



Building Connections

A Newsletter for Resource Families



Volume 4, Issue 2

January 2011

HUI HO'OMALU STATEWIDE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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NEW AND EXCITING CHANGES AT DHS



(L-R) Pat McManaman, DHS Director
Pankaj Bhanot, DHS Deputy Director

We would like to welcome Pat McManaman who was recently appointed on 12/11/10 by Governor Neil Abercrombie as the next Director for the Department of Human Services. Currently, Ms. McManaman's appointment is still waiting to be confirmed by the State Senate. Also, on 12/15/10, Pankaj Bhanot was appointed by the Governor as the DHS Deputy Director.

Ms. McManaman has been the Deputy Executive Director for the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission since November 2008. Previously she was the Chief Executive Officer for Na Loio - Immigrant Rights and Public Interest Legal Center for 12 years. Practicing law in Hawai'i since 1979, she has held public interest legal positions with the Office of the Public Defender, Office of Consumer Protection, and the

Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. She has been a per diem judge in the District Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i for 17 years.

Mr. Bhanot is the Division Administrator of the Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division of DHS. Prior to joining DHS, he served as the Family Development Director of the Kauai Economic Opportunity, Inc.

We would also like to welcome and announce the appointments of Kayle Perez as the Child Protective Services Administrator and Cynthia Goss as the Child Protective Services Assistant Administrator. Both have been with DHS for many years and bring vast amounts of knowledge and leadership to their new positions.

The Department is currently going through some reorganization. Be on the lookout in future newsletters for more of the exciting changes resulting from the reorganization.



(L-R) Kayle Perez, CPS Administrator
Cynthia Goss, CPS Assistant Administrator



ALOHA & MAHALO... from Lillian Koller & Henry Oliva

It has been our honor and privilege for the past eight years to serve as Director and Deputy Director of the State Department of Human Services.

Thanks to the efforts of our staff, consultants and community partners, we secured half a billion in new federal dollars and invested that and other funding in a wide range of initiatives that improved the lives of Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents.

By working together, we increased health care coverage for children and adults, helped needy parents transition from welfare to jobs, improved the wages of clients with disabilities, expanded eligibility for food stamps and helped at-risk youth succeed in school and prepare for college and careers.

In addition, we safely reduced the number of children in foster care by more than half, while also cutting the child re-abuse by more than half. That means Hawai'i's keiki are now among the safest in America.

Mahalo for your many contributions as part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration. We wish you all the best as you continue making Hawai'i an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Lillian Koller and Henry Oliva



HUI HO'OMALU STATEWIDE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Hui Ho'omalua Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides support to the resource family community through identifying ongoing needs, facilitating communication and by sharing resources.

The Building Connections Newsletter is published four times a year to provide information regarding foster and adoptive care to resource families, service providers, and to the public.

This newsletter may be viewed on the following websites:

www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/foster

www.pidfoundation.org

Partners in Development
Foundation
2040 Bachelot St.
Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96817-2433

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please call 441-1125 (O'ahu), 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) or E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

GO GREEN!



Help our environment and request an electronic copy!

'OHANA CONNECTIONS CORNER

There's nothing more powerful than the voice of a youth speaking from the heart. For this 'Ohana Connections Corner, Kali, the fifteen year old youth featured in the October 2010 issue, has agreed to let me share a letter he wrote for his auntie Malia. If you are involved with the care of foster youth and wonder, at times, if your efforts are even noticed, I hope you clip this letter and carry it with you. Kali lets us know that our efforts are noticed, and they do make a difference. Sometimes, as in Kali's case, it makes all the difference to know someone is there no matter what.

To honor his auntie, Kali read his letter out loud at a special dinner which was held at his new group home. All the residents and their supporters were present. His unsuspecting auntie was very surprised, touched, and proud. I'm sure you'll see why.

—Wilma Friesema, OES
EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing, Inc.



"MY Hero"

Dear Aunty Malia,

I want you to know that you are my number one hero. I appreciate all the support you have been giving me. You are like my mother, you take care of me when I need it; you give me all the tools I need to succeed. You brought hope into my life just when I felt like giving up. I thank you for staying with me when I had rough times and bumpy roads. Whenever I hear your voice it lights up my day. I chose you as my hero, because a hero is a person who never gives up. In that case, you fit that description. I will make a change so that you don't have to worry if I'm okay or not. Every time I move places I think of all the new things you have to remember to stay in touch with me. I appreciate all the time and effort you put into attending all my meetings. Love, Kali

*Kali's and Malia's names were changed to preserve their confidentiality.

*EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing is funded through the Department of Human Services
For more information about 'Ohana Connections work
contact Wilma Friesema at EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing, Inc. at 748-7921*

MAHALO TO...

Do you know a DHS-CWS worker(s) that you would like to acknowledge for his/her exceptional work?
Share their name(s) with us and what makes them so special so we can let others know how wonderful they are!

441-1125 (O'ahu) ★ 1-888-879-8970 (Toll Free)
RAC@pidfoundation.org

Thought for the Day...

Submitted by Allene Uesugi, Resource Caregiver

*"A child touches your hand for a moment,
but your heart for a lifetime"*





OUTSTANDING DHS WORKERS!



Lynne Kazama...

SSD Employee of the Year, DHS Employee of the Year & State Employee of the Year

Lynne Kazama, one of the Assistant Program Administrators at Program Development and social worker by profession, is on a mission to help the keiki, families and communities of Hawai'i. She has been with the Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) for the past 7 years living her mission. Recognizing the power of collaboration and teamwork, Lynne has helped to bridge the Department with communities, agencies, groups, and many others to bring about improvements to Hawai'i's system of care. Some of these improvements include building relationships with Native Hawaiian and other minority communities, developing the community based Ma'ili Receiving Home—Ho'omalua O Nā Kamali'i, Hui Ho'omalua and Kōkua 'Ohana, Project First Care 0-3 and Teens, work with 'ohana and birth parents, and H.A.N.A.I. Training for prospective resource caregivers, just to name a few. Tremendous system changes have occurred over the years whereby the Department, Administration and Hawai'i have been nationally recognized by Casey Foundation and the Federal Government. Lynne's hard work and dedication also did not go unnoticed and in 2010, Lynne was named Social Service Division (SSD) Employee of the Year, DHS Employee of the Year and State Employee of the Year. She humbly accepted these awards on behalf of all the collaborations with Administration, staff, providers, youth, 'ohana, resource and adoptive/guardianship families, communities/advocate groups, including Native Hawaiian and minority/diversity groups, Judiciary, Federal Government officials, legislature, other State government entities, and any others involved in helping to make Hawai'i a better place for our keiki and families.



(L-R) Lillian Koller, former DHS Director, Lynne Kazama, Linda Lingle, former Governor

Congratulations Lynne!!!



Abigail Sylvester...AdoptUsKids December 2010 Caseworker of the Month

Abigail Sylvester, an adoption social worker for the Hawai'i Department of Human Services is the AdoptUsKids December Caseworker of the Month. Her attention to the questions and concerns of Linda and Frank Ward, a couple in their 50s adopting a toddler through a kinship placement, gave them a new lease on life.

The Wards wanted to let others know the exceptional work and support that Abby provided to them by nominating her for the AdoptUsKids Caseworker of the Month.

The Nomination Letter

At our age, we never dreamed we'd be starting over as parents of a young child! We had two grown sons and although we missed having kids at home we didn't think that we'd actually be adopting, but life is full of surprises! After a chain of events we became foster parents to the most adorable toddler in the world! When his birth parents relinquished their parental rights we knew we wanted to adopt. Foster care was challenging. We had four social workers within one year, and one worker's case load went from thirty to seventy!

Then we were assigned our permanency worker, Abby Sylvester. I knew from the moment we met her that she sincerely cared about our family and was going to try to help make the adoption process go as smoothly as possible. She actually returned every phone call and answered every email we sent her. She even gave us her personal cell phone number in case of an emergency. Although she had many cases to handle, she never seemed stressed. She is compassionate and energetic with a love for the children that she carefully places in their forever homes. She's proficient with a gracious attitude and we will be forever grateful to her for helping us add to our family. Now we can't imagine life without our little one. Thank you, Abby for making a difference in the lives of so many children looking for a family of their own.

Frank and Linda Ward (Honolulu, HI)

Congratulations Abby!!!

(Excerpts of this article was taken from the AdoptUsKids website. For the full story, please see: www.adoptuskids.org)



Abigail Sylvester

Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By Chiyomi Chow, FPH RFSS Family Resource Specialist

Resource Family Support Services (RFSS) is funded by the Department of Human Services



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

Ask the Warm Line



QUESTION: My foster child is a senior in high school. Who's supposed to help him register for college and apply for scholarships?

ANSWER: The child's supportive team can all help to get him ready for higher education. As the resource caregiver, you play an important role in helping the youth follow-up with what he needs to do. The youth's social worker plays a big role in helping to provide the information needed for college and scholarship applications. Others can help, as well. If he hasn't already had a youth circle, this is highly recommended to help bring people together to help plan for his future and figure out what each person can assist him with. For more information, you can call EPIC `Ohana at 838-7752 on O`ahu or 1-866-636-1644 (toll-free) on neighbor islands. There are additional programs that are designed to assist him through the process:

Independent Living Program (589-1829 ext. 202 for O`ahu, 959-5855 ext. 14 for Big Island, 245-5914 for Kaua`i, and 579-8414 for Maui County) helps youth develop knowledge, skills, and connections to make a successful transition to living on their own.

eXcel and Better Start workshops (521-9531 ext. 297) on O`ahu and Ho`ololi mua noke ola Senior Program (935-2876) in East Hawai`i guides high school seniors in foster care to successfully prepare for and enter college or vocational training.

A brochure titled, "Resources Available for Current & Former Foster Youth," is available at It Takes an `Ohana's website (ittakesanohana.org) with additional information, tips, and resources.

For more information, please call the Warm Line: 545-1130 on O`ahu or 1-866-545-0882 on neighbor islands.

***** Care to Share *****

Do you have something that a family could use? Do you care to share? Then here's a great opportunity to help children in foster care and their generous resource, adoptive or guardianship families.

"Care to Share" is a way for people to share their gently used items with resource, adoptive or guardianship families who need your support.

Examples of items requested include: smoke detectors, dressers, bunk bed, diapers, shoe shelf, toys, high chair, baby safety gate.

Examples of items currently available include: Cinderella suitcase, infant carrier, toddler potty, strollers, and women/teen/children's clothing in specific sizes.

For an up-to-date list of items by island, check out Care to Share at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org, under "Resources"



Do you have a question??? Contact the Warm Line!
545-1130 (O`ahu) ★ 1-866-545-0882 (Toll-free for Neighbor Islands)
E-mail: WarmLine@FamilyProgramsHi.org
Monday—Friday 8:30 am—5 pm

The Power of Neurofeedback

By Peggy Hill, LCSW

Roberta, (not her real name), had been neglected, abused, terrorized and overworked, first by her drug addicted mother, and later in successive foster care situations. At age 9 she was adopted by a loving, savvy family who offered her a fine home and a private school education. However Roberta raged, whined, cried, couldn't sleep, was failing at school, and seemed incredibly unhappy all the time. Was the problem the adoptive home? No! Roberta just couldn't quiet herself down. She had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. She also qualified for a diagnosis of mild Reactive Attachment Disorder.

The family took Roberta to a highly qualified therapist who specialized in situations like hers. With intensive therapy and major changes in parenting, things got better; however Roberta was plagued with massive mood changes. A psychiatrist prescribed calming medication and an anti depressant. Neither Roberta nor her family was happy with daily medication, although it helped. The therapist suggested Neurofeedback and when Roberta was 10, the family came hopefully.

A Neurofeedback assessment showed that Roberta had serious sleep problems: it was hard for her to fall asleep, was plagued by nightmares, and had a hard time returning to sleep once she had woken. She dragged through her days and became alert only in the early evenings. Also, very minor things irritated her to distraction including loud, sudden noises and clothing labels. At times she shrank away from affectionate hugs, but could be inappropriately friendly with strangers. At other times the only thing that helped her calm down was her mother's lap. Also Roberta, who had excelled at school when in foster care, was getting B's and C's. Roberta hated living this way, and her distress seemed to make everything else worse.

The family started neurofeedback (NFB) twice a week and came to sessions consistently, even when it was hard to get out of the house, homework wasn't completed, more desirable activities or family commitments conflicted and when Roberta's behavior had been very distressing. For the first 5 weeks there seemed to be no progress. After 10 sessions Roberta reluctantly admitted that

although her mom continued to give her the medication, she wasn't taking it.

Starting with the 11 session, progress truly began. Roberta started to fall asleep more easily, and although she enjoyed having her mother with her at bedtime, it no longer seemed a necessity. She argued about chores and homework, but responded, finally, to "grandma's law", that is, setting the priority of work before play. Her mood continued to swing rather wildly, however she had some tools to help stay centered, and she often chose to use them without being reminded.

By the 21st session, Roberta and her mom had family discussions as part of the session. School performance was a major issue; mom wanted her to strive for excellence, Roberta wanted to get by and have fun. They man-

A course of Neurofeedback affects the brain the way a course of carefully planned physical therapy affects the muscles.

aged to find middle ground, and Roberta's school performance improved. Manipulative tantrums were an issue; however behavioral interventions were finally helping in this area.

By the 31st session we began to discuss completing treatment. Issues were minimal. Roberta slept well, without nightmares, almost all the time. The occasional emotional outburst was age appropriate, and easily handled. Roberta was happy in school and also happy at home, and mom was only minimally stressed. Training was completed by the 40th session when Roberta could finally talk to her parents about what was troubling her.

Roberta and her mom have continued to "check in", and Roberta came in for a "refresher" 3 sessions when things got tough. Now age 15, Roberta has continued to do

well both socially and at school. Both Roberta and her mom credit Neurofeedback as being the one intervention that helped all of the other work they did be successful.

What is this thing called Neurofeedback? Dr. D. Corydon Hammond, a professor and psychologist affiliated with the University of Utah School of Medicine, says "Neurofeedback training is brainwave biofeedback." It's a carefully designed exercise program for the brain. A course of Neurofeedback affects the brain the way a course of carefully planned physical therapy affects the muscles. "Flabby" brain functions tighten up, helping the brain move from state to state easily, upon need, rather than staying in stuck and uncomfortable places. Sleep improves, temper improves, and concentration and focus improve.

And how can one train the brain? Tiny sensors placed on the scalp read brainwaves. That information feeds into a computer. The clinician evaluates the brain function, determines training protocols, and then sets training parameters. Dr. Hammond says, "The trainee then watches a display on the computer screen and listens to audio tones, sometimes while doing a task such as reading. The training sessions are designed to teach the person to slowly change and retrain their brainwave pattern. With continuing feedback, coaching and practice, the healthier brainwave patterns are maintained. Dr. Hammond goes on to say, "Ordinarily, a person cannot reliably influence their brainwave patterns because they lack awareness of them. However, when you see your brainwaves on a computer screen a few thousandths of a second after they occur, it gives you the ability to influence and change them. The mechanism of action is operant conditioning. We are literally reconditioning and retraining the brain."

What does neurofeedback help?

At the present time neurofeedback is noted for its success with reducing symptoms of ADHD without medication, in calming emotional storms, and in helping handle all kinds of anxiety including problems with test taking and performance. (Hammond, 2005) Stabi-

lizing the brain to minimize migraines and mood swings is also very successful.

Neurofeedback essentially helps the brain move to optimal regulation. Emotional outbursts in children, although sometimes manipulative in origin, almost immediately throw the brain out of optimal regulation, so that a tantrum, possibly initially caused by a reaction to parental direction, to a situation that caused fear, or to a feeling of disconnectedness, may get out of control. It can be hours or days before a child with attachment issues or major emotional storms can find emotional balance again. (Schoore & Schoore, 2008) Since neurofeedback trains a person to move from brain state to brain state easily, the training almost always helps a person return more quickly to optimal brain regulation, thus helping resolve emotional storms more quickly. As a person's brain becomes stronger, the person may choose to avoid these storms altogether.

Are there side effects?

Dr. Hammond says, "Mild side effects can sometimes occur during neurofeedback training. For example, occasionally someone may feel tired, spacey, anxious, experience a headache, have difficulty falling asleep, or feel agitated or irritable. Many of these feelings pass within a short time after a training session. If you make your therapist aware of such feelings, they can alter training protocols and usually quickly eliminate such mild adverse effects." Dr. Hammond goes on to say, "It is possible, however, for more significant negative effects to occur if training is not being supervised by a knowledgeable, certified professional who will individualize the training. A "one-size-fits-all" approach that is not tailored to the individual will undoubtedly

pose a greater risk of either producing an adverse reaction or of simply being ineffective."

Who is qualified to offer Neurofeedback?

A person qualified to offer neurofeedback professionally is a licensed medical or counseling professional. Full qualification requires advanced study. A clinician is fully qualified to offer neurofeedback only after taking a beginning and advanced course of study in the field, practicing under supervision for 1 year, and passing a qualifying exam offered by the Biofeedback Certification International Alliance (www.bcia.org).

Summary

Neurofeedback, originally researched in the 1960s, has been successfully used to help people regulate their brain states, and thus stabilize emotions and behavior, for the last 50 years. The training does not target specific diagnoses but rather exerts an overall calming and stabilizing influence on distressed brains. Symptoms, including anxiety conditions, focus and concentration concerns, sleep problems, mood disorders, and symptoms resulting from psychological and physical trauma respond quickly and easily to neurofeedback training. Although neurofeedback may not replace medical and psychological treatment, a course of neurofeedback usually augments the effectiveness of those treatments, causing symptoms to resolve more quickly. Neurofeedback is an entirely safe, non-invasive procedure when offered by a fully trained and qualified practitioner. The State of Hawai'i Department of Public Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division consider it an "effective best practice". (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division, Department of Health, Hawai'i, 2008) It is read-

ily available on most Islands in the State of Hawai'i. Many neurofeedback providers are qualified to offer mental health services in conjunction with neurofeedback, and thus medical insurance will usually cover the cost of the service.

Author Peggy Hill, LCSW, is with the Windward Biofeedback Associates. See box for contact info.

For references, go to www.ittakesanohana.org

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'OHANA REWARDS



Want to know how you could receive a **\$200.00 gift card**?

Would you like your name to appear in a future RAC newsletter?

All you need to do is help us find more homes for Hawai'i's keiki in foster care!

If you can refer, help, cheer, and see your referral to the finish line to become licensed, you could earn a \$200 gift card of your choice and join this list of folks who have received their 'Ohana Rewards:

- Paulette Yoshida*
- Chanda & Solomon Keawe*
- Davelyn Smith*
- Mimi Mendiola*

Call Hui Ho'omalulu today at 441-1117 or 1-888-879-8970 (toll free) for more information!

Real Ethics in a Virtual World

By Special Agent Arnold Laanui, Jr.
FBI Honolulu

Have you recently had trouble logging on to the Internet? Step back for a moment and ask yourself, "Who is "tech support" in my home?" For the vast majority of parents who honestly answered this question the answer would be – your child. Surprisingly, children often serve as mentor to their parents on everything from uploading family photos, syncing Mom's iPod, helping Dad download a work file to troubleshooting the family computer and printer. In fact, it would be a challenge in today's electronic age to find a young person who is not digitally connected in some fashion to the world around them.



As an investigator for the FBI, I have seen the FBI transition from gumshoe to gigabyte detective. Along the way, I have also seen how tweens and teens have evolved into both vulnerable victim and, on occasion, cunning criminal. Because of this rapid growth in technology, adults have been posed with a difficult dilemma: how do parents teach their children the ethical and proper use of computers when they themselves know little of computers or the Internet?

Because the Internet is so personal and intimate, it is very easy for our youth (and adults) to share too much information about their activities, their whereabouts and themselves while online. Because we often use the computer in the personal spaces of our homes, we tend to lower our inhibitions and engage in risky online behaviors. Children, teens, and adults can greatly reduce this risk if they simply remember three rules about the Internet:

- The Internet is a public place.
- What you transmit online can be seen and saved by others.
- The Internet is not necessarily "reality."

First, the Internet is "public". I speak to thousands of students each year and the first lesson that I share is "the Internet is not 'myspace' its 'our-space". Every day, over 2,000,000,000 people access the global forum we call the Internet. Teens must realize that information is moved on public networks, often on wireless routers. There are many opportunities for data to leak and find its way to more than its original or intended destinations. Because the Internet is a public forum, students should go online with little to no expectation of privacy – especially if they share and communicate on social networking sites.



Second, parents and students should know that the Internet is an archive and that digital data can last "forever". Information is constantly saved, reposted, re-blogged and shared with countless Internet users each day. Because information is so easily and rapidly shared, it is possible to find vast amounts of personal data online. If you delete information from your computer – is it gone? If you delete information or an embarrassing picture from your social networking page – is it gone? If you delete a text message from your cell phone – is it gone?

Surprisingly - the answer to each of these questions is no. [Information is merely cached and saved elsewhere to make room for new information and data.]

Students must be aware that one of the fastest growing job occupations in the U.S. today is "open source data miners". These are individuals who scour the Internet for free, publicly accessible data. Every major university and every major human resource department hires these individuals to do background checks on prospective students and employees. Students must be made aware that postings and images of an offensive or inappropriate nature will surface in the course of their college interviews and future job applications.

Third, parents and students should know that a lot of what transpires on the Internet is not necessarily "reality". Tweens and teens should remember that in a virtual environment, it is very easy to fool online surfers. Creating fake avatars and identities are very easy to do on the Internet. Copying a school logo, adopting a school mascot, and copying another student's profile is easy to do in a digital environment and can be used to fool our younger citizens.

How can you minimize your child's risks online? First, talk to your children. Discuss with them their online behavior, the websites they go to and set parameters about appropriate and inappropriate conduct online. Second, if your child does use a social networking site, set their privacy settings to the maximum level. Lastly, advocate the rule "think twice before you click twice." Teens should be asking themselves, "Would I be embarrassed if my parents, grandparents or school saw what I was posting online?"

If you would like more information on internet safety, visit the following websites: <http://www.ikeepsafe.org/> and <http://www.netsmartz.org/index.aspx>

FPH Holiday Party Highlights



The vision of 1,200 beaming children unwrapping holiday presents at the Holiday Party for foster kids and their families is a sight to behold. The annual Holiday Party, put on by Family Programs Hawai'i and the Department of Human Services, was a huge success. About 2,000 children and resource caregivers attended the twelfth year of the Holiday Party.



Community support was abundant this year with thousands of toys and gifts donated to every child. Over 500 volunteers were instrumental in making the party a success. Entertainment flowed throughout the party featuring music, hula, drill teams, and lots of holiday songs. Sponsored activity booths provided children with many entertaining activities, including Hawaiian crafts, games, face painting, balloon animals, the Bird Guy, and family photo opportunities with Santa.



Local community businesses and individuals sponsored 102 tables in support of the event and Rotary Club of Honolulu provided their support again.

Mahalo to all of our supporters and volunteers who made the Twelfth Annual Holiday Party a huge success!

"We knew that this Christmas would be a very quiet one for us ...and for the younger ones this was hard for them to comprehend. The gifts that were given were wonderful and brought them such joy and I cannot thank you enough. We adopted our foster child and he has brought such joy into our home, so we gave thanks this Christmas for your services on so many levels."

– an adoptive family



NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY EVENT

By David Louis (Heart Gallery Hawai'i) & Chiyomi Chow (Family Programs Hawai'i)

For the last four years, a partnership comprised of the Department of Human Services, Heart Gallery Hawai'i, HOPE INC., Family Programs Hawai'i, Wendy's Wonderful Kids, Hui Ho'omaluu, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Kapi'olani Mentoring Program, FCTC, HAPA, Project Visitation in collaboration with Hawai'i Family Court, and the Governor's Office have participated in National Adoption Day (NAD). NAD events were held in all 50 states this year, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa. State of Hawai'i Lt Governor Duke Aiona was on hand with a Proclamation from the Governor's office to officially announce our participation. You can learn more about NAD by visiting the website:

www.nationaladoptionday.org



Our focus through the years has been to highlight the successes of our partners in adoption and raise awareness about youth needing adoptive homes in Hawai'i. This year our event was held at Race World Hawai'i, a box car and R/C race track. Sponsored by the GLUE Committee, King Windward Nissan, Infiniti of Honolulu, Fisher Hawai'i, Keiki Photography and other private donors, our event included Box Car Racing, R/C Racing, free food, gift bags for children, National Adoption Day T-shirts and of course, prizes for all the race winners!

A 17 year old youth waiting to be adopted was compelled to share how she felt about NAD 2010. She wrote:

"National Adoption Day, November 21, 2010, was a day to give thanks, a day to realize the joy of adoption, as children of all ages and different backgrounds gathered on this day. We enjoyed family filled activities, such as box car racing, toy cars, and prizes. We had food from pizza to tacos, cookies and so much more. I would have to say that this was one of my best days. Although it was my first time attending, I can't wait until the next year. I give thanks to all those who made it possible. It really does bring hope and joy to many."



Adoptive Families and Resource Caregivers were invited to spend a day so that we could honor them for

(continued on pg. 10)

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY EVENT (cont.)

their work and dedication. We also welcomed several youth needing adoptive homes to show them how important they are to us, and how we are all dedicated to helping find them their own *forever families*.

A special presentation of letters representing youth in foster care needing an adoptive home was read by adoptive parents. One of the letters read:

“Hi, my name is Keoki* and I am 17 years old. I have been in state care for 6 years. I have moved around a lot because people say my behaviors are inconsistent- whatever that means. Although I keep moving around, I will graduate high school this year and I am a little nervous about that. I am especially worried that no one will be there for my graduation and no one will clap. I love to try everything- especially art projects. I can make friends with others easily and love to watch sports and play video games. I think I would like to have a cat or a dog but I don’t really know because I’ve never had one.

I am nervous about turning 18 without a family. I would really like any kind of family so that they can help me figure out how to get started as an adult. I promise that I won’t bother them too much, just when I have an important question. I have lived on the Windward Side of Oahu for most of my life, but I would be willing to go anywhere. I just really want a family.”



There were more than a few tears in the eyes of several attendees as the reading of all the letters ended. The audience was then asked to commit to assisting in recruiting families for children in foster care. If you are interested in assisting, know of a potential adoptive family or are thinking of adopting yourself, please call Heart Gallery Hawai’i at (808) 295-1929.

*name has been changed to preserve his confidentiality.

VERIFICATION OF HAWAIIAN ANCESTRY

There are numerous opportunities for Hawaiian foster youth to receive financial assistance for educational purposes. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has offered special assistance to any foster youth who needs help verifying his or her Hawaiian ancestry.

Please contact Oz Stender, Trustee At-large, at oswalds@oha.org for more information.

Kōkua ‘Ohana Merged With Hui Ho‘omalū

Kōkua ‘Ohana, a program under Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) funded by the State of Hawai’i Department of Human Services (DHS), was created in 2004 specifically to recruit and support Native Hawaiian and faith-based families through the general licensing process.



Hui Ho‘omalū (A Group to Protect and Shelter) was established in 2006 through a master contract awarded to PIDF from DHS. The Hui consists of partnerships between DHS, PIDF, Catholic Charities Hawai’i and Family Programs Hawai’i as well as a consortium of other community providers. This statewide initiative addresses the identification, recruitment, screening, training, ongoing support and retention of resource families.

Kōkua ‘Ohana and Hui Ho‘omalū, both programs of PIDF, have worked very closely together throughout the years. Thus, it was a natural transition for these programs

(continued on pg. 11)

Advertise in the Newsletter—Promote Your Business

100% of the proceeds will be used towards supporting our resource families

Display advertisements with borders: business card size = \$30; 1/4 page = \$50; 1/2 page = \$75; full page = \$115.

Send information to: Hui Ho‘omalū—RAC, 680 Iwilei Rd., Ste. 500, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: 441-1125 (O‘ahu) ★ 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) ★ Fax: 441-1122 ★ E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

Hui Ho‘omalū RAC reserves the right to accept, reject or edit advertisements, articles and notices of events based on publication schedule, space limitations, and appropriateness.

Drop-Side Cribs Outlawed

As of June 2011, drop-side cribs will be banned from manufacture, sale and resale by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These cribs that have a side rail that moves up and down have been blamed in a number of infant deaths over the past decade. For more information, go to: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/40678788/ns/politics/from_toolbar



Kōkua 'Ohana Merged With Hui Ho'omalua (cont.)

to join, while maintaining the same goals and services to Hawai'i's resource caregivers and keiki in foster care. Therefore, as of September 1, 2010, the two programs merged into one, Hui Ho'omalua.

Despite the merge, the services previously provided by Kōkua 'Ohana will be maintained. Family liaisons on O'ahu will continue to recruit and provide extra support to Native Hawaiian families and individuals to aid in the completion of licensing paperwork, provide information about available services, and walk alongside our hui's as they encourage our resource caregivers.

FREE SAILING CLASSES FOR FOSTER YOUTH AGES 10-16

The Captain's Club offers free sailing classes for foster youth ages 10—16 on the 1st Sunday of every other month. The next class is on March 6.

The youth just need sneakers (no slippers), a jacket or sweatshirt, and sunscreen. In addition to this wonderful experience, they also get a free t-shirt.



For more information, call Alessandra Jann-Jordan (218-6878) or Rich Marshall (456-5103). You may also sign-up on-line at: captainsclubhi.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

O'AHU:

- ★ Central O'ahu Resource Caregiver Support Group. 5:30 pm—8 pm. Aliamanu Community Cntr. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245. ****Moved to the 4th Friday of the Month****
 - ◆ Jan 28 (Fri) - Includes a facilitated discussion on the effects of substance abuse on families and children. Learn ways in which resource families can provide the necessary support to the children in their care.
 - ◆ Feb 25 (Fri) ◆ Mar 25 (Fri) ◆ Apr 22 (Fri)
- ★ Waianae Resource Caregiver Support Group. 5:30 pm—8 pm. Waianae District Park. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245.
 - ◆ Jan 21 (Fri) - Includes a facilitated discussion on the effects of substance abuse on families and children. Learn ways in which resource families can provide the necessary support to the children in their care.
 - ◆ Feb 18 (Fri) ◆ Mar 24 (Thurs—Rescheduled due to holiday on Friday)
- ★ Windward Resource Caregiver Support Group. 6 pm—8:30 pm. Kailua Baptist Church. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245.
 - ◆ Feb 11 (Fri) ◆ Mar 11 (Fri)
- ★ Mar 6 (Sun): FREE Sailing Classes for Foster Youth (ages 10-16). See above article for more information.
- ★ Mar 24-27 (Thurs-Sun): Family Connections Day Camp. Honolulu. This camp is to help build trusting relationships between parents/caregivers and children with challenging behaviors. Call HOPE INC at 230-2445 for more information.

MAUI

- ★ Maui Resource Caregiver Support Group. 5:30 pm—8 pm. Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center. RSVP to Kim Bowlin at 250-4457. ◆ Jan 20 (Thurs) ◆ Feb 17 (Thurs) ◆ Mar 17 (Thurs)

WEST HAWAI'I:

- ★ Kona Resource Caregiver Support Group. 5 pm—7:30 pm. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 (toll free). ◆ Feb 2 (Mon) ◆ Mar 3 (Mon)

EAST HAWAI'I:

- ★ Hilo Resource Caregiver Support Group. 12 pm—2:30 pm. ****New Site**** Haili Congregational Church (211 Haili St. Hilo, HI 96720). RSVP to Michele Carvalho at 987-5988. ◆ Feb 12 (Sat) ◆ Mar 12 (Sat)





PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
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HUI HO'OMALU STATEWIDE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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888-879-8970 (Toll Free)
Fax: 441-1122
E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

The concept for the Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) was created by the Department of Human Services (DHS) as a means to support the resource family community. Hui Ho'omalū facilitates this committee comprised of adoptive parents, resource caregivers and various community agencies, all dedicated to providing services and support to Hawai'i's keiki and the resource families who care for them. The purpose of the RAC is to identify ongoing needs, facilitate communication, share resources, provide information through a statewide calendar of events and a quarterly newsletter and report on local projects and other topics of interest to benefit Hawai'i's resource families.

This committee, the newsletter and many of the represented agencies are supported and funded by Department of Human Services contracts.

RAC Committee Members:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalū
Department of Health
Department of Human Services
EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing
Family Court
Family Programs Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalū & It Takes An 'Ohana
Resource Caregivers
Adoptive Parents
Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition
Heart Gallery Hawai'i
HOPE INC, Inc.
Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalū
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work