



## Womb Mates: When Sibling Rights & Child-Parent Attachment Clash

*Regina Kupecky LSW*

Those who know me from foster care and adoption conferences, trainings on sibling rights, or my writings about siblings, know that I am a long-time sibling rights advocate. Not only have I placed many sibling groups together who have thrived, I have seen how connections help siblings’ loss, abandonment, and identity issues. And, if we place more children together, we need to recruit fewer families.

Recently, however, I have become alarmed by a spate of requests to support sibling rights over attachments between very young children and their foster-to-adopt parents. The children in question typically have little or no attachment to their siblings. Many have never even met their brothers or sisters.

Workers are horrified to learn that I think their young charges should be adopted by the parents with whom they have a secure attachment, instead of moving to another family with their sibling. Poor planning that brought siblings into separate foster homes in the first place cannot be fixed by uprooting the children from their only known parents.

Below is an example of the type of case I’m talking about—a case in which the siblings are firmly attached to separate parents and not connected to one another at all. In such cases, it is often not in the siblings’ best interest to be placed together.

At three months, Jimmy was placed with a foster parent who has lovingly raised him for three years. Jimmy is very attached to his foster mom, and she wants to adopt him. Meanwhile, when Jimmy was one, his birth mom had Cindy, who was placed in another foster

home when she was a baby. (Why? No one ever knows.) Those parents want to adopt her.

Jimmy and Cindy are now ages three and two. They have seen each other a few times at birth parent visits, but don’t know one another and feel most secure with their respective foster families. Then the birth parents’ rights are finally terminated, and some worker decides it is best to remove them both from the only families they have ever known and place them together with a third family.



“Why?” I ask. The answers trouble me. “Well,” said one earnest worker, “they aren’t the kids’ real parents, they are just foster-to-adopt.”

I thought we did away with this “real” stuff 20 years ago. The parents are real to the child. They give real food, real love, real cuddles, real discipline. They **are** the real parents, the adults who have parented the kids almost all of their lives.

“You see,” she said, and dropped her voice, “they haven’t legalized, so we are still able to make the decisions.”

“But,” I countered, “they haven’t legalized because the children weren’t in permanent custody. If you don’t believe these are the child’s real parents, you must think adoptive parents aren’t real either. Don’t disturb them if they are doing well. Let each family adopt their child and hope that they want to be in contact. Put the sibling information in the life book so someday they can find each other. If you want them together, put them together to begin with.”

“We want them together,” explained another worker, “because we can find a home for them together. It is too hard with the older kids but these kids are young. Lots of people want them so the foster-to-adopt people will have to let them go.”

“Wait!” I replied. “Does anyone remember the best interests of the child? Of course you can find a home, and of course some young children can withstand the

*(Continued on page 2)*

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blow of losing their parents. But why do we want to force these children to again suffer one of the most severe losses a child can have—the loss of his or her mother—just because we can?”

Why would we move a child just because we can? Do we have so little power in our lives that we have to gain it by rearranging the lives of toddlers and pre-schoolers?

Another worker lamented about a three-year-old placed with a single mom. “We can do better. She could have a two-parent family with her little brother.”

But if the single mom isn't good enough, what was the child doing there for three years? Would we remove children from single parents to give them to two-parent families if they were birth children? Of course not. There's no good reason to remove a foster child from a stable, caring mom who, single or not, is emotionally bonded with the child and wants to adopt.

Workers and agencies who are belated champions of sibling rights need to change their practice. They need to train intake workers to call a sibling's foster family first when searching for a foster-to-adopt home. They need to arrange visits so siblings can form bonds, talk to families about sibling rights in training, and change the system that made the problem. It is not the children's job to sacrifice their new families to fix bad social work practice.

For these cases, we should use a different standard. In a best practice world, sibling-friendly agencies will place siblings together from the start and there will be no problem. If, however, the siblings are attached to separate foster parents, have no relationship, and their respective foster families want to adopt, we should support permanency that gives the children ongoing stability and continuity.

Do not separate a child from foster parents who wish to adopt unless the parents are abusing or neglecting him. If the family is loving and safe, leave the child where he is planted and blooming. Child-to-mother attachment occurs before sibling-to-sibling attachment. Do not ask a child to give up her primary bond to her parent to establish, not preserve, a relationship with a stranger who happens to have shared the same womb at a different time.

We should place more siblings together when it is in the children's best interest and there is good social work done. We do not need to hurt children by unnecessary moves and shattered attachments to foster-to-adopt parents in the name of the latest social work buzz words of “sibling ties.”

*Regina was an adoption placement worker for more than 25 years. Now she helps children and families address attachment issues at the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio, and trains nationally and internationally on various adoption topics. Regina has co-authored two books, Adopting the Hurt Child and Parenting the Hurt Child, with Dr. Gregory Keck. She has recently completed a sibling curriculum. To contact Regina, call the Attachment and Bonding Center of Ohio at 440-230-1960.*

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**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.

## Foster Parenting—in a Group Home!

*Paula Ambre  
Maui Farm Executive Director*

**H**ave you ever thought about taking your foster parenting skills, abilities and experience to the next level? If the answer is yes, you may be interested in learning about *The Maui Farm*.

The Maui Farm is a nonprofit organization that has been providing *group foster care* services for youth from troubled families since 1993. Our mission is to provide a farm-based, family style program of residential care, and to support young people in growing and becoming responsible, contributing members of their family and community.

Our program incorporates the strengths of both foster care and group home programs. We hire fulltime foster parents to live in comfortable homes located on our eight acre campus in upcountry Makawao. Five teenagers are placed in each home. Support services are provided by counselors and other staff. Our experiential program provides opportunity for youth, foster parents and staff to participate in gardening, cultivating crops and raising animals. Hands-on works best for our youth!

Foster parents are salaried employees who receive planned time-off on a weekly basis, vacation leave, medical insurance, and other benefits. We are looking for caring parents who want to make a difference in the lives of youth, and are positive role models and good team players.

Currently, we are recruiting for foster parents. If you like the idea of working with youth in a rural farm setting, give us a call at **(808) 579-8271**.



### Survey Results about the Newsletter

**R**ecently, we ran an informal questionnaire in the newsletter to learn more about our readers' response to the newsletter. Everyone who responded received free McDonald's coupons.

Just over half of the respondents said getting the newsletter 4 times a year was just the right number of times, while the other half wished it was published more often. Most people thought that 12 pages was just the right number of pages, while two people wished it were longer and one person wished it were shorter.

Question #3 asked what topics people would like to see in the newsletter. Several people would like to



see more Neighbor Island articles. Other requests were for articles on rules and policies, articles about activities and people, and parenting tips.

40% of the respondents said they would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, but 60% still prefer to receive a hard copy. The past nine issues of the newsletter, dating back to 2003, can be found on our website at [www.hawaiifosterparent.org](http://www.hawaiifosterparent.org), under *Resources, E Pulama Na Keiki*. We will continue to mail the newsletter to all the foster parents on the DHS mailing list and will deliver copies to all agencies who have offered to mail out to their foster parents, staff and others.

Also, we accept articles and invite agencies and others to submit articles for publication. The newsletter is published 4 times a year, approximately in March, June, September, and December. You can contact us at **263-0920, 877-775-4400**, or via e-mail at [info@hawaiifosterparent.org](mailto:info@hawaiifosterparent.org) to inquire about submitting an article.

Thanks to all those who participated in our survey.



## Foster Family Roundup Kicks Off Foster Care Month

Over 220 foster parents and their children enjoyed a great lunch, entertainment and door prizes at the Ala Moana Outback Steakhouse for the HFPA “Foster Family Roundup.”

Entertainment was provided by The Clowns of Aloha and junior magicians from the Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Young Magicians. The clowns made balloon figures ranging from puppy dogs and crowns to medieval swords. The magicians, all young apprentices, roamed throughout the restaurant, performing tableside magic tricks for their appreciative audiences. Door prizes were announced on a regular basis, with over 20 happy recipients of gifts ranging from a “Gummy Bug Lab” to a gift certificate to Victoria Ward Center.

This special event, honoring family foster care in Hawaii, was sponsored by many wonderful donors. We would like to thank the following business and individuals for supporting the work of HFPA and of foster parents throughout the community:

Ruth Baldino  
Big City Diner  
Brigham and Associates, Inc.  
Katie and Mill Brown  
Case Properties International  
Sarah and John Casken  
Catholic Services Hawaii  
Blossom Chang  
Gary Chun  
Clowns of Aloha  
The DMC Network  
Hawaii Chapter of the Society of  
Young Magicians  
First Hawaiian Bank  
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Christopher and Kim Hines  
D.R. Horton—Schuler Homes, Inc.

Leslie Ilitzky  
Inouye and Associates  
Judith Jakobovits, East Oahu Realty  
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Demetria Wingfield,  
Hawaii Kai Realty  
Barbara Wright  
Young Properties, Inc.  
Dan Ziegler  
Wave Internet





*Magician apprentices from the Hawaii Chapter of the Society of Young Magicians dazzled the audience with their sleights of hand.*

## Non-Recurring Adoption Expenses

*North American Council on Adoptable Children*

**N**on-recurring adoption expenses are one-time expenses directly related to the finalization of an adoption of a child with special needs. Typical expenses that are paid or reimbursed to the family include the home study fees, attorney fees, replacement of the birth certificate, and travel to and from the child, including mileage, lodging and meal. Oftentimes, a parent adopting a child from the DHS system has only a few, if any, of these expenses.

However, sometimes the adopting parent may wish to use a private attorney as the adoption moves towards finalization. If the child is otherwise eligible as a special needs child adopted from the public foster care system, states *must* provide non-recurring costs, including costs for an attorney of the adopting parent's choice. According to NACAC's profile (<http://www.nacac.org/stateprofiles/hawaii.html>), Hawaii's rules place no limits on which attorney an adoptive parent chooses to use.

**Below are the allowed nonrecurring adoption expenses and the limit per child:**

- Reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, and other expenses (i.e., adoption home study, health and psychological examinations, costs of placement supervision prior to adoption, and costs of transportation and food/lodging directly related to the adoption of a special needs child).
- International adoptees who are adopted in Hawaii may be eligible for non-recurring adoption expense reimbursement upon documentation of special needs.

The amount of reimbursement for non-recurring expenses is based upon a bill or receipt for the allowable expense, submitted no later than two years after the final decree of adoption.

The reimbursement limit is \$2,000 per child.

**If you have additional questions, please call the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) at 651-644-3036 or our subsidy help line at 800-470-6665, or e-mail us at [adoption.assistance@nacac.org](mailto:adoption.assistance@nacac.org). If you have a Hawaii-specific question, you may contact the state subsidy person, Susan Ogami-VanCamp at 808-587-3168 or via e-mail at [SOgami-VanCamp@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:SOgami-VanCamp@dhs.hawaii.gov) or the NACAC subsidy representative, Sarah Casken at 808-263-0920 or [sarah@hawaiiosterparent.org](mailto:sarah@hawaiiosterparent.org) for more information.**

## ***E Ma Kua Ana Youth Circle*** **Support Youth** **Emancipating from Foster Care**

*EPIC, Inc.*

**E** *Ma Kua Ana*, “becoming an adult,” has special meaning for youth who find themselves in state custody in their late teens. Who will be their support system when they turn 18 and “age out” of the system? Where will they live? How can they afford to go to college? Will they be prepared to support themselves? Who can they turn to for answers? In the past, there was little support available.

Today, however, many foster youth are finding the answers to these questions and more through EPIC’s newest program, *E Ma Kua Ana Youth Circles*.

“These people were so into helping me succeed. This was an awesome experience,” wrote one youth after his first circle. At his first re-circle he noted, “I thought how we caught up on stuff was good. I feel more motivated now that I know that people are monitoring my success.”

Another youth wrote after his re-circle, “I found out a lot about myself, like the fact that I’d accomplished more than I thought I had {since the first circle}, like getting a job at Jamba Juice and getting my state ID, etc. You guys are great! Rock on EPIC, Inc.”

One of the important aspects of *E Ma Kua Ana Youth Circles* is the transition from having others making decisions on a youth’s behalf to the youth taking

control of his or her own life. Youth Circles provide the information and resources that empower young people to plan for their own futures, to set goals that meet their dreams and ambitions, and to identify the support system that can help them to attain this level of independence. Re-circles, or follow-up circles, help the youth to stay on track, as well as learn to adjust and adapt to the unforeseen changes bound to occur in life; to turn obstacles into opportunities.

Becoming an adult should be a positive experience: to have confidence from lessons learned, strength and joy in past achievements and hope for future dreams.

*E Ma Kua Ana Youth Circles* allow youth to take responsibility for their emancipation and to share the experience with those they care about and who care about them.

Youth aged 16 and older who are in foster care may choose to have a Youth Circle. If you are interested in learning more about how to schedule a Youth Circle, contact EPIC, Inc. *E Ma Kua Ana Youth Circle* at **748-7055**.



### **2005 Child Specific Foster Parent Training**

#### **Pearl City**

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
Wednesday, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

#### **Nanakuli**

August 13, 20, 27, September 10, 17  
Saturday, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

#### **Nanakuli**

September 21, 22, 23, 26, 27  
Wed, Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

#### **Hilo**

August 17, 18, 19, 20  
Wed—Fri, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm  
Sat., 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm

#### **Waimea**

September 27, 29, 30, October 1  
Tues, Thurs, Fri, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm  
Sat., 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm

#### **Kailua Kona**

October 26, 27, 28, 29  
Wed—Fri, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm  
Sat., 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm

#### **Kailua Kona**

November 16, 17, 18, 19  
Wed—Fri, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm  
Sat., 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm

***Call HFPA at 261-9569 (toll free 1-877-775-4400) to enroll or find out more about these classes. Call now as classes fill up quickly.***



## DHS Visitation Policies Impact Foster Parents



The Department of Human Services is developing visitation policies for children in foster care. In May, a series of workshops and discussions were held with Rose Marie Wentz, a training consultant for the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning.

HFGPA participated in some of the meetings and discussions. We are committed to advocating for policies that assure that the best interests of the child are always front and center when creating a visitation plan. This is especially important when deciding who supervises visits, when and under what conditions visits are cancelled or discontinued, and the quality of training and support provided for those who supervise.

port provided for those who supervise.

According to the information presented at the workshop, research shows that more frequent visits between children and their parents result in a shorter time in placement and a greater likelihood of being returned home. The training material states, “parents who are not allowed visits will not be able to maintain or strengthen the attachment with their child. Having a crisis or problem such as a child acting out on a visit is not a sign of lack of attachment. In fact, a visit should allow for the normal crisis/discomfort to occur so that the parent and child can develop or reinforce their attachment.” Thus, someone will be expected to assess whether the child’s acting out behavior is a normal part of the visit or if it is a sign that it is not in the child’s best interest to have visits.

### The training listed the following as “best practices” for visitation:

1. There should be a written visitation plan which has been developed with input by all the parties impacted, including the foster parents,
2. First visit should occur within 48 hours of placement and phone contact should be allowed during the first day of placement.
3. Visits should occur at least weekly on a consistent date and, in order of preference, at the home of the parent, the home of a relative, the foster home, or in a park or public location.

### According to the material, the person supervising the visit

- Will ALWAYS put the best interest of the child first
- Is able and willing to stop a visit, without additional help
- Will report all information regarding behaviors and interactions during the visit to the social worker
- Is able to enforce any rules, limitations, activities or other requests made by the social worker or court
- Is willing to make a report to court about the visit or testify in court, if required

This is particularly important information for foster parents, as there appears to be an increasing expectation that foster parents will supervise visits. This could have serious implications for foster parents and needs to be explored in depth.

The training emphasized the following philosophy regarding visits with a substance-abusing parent: “Visits should NOT be used as a reward or punishment for either the parent or child. Do not require a parent to start or complete treatment before seeing his/her child. This is a punishment to the child and research indicates that it is not likely to increase the parent’s participation in treatment. Parents who do have regular visits with their child are more likely to also be in treatment. Do not deny a child a visit because the child misbehaved.” HFGPA believes that if foster parents are going to be asked to supervise visits, there will need to be very clear guidelines and training in how to supervise an untreated, substance-abusing birth parent.

*Ms. Wentz will be returning to Hawaii for discussion on this topic as DHS prepares to finalize policy. There will be an opportunity for foster parents to meet in a discussion group with her in July. We invite you to contact HFGPA at 263-0920 or [info@hawaiifosterparent.org](mailto:info@hawaiifosterparent.org) if you are interested in learning more or participating in the discussion.*

## News from the Neighbor Islands

### Maui Hosts "Treasured Keiki Day"

*Scott Seto  
DHS Supervisor*

Maui DHS, in collaboration with the Maui Friends of the CJC, the Hanai Coalition and Maui businesses, coordinated the first Maui DHS "Treasured Keiki Day" at the Maui Sports Park. Approximately 100 foster parents and children participated in the event which included water boat rides, mini-golf, trampoline jumping and rock climbing. A special thanks to the Maui DHS staff who assisted in the coordination of the event--Casie McAlinden, Kelli Haaff and Michelle Christensen. This event was made possible by a generous contribution by the Mark and Debi Roling Charitable Foundation.



### Training Explores Impact of Trauma on Children

*Scott Seto,  
DHS Supervisor*

The Maui County Children's Justice Committee and the Hanai Coalition sponsored the recent workshop "Child Development and Trauma: Effects on Children's Behavior and How Caregivers Can Help." Childcare was provided and over 50 foster parents attended. The presenter, Vicky Kelly, has a doctorate in clinical psychology and over 25 years of experience working with foster and adopted families. Special thanks to Lisa Belongie, DHS licensing worker, for her assistance in coordinating this event.



### Kauai Foster Parents Honored

Kauai foster parents enjoyed a festive celebration at the Terrace Restaurant in May. This recognition luncheon was coordinated by the Kauai Foster Care Training Committee. Special thanks to DHS licensing workers Marcia Ota and Kirstie Kashima for handling so many of the details.

The foster parents were each greeted with a lei upon arrival. During the official recognition, each family received a certificate and a beautiful wooden tray. All the attendees received a lauhala box "to represent the gift foster parents give to our keiki when they open their homes and hearts to a child. Inside each box is a poem or saying to inspire us in the valuable work that we do for children."

After lunch, the audience was entertained with lovely hula and rousing Tahitian and Filipino dances. Foster parents and the DHS Director Lillian Koller demonstrated their skill at the bamboo dance known as Tinikling. Many door prizes were distributed, with donations from Big Save, Inc., Courtyard by Marriott, Hyatt Regency, Kauai Community Federal Credit Union, Radisson Kauai, Sheraton Kauai, Jerry and Mokihana Powers, Juanita and Wilfred Tabian, and Wal-Mart.





## Independent Living Skills Program for Foster Parents

**H**ale Kipa’s Independent Living Program (ILP) is offering free Foster Parent Training on how to teach Independent Living Skills to your foster youth. If you are parenting a foster youth aged 12-21 years of age, you are invited to attend our 6 session training starting in August.

These trainings are offered weekly in both the Windward and Leeward area. Foster parents who attend all six sessions are eligible to win a grand prize at the end of the training. The grand prize winner at our last set of trainings received a stainless steel Weber gas grill valued at over \$800. This training is a wonderful opportunity to receive support from other foster parents and learn more about how you can prepare foster youth to make the transition into adulthood. We look forward to seeing you in August. For more information and to register, please call Jennifer at **589-1829, ext 205**.



### Captain’s Club is Ready to Sail!

*Rich Marshall, President  
Captain’s Club*

**T**he Captain’s Club “Intro to Sailing” will be starting its summer program soon. The session will meet for four weeks, most likely on Mondays, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm, sailing out of Kewalo Basin. This program is open to foster youth and their foster family siblings, ages 10-16.

For updated information and application form, visit the Captain’s Club website at **[www.captainsclubhi.org](http://www.captainsclubhi.org)**. Information will also be posted at the HFWA website at **[www.hawaiifosterparent.org](http://www.hawaiifosterparent.org)**.

Graduates from this program have been keeping our monthly 'Mates Sail' program growing! Please call Rich at **456-5103** for more information.



### Reaching Out to Former Foster Youth Serving in the Military

*Child Welfare League of America*

**T**he National Foster Care Coalition and the United Service Organizations (USO) have partnered to identify former foster youth serving in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Over the course of the year, the two organizations will implement a program providing letters and care packages to soldiers who may not have family or other people to offer support to them while they are away.

To volunteer to participate in the letter writing campaign and care package collection, go to **<http://www.natl-fostercare.org>** and fill out an online form. If you would like more information, or you know a former foster youth on active duty in the military who might benefit from the program, call **202-454-5608** or email: **[nfcc@connectforkids.org](mailto:nfcc@connectforkids.org)**.

**I** have learned...

- ★ that I can’t choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.
- ★ that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- ★ That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.



**Dear HFPA and Outback Steakhouse,**

**T**hank you very much for providing a luncheon for the foster families. As a foster family of 9, it is great to get to go to new places that we have not tried before. The kids from ages 17 to age 2 had a great time with the balloons and the stickers and especially the face painting! Mahalo for all you do for us.

*Chris and Randi Miller*



**Dear HFPA,**

**T**hank you for all the wonderful programs, newsletters, and projects you do for the foster parents of Hawaii. We are in the process of finalizing our adoption of our son. We asked our friends that in lieu of gifts a donation be given to your organization in his/our family's name. Thanks again for all your help and we think this is truly a cause worth supporting.

*Sincerely,  
The Eriksons*

**Dear Sarah and Judith,**

**T**hank you for your advance notice of the dates of your next conference in October 2005. I will get this information out to all the judges. We are confident that this conference will be as well-planned and useful as all your past endeavors.

*Aloha,  
Frances Q.F. Wong  
Senior Judge*

**Dear Hawaii Foster Parent Association,**

**F**or my Sociology class in high school, I had an assignment which involved asking 2 questions of a professional in this field. The questions were: 1) What is the percentage of children in foster care related to the usage of crystal meth? and 2) What are some solutions that DHS is using/trying to help decrease this percentage? First, I called a child psychiatrist regularly used by DHS that works with foster children. He didn't have the time to talk to me and told me to call DHS.

Next, I called a DHS intake worker, who referred me to a social worker, who referred me to "Staff Development," who then referred me to another worker. None had a clue to my questions. I was then referred to the Office of the Director, they told me to call the Lieutenant Governors Office and ask for (name). He wasn't in, so I left a message for him to return my call, which never was.

Finally, exasperated, I called your office. Without any hesitation, I was given the answers to my questions. Being a child myself in foster care, I sure am glad there is someone out there that seems to know what's going on. Thanks for being there. (I was a little worried about this system I am in...now I'm a lot worried!)

*Sincerely,  
A Child in Foster Care*

P.S. As I was typing this, the Lieutenant Governors Office returned my call. I spoke to a Legislator who referred me to CPS for my 1<sup>st</sup> question, but told me about some laws that are up before the legislature to help with drug control and rehabilitation this session.

*Mahalo to our Donors*



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In honor of the Tyler Erikson and his family

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**Hawaii Foster Parent Association**  
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<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-top: 10px;"> <span>_____</span> <span>_____</span> <span>_____</span> </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> <span style="margin-right: 100px;"><i>Card Number</i></span> <span style="margin-right: 100px;"><i>Cardholder's Signature</i></span> <span><i>Expiration Date</i></span> </p> <input type="checkbox"/> My company will match my gift—the necessary form is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send me the next four quarterly newsletters, mailed directly from the HFPA office.  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>❖ This gift will be acknowledged in the HFPA Bulletin unless requested otherwise.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;"><i>In accordance with IRS regulations, your gift to the Hawaii Foster Parent Association is fully tax-deductible.</i></p>		



## Check out the Hawaii Foster Parent Association website at [www.hawaiifosterparent.org](http://www.hawaiifosterparent.org).



New information and resources are added to the website on a regular basis. Read what one foster parent said:

*“Thank you for putting Salvation Army Camp Homelani on the Website! This camp gives my foster daughter the opportunity to do something fun for herself and with kids her age group. It is also helping with the summer boredom. I only learned about the camp because of the HFPA website. Thanks!”*

Articles on the website include:

- Legal Resource Manual for Foster Parents, including chapters on *Permanency, Foster Parents & the Law; Dependency Court & Removal of Children; Court Participation by Foster Parents; and Allegations of Maltreatment*. This manual was written by Cecilia Fiermonte of the American Bar Association and Regina Deihl of Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting. Regina will be a speaker at this year’s HFPA conference.
- Enhancement Funds: Under “*Resources, Financials*” is the information on how to access enhancement funds for children in foster care.
- Foster Parent Court Report: Under “*Articles, Legal and Court Information*,” you will find a blank court report form you can download and use. There are also sample court report forms and information about where to send your court report for each island.





**Hawaii  
Foster Parent  
Association**

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**10th Annual HFPA Foster Care  
Conference and Reception**

**When:** Friday, October 14 &  
Saturday, October 15, 2005

**Where:** Sheraton Waikiki  
Convention Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**Registration Fee**

One Day: \$85

Both Days: \$130

Limited number of scholarships available.

**Come join us for the complimentary reception  
Friday evening to celebrate the 10th year of  
the conference.**

*Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, evening re-  
ception and materials, in addition to the workshops.*

*Registration brochures will be sent out in August.  
Information will also be available on-line at  
[www.hawaiifosterparent.org](http://www.hawaiifosterparent.org)*

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