. You can then work out your own financial arrangement with the provider for those days.

How long can the child or children stay in respite care?

- The maximum allowable time for respite services is **10** days per foster child per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30).

If you encounter difficulties accessing these funds, please call HFPA at 263-0920 for assistance. Neighbor Island foster parents can call us toll free at 1-877-775-4400.

The criteria for accessing respite funds remains the same:

1. The rate is \$25 per day per child.
2. Each foster home can receive 10 days per child in one fiscal year (July 1-June 30). If the child moves to another foster home, then the new foster home can receive 10 days for that child.
3. Once all allocated funds for the quarter are used, no funds will be disbursed until the next quarter.

Shattering Ice Myths: Ice and its impact on Families in the CPS System



When: Saturday, August 14, 2004
9 a.m. to 12 noon

Where: Waianae District Park (*Multi-purpose Room*)
85-601 Farrington Hwy.

Our speakers will be Gary Shimabukuro of Laulima Pacific, who gave an entertaining but informative keynote presentation at the HFPA conference last October conference and staff members from the **Sand Island Treatment Facility**, who will speak on supporting addicts and children of addicts.

Call **Sharon at 535-0101** by August 10th to reserve your place in this **FREE** training!

HFPA Receives Funding to Look at Health Care for Children in Foster Care

Dr. Marilyn McCubbin, Director of the Center for Health Disparities Research, National Institute of Nursing Research at UH Manoa Nursing Department, has informed us funding will be provided to examine health care of children who go through the foster care system. The study title is "Identifying the gaps in supporting the health of children in foster care." In July 2004, Caroline Ellermann, Assistant Professor in Nursing, along with Sarah Casken, HFPA Executive Director, will begin discussion groups with young adults formerly in foster care (age 18-19), with foster parents, and with professionals involved with the foster care system. The discussion topic will be about what the health care needs are of Hawaii's children in foster care, and what is creating barriers for getting the health care needs met.

In order to create a focus on health issues, and understanding the support needed to receive care, a group of professionals, parents, and young adults who have experienced foster care, have formed the Foster Health Care Partnership. The group's purpose is to identify specific information about the health issues that create a health disadvantage for children in foster care. The partnership's long-range goal is to address some of the problems that create the health disparities for the state's children in foster care. The group looks forward to collaborating with others who are examining this issue.



Dr. Ellermann will serve as principal investigator on the Health Care research project for HFPA.



SAVE THIS DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2004 **HFPA'S 9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Join us for a day of fun and learning at the Sheraton Waikiki. Pat O'Brien of New York's You Gotta Believe and Gary Shimabukuro of Laulima Pacific are two of the exciting speakers who will enlighten and entertain us with fresh perspectives on the important work that we are doing. This conference will take a close look at the issues related to caring for adolescents.

Look for your registration brochure in the mail in August.

Alexander and Baldwin Foundation Helps Fund Development of the HFPA Website, www.hawaiifosterparent.org



Linda Howe (c.) of the Alexander and Baldwin Foundation presents a check to HFPA Board President Michael Troy (r.) and executive director Sarah Casken (l.).

Want to know about foster parent training opportunities? What about a sample of a court report? Or maybe you'd like to see a list of questions you should ask before having a child placed with you. How about a comparison of the various permanency options, such as legal guardianship, adoption, or long-term foster care?

All of these topics can be found on the HFPA website at www.hawaiifosterparent.org. Check the site out periodically to see what new information has been added.

And watch for the launching of the new website, which will include the opportunity for you to participate in discussion groups on a variety of topics, as well as other interactive opportunities.

The website will always be a work-in-progress, but we hope it becomes a useful and informative resource for the foster care community. Check it out!

DHS Honors Maui Foster Parents

Scott Seto, DHS

Fifty people attended the 5th Annual Maui Foster Parent Appreciation Luncheon held at the Maui Tropical Plantations Restaurant earlier this year. This yearly event is held to recognize those special families who open their hearts and homes to the abused and neglected children on the Island of Maui.

Mrs. Mercedes Neri, from the office of Mayor Alan Arakawa, presented certificates of appreciation to the foster families. Special recognition was also given to long-time Foster Parents Maile and Larry Manalo for their many years of service to more than 30 foster children who were placed in their care. Also in attendance to express their appreciation to the Maui Foster Parents were the Department of Hu-



man Services Branch Administrator, Amy Tsark, and the Department of Human Services, Social Services Division Administrator, Patricia Synder.

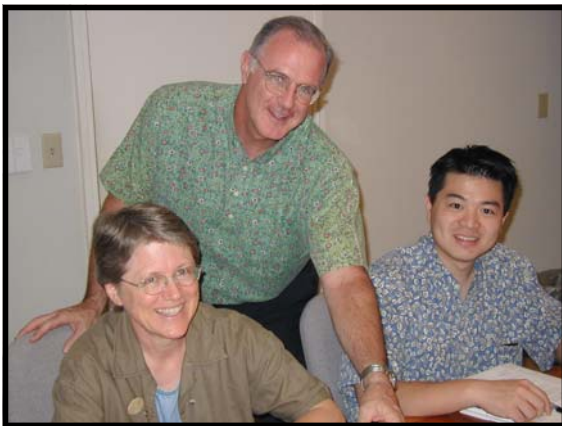
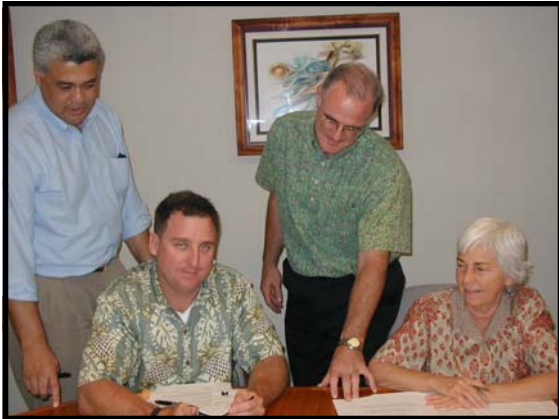
Many Maui businesses donated door prizes for this special occasion. They are as follows:

Maui Craft Guild, Sam Soto's Inc., McDonald's Dairy Road, Maui Taco Corp Office, Jamba Juice Dairy Road, Mama's Fish House, Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Island Marine, Maui Hands, Haleakala Bike Co., Big Kahuna Kayaks, Pacific Whale Foundation, Maui Art Gallery LLC, Honolulu Coffee Co., Maui Cave Adventures, Island Soap and Candle Works, The Curtis Wilson Cost Gallery, Tasty Crust

Restaurant, Expeditions, Maui Sunset Association of Apartment Owners, JS Construction, Aina Excavation, Earlette Vida, and the Debi and Mark Roling Charitable Foundation.

The event was sponsored by the Department of Human Services in association with the Hanai Coalition of Maui, with assistance from The Friends of the Maui's Children's Justice Center.

HFPA Board of Directors at Work



Members of the HFPA Board of Directors take their responsibilities seriously. The board’s role includes raising funds, making policy decisions, and establishing a solid foundation from which the agency can grow and better serve the foster care community.

HFPA is seeking dynamic community leaders, including those who are also foster parents, to serve as voluntary board members. To express an interest in being considered for a board position, please contact Sarah Casken, executive director, at **263-0920** or sarah@hawaiifosterparent.org.

HFPA is a non-profit agency that provides education, training and support to caregivers, empowering them to provide quality care to children in Hawaii affected by foster care.

Free Summer Sailing Program

The **CAPTAIN’S CLUB** is looking for children with a love for the ocean and a desire to learn to sail. The program is open to children ages 10 through 16 who are in foster care or who live with foster children (i.e. the foster family’s birth children).

The “Intro to Sailing” classes are from 4 to 6 p.m. each Monday for five weeks--July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, and 23. The *Free Spirit* sails out of the Kewalo Basin. The youth will learn basic sailing skills, ocean safety, and teamwork development. Wear sneakers or tennis shoes, a jacket and sunscreen. The Captain’s Club will give each child a t-shirt, cap, backpack, camera, sailing manual and LOTS of adventure.

For an application, call Rich Marshall at 456-5103 or go online to www.sailfreespirit.com. Call now, as there are only 12 openings available. There is no cost for this program, just the commitment to show up.

Upon completing this class, graduates are welcomed back each month to sail with the “Mates” Program, the first Thursday of every month from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The winter monthly “Mates” sails were filled with whale watching and dolphin spotting.



Planning to Travel with Your Foster Child?

Cynthia Goss

Department of Human Services
Program Development Office



(Many foster parents are planning trips to the neighbor islands or the mainland and would like to take their foster child or children. DHS has provided us with this clarification on Travel Requests from CWS Procedures, Part III, Casework Services, Section 3, page 3-8.)

When foster children have the opportunity to travel with their foster parents, parental consent of birth parents is required. Informing the parents ahead of time of the travel plans and explaining how the child will benefit from the experience will help the parents feel comfortable consenting and supporting their child's traveling.

Voluntary cases: For a foster child traveling off island or out of state with his/her foster parents, efforts must be made to inform the parents and obtain their consent. If the parents do not consent, the foster child cannot travel.

Court cases: For a foster child traveling off island or out of state with his/her foster parents, efforts must be made to inform the parents and obtain their consent. If the parents consent and the GAL is in agreement, DHS must inform the court that there are no objections by the parents and the GAL. The worker will provide the court with the travel dates and destination, the purpose of the trip, and where the foster child and foster family will be staying. For example: Leaving on 03/15/04 for Disneyland, returning on 03/21/04, spring vacation trip, staying at the Disneyland Hotel 1-800-555-1212.

If there is an objection by the parents or the GAL to the foster child's traveling with his/her foster parents, DHS must ask the DAG to file a motion. The Family Court will hear the matter and render a decision on whether the foster child can travel.

In situations where the parents cannot be located and the Department and the GAL are in agreement with the foster child's traveling with his/her foster parents, the worker will inform the court of the Department's efforts to locate the parents for their consent and that there are no objections by the Department and the GAL. The worker will also provide the court with the travel dates and destination, the purpose of the trip, and where the foster child and foster family will be staying.

If the foster child's social worker is not willing to consider the foster child's traveling with the foster parent, the foster parent should speak with the social worker's supervisor or section administrator. The foster parent can also speak with the GAL as well as submit a letter to the court requesting a hearing to discuss the travel plans.



Making a Difference



Kokua In Kind



Your car may be worth more to you as a donation than an exchange at the dealership, and less hassle, too! You can donate

your unwanted or non-working vehicle to the Hawaii Foster Parent Association through Kokua-in-Kind, who will even pick up the vehicle for you. They will sell the car and HFPA will receive the proceeds, less a processing fee. In exchange for donating your car (or boat, motorcycle, etc.), you will receive a deduction on your income tax. The process is very simple, quick and easy. Please call Patricia at **Kokua-in-Kind at 834-6603** for more information. (You can also donate from the Big Island).

Aloha United Way Campaign This Fall



When your employee asks you to participate in this year's Aloha United Way campaign, we hope you will:

- ✓ Ask for a: **Donor Choice Form**
- ✓ Select: **Option E, Alternative Care**
- ✓ Write in: **Hawaii Foster Parent Association.**
PMB #261
111 Hekili Street, Suite A
Kailua, HI 96734

Does Your Company Have a Matching Gift Program?

To participate in your company's Matching Gift Program:

1. Contact your Personnel Office for eligibility requirements and to obtain a Matching Gift form. Many companies match the gifts of retirees, spouses, surviving spouses, and outside directors.
2. Fill out the employee portion of the form. Mail the form, along with your donation, to **Hawaii Foster Parent Association, PMB #261, 111 Hekili St., Suite A, Kailua, Hawaii 96734.**

Foodland Give Aloha

Once again, we will be participating in the Give Aloha Campaign in September. Your donations to HFPA at Foodland or Sack N Save during September will be partially matched by Foodland, increasing the amount of your donation. The funds raised are used to maintain the training, website, newsletter and support services provided to foster parents.



♥ You thought you spending a few minutes of your time by throwing a ball in the backyard or baking some cookies, but your foster child, who realized that your time is precious, knew you were investing it in him.



♥ You thought you were reading a bedtime story with all the funny and scary voices, but your foster child enjoyed the fact you read every word even though he had heard them a hundred times before.

Mahalo to Our Wonderful Supporters!

Friend (up to \$99)

Ancelmo and Florecita Alonzo
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 R. Mark Browning
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 Kathy Hashimoto
 Margaretha Lum
 Mitsue and William Teruya
 Carl Vincenti and Marlo Okahara



Builder (\$100 to \$249)

Millicent Khaw and Junji Takeshita
 Ruth K. Ota



Advocate (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

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 Schofield Barracks
 Hui O Na Wahine Welfare Committee

Fort Shafter
 Hui O Wahine Welfare Committee

Kokua in Kind (Car Donation)

Patrick Barry
 John and Sarah Casken
 John Primacio and Nalani Mattox-Primacio
 Stanley Rumbawa



Donations of Goods and Services

Elizabeth Kent and friends
 George Price
 Tuolumne River Woodworkers Association



Board member Christopher Hines (L.) and executive director Sarah Casken (R.) receive donation from president Karen Maxton of the Hui O' Na Wahine to support the Child Specific foster parent training program.

The Hawaii Foster Parent Association is very pleased to acknowledge the support from community foundations and service groups that have provided funding to assist HFPA in serving foster parents and the children in their care. The Okumura Foundation and the Frear Foundation provided funds to support the youth strand of the conference. The Alexander and Baldwin Foundation is providing financial support for the development of the HFPA website, www.hawaiifosterparent.org. And we are pleased to acknowledge the support of the Fort Shafter Hui O Wahine Club and the Schofield Hui O'Na Wahine Club for the Child Specific Foster Parent Training Program.

Mahalo to all our supporters!



HFPA executive director Sarah Casken (ctr.) receives donation from the Fort Shafter Hui O Wahine club president Sue Shanahan (L) & committee chairperson Carolyn Kadesch (R) for education and support of foster parents.

Hawaii Foster Parent Association
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 Phone: (808) 263-0920 Fax: (808) 263-0921

Name (First & Last):		
Address:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	Fax:	
Email:		

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

_____ _____ _____
Card Number *Cardholder's Signature* *Expiration Date*

- 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.



HFPA supporters Lari Koga, Kathy Teruya and Ruth Baldino pause for a photo during a break in the rain at the Hawaii Visitor Charity Walk. They walked on behalf of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association, raising funds for non-profits and giving HFPA the opportunity to apply for funds.

Care For Our Keiki

Tonya Allison

To Oahu foster parents: Members of Kailua Community Church want to support your commitment to foster children! We know that many foster children enter a home without much of their own, so we have a stock of donated items available for your foster child. Currently we have clothes for ages 9 months to teenagers, toys, stuffed animals, movies and bags. We also have a toy box, a toddler bike, a toy kitchen, a stroller and lots of other stuff!

Please call Tonya at **253-0071** for more specific information or to request items. For Windward area foster parents, items will be delivered to you. Foster parents from other parts of the island may arrange to pick items up at the church. Please provide verification of your foster parent status at the time of your request. If your foster child has a special need for something, let us know and we will do our best to hunt it down!

(HFPA commends this community effort; however, we are not responsible for any requests or guarantees associated with this service.)



Hawaii Foster Parent Association

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Foster Care Month Celebrated



The National Foster Parent Association promoted a nationwide ribbon campaign in May to heighten public awareness of the need for foster parents and of the role of people who help make a difference in the lives of foster children and youth. In support of their efforts, the Hawaii Foster Parent Association displayed banners at the McCully Shopping Center and distributed ribbons to people entering the restaurants. Our thanks to the McCully Shopping Center, Hawaii Digital, and Jessie Adzuarra for their contributions to this effort.

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