



10th Annual HFPA Foster Care Conference and Reception

By now, you should have received your 2005 HFPA conference registration brochure. Registrations are coming in fast and furiously, but there is still room for you. Fill out your registration form today, indicating the workshops you would like to take and mail or fax to HFPA. You can also download the brochure and registration form from our website at www.hawaiifosterparent.org. If you did not receive a brochure and would like one sent to you, call us at **263-0920** or e-mail us at info@hawaiifosterparent.org to request a copy.

Scholarships

DHS is providing scholarships for DHS foster parents and social workers on a first come, first served basis, so it is important to send in your registration as soon as possible. Many other foster care agencies are also providing full or partial scholarships for their staff and foster parents, so be sure to call your agency to see what they are providing. You can also call us at **263-0920** to inquire about the availability of partial scholarships if you are not with a foster care agency.

Topics

This year, there are 32 workshops offered over four breakout sessions. There will also be four keynote presentations.

Workshop titles include:

- They Have Been Waiting Too Long: Child Specific Recruitment
- Cultural and Ethnic Identity Development
- Permanency Options
- Factors of Success for Healthy Foster and Adoptive Families
- Maintaining Sibling Relationships
- Legal Aspects of Allegations
- Foster Parents at Court Hearings—an Interactive Training
- Special Education and IDEA
- Impact of Fostering on Birth Children in Foster Home
- Legislative Advocacy 101
- Impact of Prenatal Drug Exposure
- Helping Sexually Abused Children Heal



Attendees visit the HFPA book table at last year's conference.

10th Conference Anniversary Reception

As part of your conference registration this year, you are invited to join us for the 10th Conference Anniversary Reception on Friday afternoon. The first HFPA conference was held at Kamehameha Middle School in 1996. At that conference, one could select a morning workshop and an afternoon workshop out of four choices. There were no keynote presentations or welcoming speeches. Lunch was in the school cafeteria and we were responsible for wiping down the tables and sweeping the floors afterwards.

Today, ten conferences later, over 600 attendees will be meeting over two days at the Sheraton Waikiki, selecting from 32 workshops, plus keynote presentations. We are pleased with the growth of the conference in size, quality, variety of workshops, diversity of attendees, the presence of exhibitors and the feeling that the conference is a time for learning, networking and feeling rejuvenated and inspired to continue our commitment to children who need us. Come join us Friday afternoon for pupus, music, reminisces and recognition. We hope you can take the time to celebrate the work you do to make life better for children.

Child Specific Foster Parent Training

Listen to what relatives and other child specific foster parents are saying about the Child Specific training:

"I didn't think I needed this class, but I really did. It helped me with the way I look at my foster child and I'm able to be more empathetic."

"I love the fact that I am actually learning here because I thought this would be such a drag but it's great because we all share how we parent and how it's not easy. We learn how the child feels and how to parent even better."

"Excellent presentations in an easy to understand format. Greatly appreciated the educational video and audio tapes."

This series of workshops meets DHS' training requirement for child specific foster parents. The workshops are team-taught by a licensed therapist and a foster parent, whose years of experience and varying points of view provide practical as well as professional information regarding the children and the foster care system.



Helpers Matthew and Kelsey, and HFPA staff member Candy Santos, prepare Welcome Packets to mail to Child Specific Foster Parents, inviting them to sign up for specialized workshops.

Over 16 cycles of the 15-hour trainings have been held, so only a few opportunities remain to attend a class this year. Check out the website at www.hawaiifosterparent.org for the listing of locations and times (click on Child Specific Training schedule under Events). Keep checking back, too, as we are hopeful that we can add at least two more cycles on Oahu before the end of December.



SECOND ANNUAL "AROUND THE WORLD IN AN EVENING"

Reception and Wine Tasting at Indigo's

Thursday, November 10, 2005, 6:00 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$95

Join us at Indigo Restaurant for gourmet cuisine created by Chef Glenn Chu, paired with a selection of Indigo's fine wines from around the world. A raffle will be held during the event.

Reservations are required and limited. Call **808-263-0920** or e-mail info@hawaiifosterparent.org for ticket information.



Proceeds to support the work of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association

The mission of HFPA is to educate, support and nurture caregiver, 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.

Advocates Express Concerns about Kinship Placement Policy

Child advocates in Hawaii are concerned about a recent policy directive from the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS). The complete policy, *PA 2005-5, Supporting, Strengthening, and Maintaining Family Connections through Kinship Placement of Children Active with Child Welfare Services Branch*, can be found on the HFPA website at www.hawaiiosterparent.org or on the DHS website at www.hawaii.gov/dhs. DHS considers this policy a reaffirmation of a focus on placing children with relatives. Child advocates contend that the current implementation of this policy is negatively impacting children and their need for permanency.



But the law does not require, after a placement has been made and a child is in a loving, nurturing home, that the State must move that child, especially if it is months or years later, to a relative's home just because a relative has been belatedly found or belatedly agreed to take the child. This decision seems to fly in the face of what is in the best interests of the child.

Standard of Homes

Another concern expressed by child advocates is that the DHS policy overreaches by giving preference to a relative home over a non-relative home even where the relative home is marginal, in which case DHS will provide services to the relatives in hopes of bringing them up to standard. This is not expected by Federal law, which requires that the relative be "fit and willing," able to ensure the child's safety and meet the child's needs.

Who is a Relative?

Each State defines "relative" differently, including relatives through blood, marriage, or adoption ranging from the first to the fifth degree. Generally, preference is given to the child's grandparents, followed by aunts, uncles, adult siblings, and cousins. Hawaii's new policy directive defines kin "as both maternal and paternal relatives, adult siblings, or individuals not biologically or legally related to the family, including, but not limited to, family friends, hanai caregivers, or family pastor or minister, but who are, nevertheless, perceived as "family" by the children and/or their family members."

Permanency for Children

When parental rights have been terminated, DHS must find a permanent home for the child. Some children have been living in the same non-relative home their entire life and these people are willing and able to provide a permanent home. However, under the new policy, with increased pressure to find a relative, these same children are now in danger of being forced to leave the only home they have known because DHS has found a relative who is now willing to take them.

In order for States to receive Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance, the law requires that they "consider giving preference to an adult relative over a non-related caregiver when determining placement for a child, provided that the relative caregiver meets all relevant State child protection standards." (42 U.S.C. 671 (a) (19))

Best Practice

In the "best practice" world, relatives would be found upfront who are fit and willing to be the foster placement for a child, meet all relevant State standards and commit to caring for the child permanently if parental rights are terminated. But when that doesn't happen and the child has been placed with a non-relative, it is absolutely imperative that we recognize the child's sense of time, the bonding and connection that is occurring, and the stability and continuity that comes from staying where he or she is.

We should refer back to the ar-



gument made in *Womb Mates* (E Puluma Na Keiki, July 2005) that the attachment of a child to his or her foster parents should be considered in placement decisions. As the author of the aforementioned article, Regina Kuppecky, states, "Leave the child where he is planted and blooming." The time to find relatives is at the beginning of the case, which is also right in keeping with the DHS policy of concurrent planning.

(Continued on page 8)

Difficulty of Care Payments for Children in DHS-licensed Homes

Children in foster care who have extraordinary needs may qualify for additional payments, called Difficulty-of-Care (DOC) payments, beyond the \$529 foster board rate.



General eligibility requirements for DOC payments are:

1. The child is under the placement responsibility of the Department of Human Services and is in an approved foster home;
2. The child needs additional daily care and supervision because of a physical, emotional, mental, or behavioral problem;
3. A qualified professional, other than the DHS worker, has provided written verification of the child's need for additional care and supervision and has determined that the services are necessary as part of the treatment plan;
4. The foster parents are capable of providing for the child's needs by virtue of education, special training or by experience. If the foster parents do not have the education, training or experience, they will obtain the necessary training within one month of the initiation date of the difficulty of care payments.

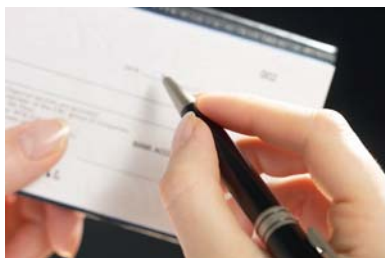
In order to determine eligibility, you will be asked to fill out a Difficulty of Care Worksheet, which requires that you know and understand the child's special needs and the additional activities you need to do to properly care for the child. You will also need to get written verification from the child's doctor, therapist or other professional regarding the child's needs.

DOC payments are made directly to the foster home on a monthly basis for the number of hours determined in the DOC agreement. The maximum monthly number of hours that can be paid for is 120, at an hourly rate of \$4.75.

In addition, the DHS procedures recommend that the DOC agreement be reviewed at least once a year. Also, if the child moves to another home and the needs, requirements and services provided remain the same, the prior worksheet can be copied and attached to the new agreement. Finally, the procedures recommend that no more than 3 children receiving DOC payments be placed in one home, in order to enable the foster parents to be able to provide the optimal care and supervision the children require.

Refer to DHS Child Welfare Services Branch Procedures Manual, Part V, Section 4.6.

Maui Hanai Coalition Receives Mini- Grant



Congratulations to the Hanai Coalition on Maui for the recent grant received from AdoptUsKids. This \$4,000 grant will provide funding for training, events and support services for foster, adoptive and legal guardianship families in Maui County. Thanks goes out to coalition members Alda and Jim St. James who wrote the grant proposal. Thanks also to Rosemary Blair and Randy Echito of the Maui Friends of the Children's

Justice Center who worked very diligently to make this possible.

The Hanai Coalition consists of community agencies on Maui providing education, training and support to foster families and adoptive families on the island. Planning meetings are held every fourth Thursday at the Neighborhood Place of Wailuku, 2005 Mokuahau Road, Wailuku. For further information about the Hanai Coalition or the newly formed Maui Foster Parent Association, contact Alda St. James at **572-8575**.

Also, go to **www.hawaiifosterparent.org** and scroll down under Events on the home page to find the flyer about the Maui foster parent potluck on October 22, 2005.

Ono Sweet Potato Salad

Kamehameha Schools

2½ lbs. okinawan sweet potato, steamed and cut into cubes
 2½ lbs. yama sweet potato, steamed and cut into cubes
 ½ Maui onion, diced
 1 green bell pepper, diced
 1 red bell pepper, diced
 1½ yellow bell pepper, diced

Dressing for Sweet Potato Salad

½ cup salad oil
 1 cup honey
 2 cups vinegar

3 T salt
 2 T garlic, minced
 1 bay leaf
 Dash of Worcestershire sauce
 Pepper to taste

Toss together the sweet potatoes, onion, and peppers.
 Add dressing to taste.



Mahalo to the KS Health, Wellness & Family Education department.

DHS Emergency Shelter Homes Needed

Elaine Chung, DHS Licensing Unit

The Department of Human Services has a special type of foster care called an Emergency Shelter Home (ESH). These are special people because they're required to be available for placements 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The children may remain in the home anywhere from one day to 30, and longer at times if a return to the birth family or placement in a suitable foster home is not possible. Whatever the duration, they are expected to provide safety and nurturance, the emotional comfort that is always needed when any child is removed from his family home.



Gilbert and Betty Yray were regular foster parents for 27 years before becoming an ESH two years ago. They keep enough space for five teenage boys and Betty likes the part of sitting down with youngsters and encouraging them to talk through their concerns and problems, developing this into a life skill. She's convincing when she tells them she's always there to listen. Linda Dean does not sound overwhelmed when she says 650 children have been in and out of her home in eight years as an ESH. That's because it came as a relief to switch to sheltering when in five years of regular foster parenting she found herself adopting three boys. Linda's now happy to "continue contributing" without feeling each child might become a permanent member of her family. All the shelter parents have different reasons for moving from fostering to sheltering, but what they share is a desire to open their homes to scared, angry, disrupted, and hurt children.

These are the qualities a prospective ESH foster parent should possess:

1. A general license and completion of PRIDE training
2. At least two years of experience as a regular foster parent
3. Ease in dealing with a range of child needs and behaviors
4. Ability to cope with limited initial information because removals may be sudden in the interest of safety
5. Sufficient control and order of one's household routines so that personal demands are not always competing with shelter duties

Call Elaine Chung at 832-5155 to find out more about becoming an emergency shelter home.

Permanency Options— Making the Right Choice for Your Family and Your Child

Foster parents and relative caregivers are often asked to become the permanent caregiver for a child in their home if the birth parents are unable to provide a safe home. There are several different permanency options for a family to consider. You need to make sure you are fully informed of your options and the impact of each on your family, both now and in the future. You may decide that you need to consult with a lawyer or even possibly a tax advisor.

On the HFPA website at www.hawaiifosterparent.org, you can open up a Permanency Options Chart that compares adoption, legal guardianship and permanent custody. If you do not have access to the web, call us at 263-0920 or toll free at 877-775-4400 for a copy. Your child's social worker and the staff at EPIC Ohana Conferencing can also provide you with a copy.



We would like to highlight a couple of issues in regards to your decision-making when asked to consider making a permanent commitment to the child in your care. This is particularly important if you are thinking about taking legal guardianship or permanent custody of a child with

special needs with a plan to adopt later.

Adoption Assistance

Children with special needs often qualify for adoption assistance when moving from a foster care relationship to adoption. Adoption assistance may include monthly maintenance payments, medical coverage, and other services such as therapy and respite care, as outlined in state policy (*Adoption Subsidy Definitions*, www.nacac.org). Hawaii's legal definition of special needs is as follows:

A child who is legally freed for adoption but who cannot be placed with an adoptive parent without providing adoption assistance because of one or more of the following specific factors or conditions: (a) ethnic background; (b) age; (c) membership in a sibling group being

adopted by the same family, not necessarily at the same time; (d) severe or chronic medical condition, physical, mental, or emotional disability; (e) at high risk for a severe or chronic medical condition, physical, mental, or emotional disability.

Legal Guardians Cannot Move to Adoption with Adoption Assistance

It is important to note that if you take legal guardianship first and then go back to court to adopt the child, he or she will no longer be eligible for adoption subsidy even if they meet the criteria listed above. The key is that according to Hawaii Administrative Rules 17-944.1, a child must be "in the custody or care of the department or a licensed child placing agency."

According to DHS, when a child is under legal guardianship to an individual, the child's case under HRS 587 is closed and the child is no longer "in the custody or care of the department or a licensed child placing agency." For DHS to obtain custody of the child, the child would have to be physically removed from the legal guardian due to safety concerns. If the home is safe, the child would not be removed and placed under DHS custody and therefore, the eligibility requirement for adoption assistance cannot be met. Thus, the child would not be eligible for adoption assistance (*E-mail communication with DHS, June 22, 2005*).

Permanent Custodians Need DHS to come in as Co-Custodian in Order to Adopt with Adoption Assistance

According to DHS, when there is a sole permanent custodian, the child's case remains open under HRS 587 and DHS can obtain co-permanent custody without removing the child from the sole permanent custodian's home. DHS must agree to be brought back into the case (or the child's GAL, who remains in the case, can file a Motion) and request Family Court to establish co-permanent custody between DHS and the sole permanent custodian. If co-permanent custody to DHS is granted by the Family Court, DHS as an agency would have custody of the child, and one of the eligibility requirements for adoption assistance would now be satisfied. Therefore, when an individual(s) has sole permanent custody, DHS needs to get co-permanent custody before considering adoption assistance if the child meets the other eligibility requirements (*Ibid*).

Again, referring to the Permanency Options chart, "If the
(Continued on page 7)

Foster Parents Encouraged to Attend Court Hearings

Many foster parents and relative caregivers are not aware that they can attend the court hearings about the children in their homes and can provide valuable information to the court for its decision making process.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), passed by Congress in 1997, requires that foster parents (including pre-adoptive parents) and relative caregivers be given notice and an opportunity to be heard at any review or hearing to be held with respect to the child in their care.

Hawaii law (HRS 587-72) states that notice of review hearings must be served on the present foster parent or parents, each of whom is entitled to participate in the proceedings as a party. (Parties are interested people designated by the law or the court to participate in the court proceedings).

Because our state law only addresses review hearings, DHS procedures only instruct staff to notify foster parents about review hearings, not other types of hearings and motions (adjudications, jurisdictional, etc.). So, even though federal law requires the foster parents be given notice and an opportunity to be heard at any review or hearing, our state law does not currently make reference to hearings other than review hearings. Discussions are underway regarding amending the Hawaii law to clarify the foster parents' right to attend all hearings in regards to the child in their home.

The court retains authority to decide whether to allow the foster parent into non-review hearings and if it is a non-review hearing and the parents or another party objects, the court (the judge) is the one with the authority to determine whether to allow the foster parent in the



hearing. Generally, though, as an important team member in this child's life, the courts and others want you to be there.

Foster parents are an important information resource for the court because they have day-to-day contact with the child. In addition, foster parents interact with teachers, therapists, and other service providers on a regular basis. Often, they are in the best position to know information about the child's progress and needs.

The juvenile court must review the cases of all children in foster care at least every six months. The department is required by Hawaii law to serve written notice of the review hearing to the foster parent no less than 48 hours before the scheduled hearing. No hearing is to be held until you have been served. Notice to foster parents can be accomplished by hand delivery of the notice or by regular mail; or it may consist of giving you a copy of the last court order, if it includes the date and the time of the hearing. Once you attend a court hearing, you will know the date of the next hearing because that date is set before court is over. You also can call the worker or the guardian ad litem to find out the date of the hearing.

Thanks to Regina Deihl, J.D., executive director of Legal Advocates for Permanent Parenting, for assistance with a prior version of this article. Regina will be a presenter at this year's HFGA conference on October 14 and 15, 2005, along with Bill Grimm of the National Center for Youth Law and Daniel Pollard of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii.

NOTE: The information in this article is not a substitute for legal advice or counsel. For questions related to specific cases, contact a Hawaii attorney experienced in juvenile court matters.

(Continued from page 6)

permanent custodian later decides to adopt, DHS can be brought back into the case as a party (if it is not already a party), and the adoption can be completed through DHS without cost to the permanent custodian." If the child meets the other criteria for adoption assistance, the child would be eligible to receive adoption assistance.

The department has informed us that all Child Welfare Service staff have been given the Comparison of Permanency Options chart mentioned at the beginning of this article and have been instructed to review the different options with family members and the prospective permanent caregiver. Remember that neither the DHS worker nor the guardian *ad litem* is obligated or necessarily qualified to advise you as to what is the best decision for your family.

Note: Joe Krull, Executive Director of the North American Council on Adoptable Children, will be speaking on this topic at this year's HFGA conference on October 14 and 15, 2005.

Former Foster Child Acknowledged as a Forgiveness Hero

International Forgiveness Day was celebrated here in Hawaii on August 7th. Several 2005 Forgiveness Heroes were acknowledged, including former foster child Jennifer AhChong. Jennifer shared her powerful story of Forgiveness in her life. She focused on how she is dedicating a large part of her life to becoming a positive role model for younger foster youth and helping to educate our communities about foster care and the need for making improvements in the systems that serve foster children. Her story is told below and can also be found at <http://www.hawaiiforgivenessproject.org/heroes05.htm>.



childhood of remarkable challenges. With a heart of compassion, Jennifer was able to forgive: the hospital staff that erred in the death of her mother; her father for not being able to keep their family together; and the foster care system for repeatedly failing her after she became a foster child.

Jennifer emerged as a central figure of strength for her siblings, including her youngest brother for whom she eventually became a foster parent. She also "hanai'd" other younger relatives whenever the need arose. Jennifer and her husband are parents of twin sons and an adopted baby girl. Jennifer is proud of her Hawaiian heritage and loves to paddle canoe with her halau. She has served as a trainer and facilitated workshops for families, youth and staff on the mainland and Hawaii. Jennifer will be co-presenting a workshop on the development of positive self-identity for foster youth at the annual Hawaii Foster Parent Association Conference this October. (For more information about the HFPA conference, go to www.hawaiifosterparent.org).

Jennifer and her four siblings lost their mother through a medical mishap after their mother gave birth to Jennifer's youngest brother. Jennifer found herself moving through different foster homes after her father was not able to be a consistent parent. With an unflinching belief in her own inner spirit, a strong connection to her Hawaiian heritage, and a heart filled with compassion, Jennifer was able to survive and thrive through a

(Continued from page 3)

For the sake of the children, perhaps Hawaii should consider a law such as Tennessee has, where, if a child has been placed in foster care with a non-relative and has been living with the same foster parent for 12 months or longer when he or she becomes available for adoption, the non-relative foster parent is given first preference to adopt. Certainly, many children may feel



their foster parents meet the department's definition of "kin." The key is to be sure that the needs of the child are considered first and foremost when making decisions. The ac-

knowledge must also be made that it is actually possible for a non-relative to provide a loving, nurturing and safe home and that, in many cases, the non-

relative can maintain or establish on-going contact with the birth family.

In the meantime, we strongly urge DHS to reconsider its policy to make on-going efforts to find relatives, regardless of how much time has passed. Those efforts must be made upfront. If relatives are not identified or are not willing to take the child upfront, then the child will be placed in a non-relative home with the concurrent planning goal of permanency by this family if the child is unable to return home.



For a summary of state laws on the placement of children with relatives, go to the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, State Statutes Series 2005, at <http://naic.acf.hhs.gov/general/legal/statutes/placement.cfm>.

Your Donation Helps HFPA Provide Services to Foster Parents

Give Aloha in September

Foodland is sponsoring the *Give Aloha* program September 1-30, 2005. You can donate up to \$249 at the checkout to the Hawaii Foster Parent Association and Foodland will match a percentage of your donation. At the checkout line, show your Maika'i card and tell the cashier you want to make a donation to HFPA. Your donation amount will be added to your purchase total. Save your receipt for tax purposes, as your contributions are tax deductible. The funds raised are used to maintain the training, website, newsletter and support services provided to foster parents by HFPA.



When your employer 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



Is It Time to Trade in Your Car?

Your unwanted vehicle could be worth more to you by donating it to HFPA through Kokua-in-Kind. It will be sold and the Association will receive the proceeds, less a processing fee. In exchange for donating your car (or boat, etc.), you may claim a deduction on your income tax. Please call Patricia at Kokua-in-Kind at **834-6603** for more information.

On the Web at www.hawaiiosterparent.org

In August 2004, we launched our new website at www.hawaiiosterparent.org. In August 2005, we had our 20,000th visitor. We invite you to join the ranks of folks who have gone to the site to find useful information to help them in their foster care role.

Events

Events are posted on a weekly basis. These include workshops sponsored by many different community organizations, free concerts, support group meetings, child specific foster parent training schedule, requests from the mainland for adoption speakers, and many other activities. Be sure to check the site to find events of interest to you. Also, if you have events you would like to request to be posted on the site, e-mail the information to sarah@hawaiiosterparent.org.

On-line Discussion

You can anonymously post comments about issues that are important in foster care in this moderated on-line discussion. To participate, you must register on the website at www.hawaiiosterparent.org by clicking on the log-in link in the right-hand corner of the website. Your comments will be posted anonymously and will be moderated for content and language. Check out the Discussion section of the website to see a list of current topics.

Articles of Interest

You can find the latest DHS policy announcements, chapters from the Legal Resource Manual for Foster Parents, the HFPA conference registration brochure, the latest issue of *E Pūlama Nā Keiki*, the DHS social worker phone and e-mail list and many other articles.



Dear HFPA,

Thank you for putting Salvation Army Camp Homelani on the website! My foster daughter, who is 10, is the only one in her age group in the home, since the little ones are all younger than 5 and the older one is 17 and on the way to college. This gives her the opportunity to do something fun for herself and with kids her age group. It is also helping with the summer boredom. I wouldn't have known about it without the website. I appreciate it!

Grateful foster mom

Dear Sarah,

Women like you and Judith are my role models. Despite a challenging world, you don't give up. Thank you for the work that you do and for promoting and advocating for the well being of children in foster care. Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders and we must continue to nurture them. I hope that the seeds we cultivate grow into strong flowers in the garden of the world.

Aloha,
Levani



Celebrating "Christmas in July" with the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc. are HFPA President Michael Troy, Executive Director Sarah Casken, Weinberg Foundation staff member Michelle Reece, and service recipient Allana Coffee.

Dear Ms. Casken,

In recognition of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association's service to the people of Oahu, The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Incorporated is pleased to contribute \$10,000 to provide education and training programs for foster parents. Best wishes for the continued success of the Hawaii Foster Parent Association.

Sincerely,
*The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Foundation, Incorporated*

East Hawaii Foster Parent Association News

*Cherie Benevides,
President*

The East Hawaii Foster Parent Association (EHFPA) has opened up an office and conference room at 180 Kinoole Street, Suite #204. It is open to the foster care community Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. We have a library consisting of several hundred books on various subjects including mental health disorders, special education and foster care issues.

The mission of EHFPA is to bring together the community to improve the foster care system and enhance the lives of all children and families. Currently, we are working on several retention ideas for foster and adoptive parents, including a pilot project in association with the World Healing Institute of Hawaii, entitled, "Our Guardian Angel Program." This venture will provide weekend retreats for caregiver families offering stress reduction strategies and simple techniques to help care for their children.

We bid a fond farewell to Momi Moore, who has served as the EHFPA treasurer and contributed much to the organization. Many thanks to Momi and the many other people who have contributed their time, talents and energy over the years.

You are invited to the EHFPA monthly meetings, held on the 2nd Friday of the month at our new office from 5:30 – 8:00 pm. And check your mailbox and the HFPA website at www.hawaiifosterparent.org for information about upcoming workshops.



Hawaii Foster Parent Association
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Name (First & Last):		
Address:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	Fax:	
Email:		
<p>Yes, I want to support quality foster care for Hawaii's children. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 </p>		
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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;"> _____ _____ _____ </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> <i>Card Number</i> <i>Cardholder's Signature</i> <i>Expiration Date</i> </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 align="center">❖ This gift will be acknowledged in the HFPA Bulletin unless requested otherwise.</p> <p align="center"><i>In accordance with IRS regulations, your gift to the Hawaii Foster Parent Association is fully tax-deductible.</i></p>		



AdoptUsKids Seeks Spokespeople



Are you an adoptive, foster or kinship family who would like to be part of a recruitment campaign to encourage other people to adopt or foster? The national AdoptUsKids recruitment campaign is looking for adoptive/foster/kinship families to be spokespeople. This would involve being contacted either by Rebecca Jones-Gaston of AdoptUsKids or the Ad Council. The contact would be for newspaper or magazine articles, radio, television or, on rare occasions, to give a talk about your experiences as a family. You won't have to know all about AdoptUsKids, just be willing to share your story. AdoptUsKids will send you talking points.

If you are interested, please contact Sylvia R. Franzmeier, Parent Group Manager, AdoptUsKids, 1922 Long Shadow Lane, Spring, TX 77388, 281-353-7459, Cell: 281-413-7377, Fax: 713-559-8374, e-mail: sylviaf@airmail.net.

The kind of information she will need includes the age of child at placement, age now, non-English speaking child or family, where you found your child, special needs, ethnicity, gender and anything else you would like to share. She will be developing a media contact list for the Ad Council. Their goal is to have at least three contacts in each state. At the time of this writing, there are no representatives from Hawaii. Call Sylvia today to find out more information.



**Hawaii
Foster Parent
Association**

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**REGISTER NOW FOR THE
10th Annual HFPA Foster Care
Conference**

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

Where: Sheraton Waikiki
Second Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii

Fee: One Day—\$85
Both Days—\$130
Limited number of scholarships available.
Call 263-0920 for information.

**Join us for the complimentary reception
Friday at 4:30 pm to celebrate the
10th year of the conference.**

Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, evening reception and materials, in addition to the workshops.

Information is also available on-line at
www.hawaiifosterparent.org

Inside This Issue

2	<i>Child Specific Training; Second Annual Wine Tasting</i>
3	<i>Kinship Placement Policy Creates Concerns</i>
4	<i>DHS Difficulty-of-Care Payments</i>
5	<i>Ono Sweet Potato Salad; DHS Needs Emergency Shelters</i>
6	<i>Permanency Options—Making the Right Decision</i>
7	<i>Foster Parents Encouraged to Attend Court Hearings</i>
8	<i>Former Foster Child Honored as Forgiveness Hero</i>
9	<i>Ways to Donate; 20,000 Visit the HFPA Website</i>
10	<i>Letters to Editor; East Hawaii FPA News</i>
11	<i>AdoptUsKids Seeks Spokespeople</i>