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2017 National Foster Care Month Events

May was National Foster Care Month. Wonderful events took place statewide, all with the same goal, to honor and thank the compassionate people who make a difference in the lives of Hawai'i's children and families.

★ O'AHU ★

The annual Foster Care Appreciation Month has traditionally involved the Foster Care Training Committee (FCTC) hosting a day at the beach for resource caregivers. However, this year's celebration consisted of a performing arts focus. Adults and older youth were treated to the world premiere of *Dragonfly: The Journey of a Young Local Girl in Foster Care*, while the younger set viewed the Polynesian based Disney movie, *Moana*. Resource families arrived at the beautiful Mission Memorial Auditorium in downtown Honolulu for the showings. After the performance, the families were able to enjoy a lunch on the beautiful lawns of Honolulu Hale. In addition, each family was given an appreciation gift of movie tickets worth \$25 to take home.



The FCTC collaborated with PlayBuilders of Hawai'i Theater Company to bring this play to the community. *Dragonfly* was written by Terri Madden, the Executive Director of PlayBuilders. The music was written by former foster youths, Apu Turano and Layla Kilolu, with rap lyrics by Michelle Martin. The cast of talented actors and actresses were under the guidance of Director William Ha'o.

Dragonfly is based on real-world stories involving several former foster youths' experiences in the foster care system, and is also based on the life of Allene Uesugi and her late husband, Arthur Uesugi, who together fostered over 300 youth that entered the child welfare system. The emotional performance portrays accurate depictions of some of the struggles the youth and caregivers dealt with regarding family, life, love and forgiveness. To achieve accuracy, Madden and the PlayBuilders Ensemble conducted interviews with involved individuals such as former foster youth and social workers and attended foster care community story circles, taking place between January and December of 2016.

Here are some reactions to the play shared by audience members from the foster care community:

"(*Dragonfly*) humanizes the system: gives hope, shows how resilient the youth are and the incredible amount of changes they go through."

"I love that the play honors a long time caregiver and her late spouse and their dedication to these children."

"Music and lyrics are awesome. The feelings, stories, and diversity displayed."

"The original songs written by former foster youth are amazing."

Play-goers were able to bring a piece of luggage to the play to be distributed to DHS social workers to use when they have to remove a child from the child's home. When there are no other alternatives, a foster child's belongings are often put into a black trash bag for them to take with them. Having a suitcase to pack can help a child feel a little more human and worthwhile, at what very well may be one of the most challenging moments of that child's life.

FCTC would like to thank our community partners, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage of Hawai'i, Glue Committee, Lili'uokalani Trust, and the Department of Human Services for helping to make this event possible!

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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 quarterly by Partners in Development Foundation, 2040 Bachelot St., Honolulu HI 96817-2433, 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

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!

Want to help our environment? Contact us today and request an electronic copy!



Annual Conference 2017: What is a "S.T.A.B.L.E." Home?

by Megan Garver, FPH Support Group Coordinator

Children and youth depend on their caregivers every day to provide a safe and S.T.A.B.L.E. home. So, what does it mean to have a S.T.A.B.L.E. home and what does that look like? Caregivers from all over the state of Hawai'i attended the 10th Annual Conference for Resource Families to find out.

Dr. Denise Goodman, who has over 40 years of experience in child welfare as well as being a resource caregiver herself, presented *What is a "S.T.A.B.L.E." Home?* From her vast experience, Dr. Goodman was able to provide resource caregivers with a greater understanding of the effects of trauma, as well as practical tools they could use to nurture the children and youth in their home. In Dr. Goodman's presentation, S.T.A.B.L.E. stood for Stability, Trauma Informed Parenting, Age-Appropriate Activities, Buoyancy, Linking to Family, and Education.

Stability - For children to thrive, they need a stable environment with consistent rules.

Trauma Informed Parenting - Children placed in a resource caregiver's home may have experienced trauma which can be triggered by reminders of a past event and will lead to a fight, flight, or freeze response. Dr. Goodman went over several tools that resource caregivers can use to handle these reactions.

Age-Appropriate Activities - Children need normalcy, as in the opportunity to experience age appropriate activities, responsibilities, and life skills.

Buoyancy - Dr. Goodman discussed the factors that make a child resilient and able to bounce back after experiencing a traumatic event.

Linking to Family - Resource caregivers have the opportunity to help bridge the gap between children and their biological families. Ways for caregivers to be this bridge and connect family members were covered such as discussing discipline, social media, healthcare visits, and more.

Education - Dr. Goodman discussed ways to support children with their educational stability in order to prevent placement from causing unnecessary disruption.

Families had plenty of positive feedback about the information they learned at the training. Dr. Goodman was "knowledgeable", "very real and practical", and had a "great sense of humor." Many of the attendees let us know that the training was relatable, informative, and for "everyday use." Families looked forward to using what they said were "many good ideas" for bonding with their foster children and helping them grow.

If you were not able to attend this year's Annual Conference, DVDs of the training is available through the Family Programs Hawai'i's DVD Lending Library, as well as other videos from past conferences, feature films, and books for families to borrow. Please contact the Warm Line to request a DVD or ask about alternative sources for training hours. The Warm Line can be reached at 808-545-1130 on O'ahu or 1-866-545-0882 (toll-free) on the Neighbor Islands. Mahalo nui loa for the care and love you provide to Hawai'i's keiki!



Kau'i Mayor
Bernard Carvalho &
Dr. Denise Goodman

Help! Looking For Stories!

Would you like to share some helpful tips? Got an inspirational story to tell? Know of some useful resources in your community?

These are just some of the many possibilities that you can contribute to this newsletter. Please send them over so we can all benefit from each other's wisdom!

We would also appreciate any feedback, comments and suggestions on ways that we can improve this newsletter so that it is useful to you. What would you like to see in it? Topics of interest? We look forward to hearing from you!



2017 National Foster Care Month Events (cont.)

★ MAUI ★

For National Foster Care Month, we started with a radio announcement about the need for more resource caregivers at KAIO radio. We had a thirty minute conversation hosted by Susie Thieman with the Kealinohomoku family. The family shared their journey of what made them become resource caregivers and their experience of being foster parents. We also had our annual sign waving event in Kahului, at the corner of Kane St and Ka'ahumanu. We had community friends, the licensing unit from DHS, and our partners from Catholic Charities join us for a fun morning. We had a showing of the Gilly Hopkins Movie at Hope Chapel for their youth club. We ended the month with a presentation to the community in Molokai hosted by Queen Lili'uokalani Trust. We also had

an information session for families; three families expressed interest and two are currently in the licensing process!! It was



★ KAUAI ★

Kauai resource caregivers had a fantastic day at the Family Programs Hawaii-Annual conference with trainer, Denise Goodman, PhD. Denise was engaging, thoughtful and practical. Hui Ho'omalu was presented with proclamations by the Mayor and County Council for May-National Foster Care Month. Both Mayor Bernard Carvalho and Council member JoAnn Yukimura shared words of encouragement and gratitude to resource families and their commitment to providing safe, nurturing homes for children in foster care. NFCM was also celebrated by having a sign waving event. Hui Ho'omalu staff, the Kauai Lions Club and resource caregivers shared in this awesome event that generated a lot of honks and support!

East Hawai'i Hanai Island Luncheon

By Michele Carvalho

On Saturday, June 24, 2017 Hanai Hamakua hosted Hanai Island Luncheon and invited other churches to attend so that they could encourage and inspire churches on the Big Island to begin orphan care ministries of some kind, and to discover the many ways they could connect with others who care and become a champion for the children in foster care in our community. While not everyone is called to foster or adopt, every person can do something to support orphans, families and children. 50+ attendees and 15 churches were represented from Kona, Waikoloa, Kohala, Waimea, Hamakua, Hilo, and Puna.

Hanai Hamakua is a foster care ministry of Hamakua Baptist Church started by Emily Rogers, a general licensed resource caregiver with DHS. Hanai Hamakua has created a network of church families that will help with respite, support groups, horseback riding days, and a Keiki Klostet.

Along with Emily Rogers of Hanai Hamakua, who shared about the mission of the Hanai Hamakua Ministry, the following people also spoke at the luncheon:

- ◆ Melissa Anderle - A current general licensed Resource Caregiver, DHS - shared how she desires to create a calm inside the storm for her hanai children - fostered over 11 children in 1 year
- ◆ Michele Carvalho, East Hawaii Community Liaison, PIDF-Hui Ho'omalu, foster care presentation
- ◆ Catherine Theriault of Chosen and Dearly Loved, shared about their mission to serve special needs orphan, how they help families adopt internationally through matching grants
- ◆ Nicholas Tirapelli, former foster youth, shared his experience and how a positive experience can foster success
- ◆ Dorothy Badua, Hamakua Quilters, sewing pillowcases and stockings for our foster youth.
- ◆ Mary Metchnek, 22 year old former foster youth, shared about her experiences as she begins to age out of foster care
- ◆ Pastor Brad and Esther McDaniel, Harvest Family Life Ministries, orphan care missionaries that lead the Hawaii arm of the national ministry. Based on Oahu they shared how they believe that Hawaii County can become one of the few counties in the country where there can be more foster families waiting then there are children who are in need of foster placements. Harvest Life Ministries believes in the premise of one church, one family. If every church can recruit 1 family a year, there would be a surplus of resource caregivers.

Dear Reader,

In this candid and courageous article, Shining Goose describes an experience of profound disappointment many of us in this field are reluctant to talk about or address. Nor can many of us relate well to it. Yet his powerful words remind us how important it is to really listen and stay attuned to the youth in our care. Whenever youth reconnect with parents or family, as their supporters we can help by: providing opportunities for family connection, giving emotional support as the youth work through complicated feelings, refraining from projecting expectations (both good and bad), and letting them set the pace so they have the time and space they need to find where they want to land within the reality of their world. It is not an easy journey for anyone, and it's one that rarely travels a straight line. However, the end destination can be a place of inner peace and acceptance, as Shining Goose so eloquently shares. His heartfelt essay is a call for all of us to put aside our assumptions and to stay open and present to each individual youth's experience and needs.

Mahalo and aloha,
The RAC Newsletter staff



Being Realistic About Foster Children's Parental Relationships

By Shining Goose

My Own Story

Mother's Day passed the other week. People were out having brunch with their mothers or taking their mothers to a spa. I was at home, by myself. I did not buy my birth mother anything. I did not call her. I did not wish her "Happy Mother's Day." I did not try at all.

I remember when I did try. I was about 18. I still had many empty feelings in my life. I figured developing the bond with my mother, whom I was removed from when I was 10, would help fill the emptiness. I picked up some pastries from downtown, caught a bus over to my mother's apartment in the public housing area, gave her those pastries and wished her a Happy Mother's Day. However, I did not feel joy or warmth from the act. In fact, I felt even worse -- I had expected to feel a bond with her, but instead, I felt nothing. That made me realize how distant I was to her and the emptiness in my heart magnified a thousand times.

I got the idea that I should develop the bond with my mother from several places: from observing families, from watching TV sitcoms, and encouragement by the organization that had custody of me. When I was in high school, the organization had a driver pick me up from school and drop me off at the organization's office so I could spend time with my mother. It was a thoughtful act. Despite those 1-2 hours or so we spent together each week for years, the truth was that our bond never grew. Everyone from the social workers to my resource caregivers kept saying that it was great I was spending time with my mother, yet my feelings disagreed, or were at best, indifferent.

No Room for Idealism

I keep in touch with my social worker who helped me throughout my time in foster care as well as when I was in college. We were at lunch one day and had gotten into the discussion of parent-child relationships for foster youth. My social worker had mentioned that many of his cases/ foster kids, if the opportunity was available, try to live with or reconnect fully with their birth parents when they turn 18. However, most of the kids end up like me: they come to bitter realizations about the nature of their relationships with their parents or about the parents themselves.

A great way to understand this complex situation is watching a particular episode from a TV show in the 90's called *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. The episode is called "Papa's Got A Brand New Excuse." In it, Will's birth father, Lou, finds Will and after some hesitation from Will, they bond quickly. Will opens up his heart quickly and adores Lou, despite Lou being absent for the past 14 years of Will's life. Lou eventually tells Will that he has to go away to make money, and Will is crushed, sad, and becomes angry. It's a powerful scene that highlights how emotionally vulnerable kids are to parents, even when those parents have not tried to be a part of the kids' lives.

The best advice I can give resource caregivers is this: do not be an idealist. I believe resource caregivers are naturally idealistic. It's a great quality that allows them to see potential in foster youth. However, it can blind them to the realities of what foster youth go through. When we can accept the shortcomings in our lives, such as with fractured relationships with parents, we can make peace with it in our heart. However, when we have high hopes and expectations and they are not met, it leaves our souls crushed. I have accepted that my relationship with my mother will never grow beyond what it is now. I also accept that I do not love my mother. After struggling with these feelings all of my life, I am glad to say that I am okay with it now. Hope for the best, but expect the worst.



EVT APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2017

Do you need more money for education?

Does this sound like YOU:

- Between the ages of 18-21 (or 22 if you received ETV \$ when you were 21)
- Aged out of DHS foster care at 18 or older; or
- Adopted at age 16 or older from DHS foster care; or
- Legal guardianship to a **relative** at age 16 or older from DHS foster care.
- Attending an accredited institution of higher education
- Making satisfactory progress (“C” or better)
- Need more money for education and have a budget that is reasonable regarding the cost of attendance at your school?



If this sounds like YOU, apply for ETV FREE Federal money—This is not a loan!

ETV Awards can go up to \$5,000.00 per year—based on need.

Young adults in a DHS program like Imua Kakou (Extended Foster Care), Extended Adoption or Guardianship Assistance, and Higher Ed may be eligible.

Not sure if you may be eligible? File an application and DHS will figure out if you are eligible.

Application period opens: May 1, 2017

Last day to file an application: August 15, 2017

Awards will be issued on or around September 21, 2017

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard: Common Question

The following is an excerpt from the *Don't Say "NO" Until You "Know"* guide, created by the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services. The guide presents common questions and answers for Resource Caregivers on providing normalcy for children/young people in foster care to participate equally in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, social, and cultural activities as their classmates and peers. These Q & A's can be found within the Normalcy Guidelines provided by your DHS licensing worker.

Question: Does a birth parent's wishes have to be followed if they disagree with an activity involving their child/young person?

Answer: The **birth parent's wishes are to be considered** and brought before the Family Court, the GAL, and parent's attorney, for decision on our recommendation that the child/young person participate in an activity that the parent disagrees with. *The matter should be taken before the FCT. Parents have rights while their child is in FC and if they object, we have an obligation to have it heard before the FCT.*

The Department and Resource Caregivers shall be sensitive to the input of the child/young person's parent's as to the types of activities they would like their child/young person to participate in, and whenever possible, include them in the decision making.

Also, normalcy activities cannot override case plans or other court-ordered requirements. For example, if a Resource Caregiver's family vacation would cause a child/young person to miss a scheduled visit with a birth parent, the agency and the Resource Caregiver shall work with the birth parent for an alternative visit schedule.



There may be times when you, as a resource caregiver, have a question or concern and are not sure where to go for help. We will be presenting scenarios in each newsletter as a way to highlight different situations and suggestions on "Who Ya Gonna Call?"

Who Ya Gonna Call?

You just became a licensed resource caregiver and you're so excited that siblings are being placed in your home! As you're going through their paperwork, you notice that one has a MedQuest/Medicaid card but the other one doesn't. What to do? Pull out your handy dandy "Who Ya Gonna Call" list that was also in the January 2017 Building Connections Newsletter. Look under *MedQuest/Medicaid card* and find some direction by contacting the Social Service Assistant!



Supporting Youth in Developing Healthy Gender Identities and Sexual Orientations

Family Programs Hawai'i is excited to announce the upcoming statewide training titled, "Supporting Youth in Developing Healthy Gender Identities and Sexual Orientations" with guest speaker Josephine (Jo) Chang, JD. For over 25 years, Jo has been active in community work as a community resource, advocate, and educator on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) issues in Hawai'i, focusing on the needs of parents and children in Hawaii. She has organized educational forums, such as the "No Shame!: Talking About Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Japanese American Experience in Hawai'i" and has coordinated three LGBT training conferences for professionals in juvenile justice, social services, education, and health. Jo has also partnered with Judge R. Mark Browning and the Family Court of the First Circuit since 2013 to organize and coordinate the Committee on LGBT Youth in Hawaii's Juvenile Justice System.

This training will help increase participant's understanding of LGBTQ youth and the misconceptions about LGBTQ youth. Families will also learn how to create "safe zones" or safe environments in the home, as well as discover ways to support LGBTQ youth in the community. Here is what Jo has to say on why it is important for all resource families to learn more:



"Resource families can make all the difference in the lives of LGBTQ youth to help them grow up healthy and to do well in life, despite the discrimination in the world around them."

Trainings are free for all resource, adoptive, guardianship, permanency, and kinship families. Free childcare will be provided and resource families will earn two (2) approved DHS training hours. Please see the calendar of events in this newsletter for dates and times at a location near you, or call the Warm Line at 545-1130 (O'ahu) or 1-866-545-0882 (toll-free) for more information.

Legislative Update

By Judith Wilhoite, Family Advocate, It Takes An 'Ohana, Family Programs Hawai'i

Family Program Hawai'i's It Takes An 'Ohana was involved in the 2017 legislative session. It was an extremely challenging session for several issues on foster children and resource families. One of the main issues we advocated for successfully passed legislation. The following are summaries of the bills for which we advocated for:

- House Bill 1099 was transmitted to the Governor on May 3rd and signed into law on May 18th. It brings the State into compliance with the federal Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 and the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2010 by amending the definition of "child abuse or neglect" to include sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking of persons.
- Senate Bill 499 attempted to secure a case worker for the very successful court program, Zero to Three. Unfortunately, it did not make it into the budget.
- Funds needed to provide resource caregivers and adoptive parents with the higher board allowance as a result of the settlement between the State of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Appleseed were not allocated by the legislature. The case will now go back to court and the State will most likely be re-ordered to make payment. If this occurs, it will result in more costs for the State as there will be additional legal fees. We have been in conversation with DHS and will continue to support them in coming to a resolution. We are hopeful and confident in their efforts to move this issue forward. We will continue to provide updates on the progress of this settlement, which will provide resources for Hawai'i's foster children and the families who are caring for them.



'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

Henrilyn Bulan-Akima

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

Happy Anniversary!

How long have you been a resource caregiver? We would like to honor you by printing your name and current years of service in our newsletter. We know you are out there but we need your help. Please send your name and years of service to:

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

*Mahalo for all you do for
Hawai'i's keiki and families!*



Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By Salome Bala, RFSS Warm Line Family Resource Specialist

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



Salome Bala

Ask the Warm Line

As we embark on a new school year, it's never too late to start learning and adding more tools to help both new and seasoned resource caregivers in the task of caring for children and youth in foster care. Not only is the Warm Line able to answer questions that you may have, it also serves as a support system for resource caregivers struggling with difficult behaviors, frustrations with caregiving, or just wanting someone to talk to who will listen.

This is especially true since the start of a new school year is usually a time of transition for your foster children and may bring about unique challenges. Family Programs Hawai'i held their 10th Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers in April, which provided strategies on how to build a S.T.A.B.L.E. home for your child(ren). This training, as well as online training, books, feature films, and DVDs of past trainings is available to borrow through the Lending Library. These options are designed to help provide you with tools to work with your child during this time of uncertainty, anxiety, and change at the beginning of the new school year. If you are interested, please contact the Warm Line for more information. Support groups and quarterly trainings are available statewide and help to provide a network of people and information to help you guide the child(ren) placed in your home. As they say, "Two heads are better than one" so we encourage you to take the opportunity to expand your support network and attend a group near you.

The Warm Line not only provides support and information to help you meet your child's emotional and mental health needs, it also assists in meeting your child's physical needs. Do you need assistance in getting school supplies for your foster child this upcoming school year? Family Programs Hawai'i in collaboration with Helping Hands Hawai'i will be able to assist in providing basic school supplies for your keiki in foster care on the island of O'ahu. If interested, or on a neighbor island and looking for options and assistance with school supplies, please contact the Warm Line.

Also, if you just need someone to bounce ideas off of, or need additional resources, please call the Warm Line on O'ahu at 545-1130 or toll free for the neighbor islands at 1-866-545-0882. You can also text the Warm Line at 808-348-1255, or email us at WarmLine@FamilyProgramsHi.org

Care to Share

We are always looking for baby items such as cribs, strollers, unused diapers, wipes, and unopened cans of baby formula. These items are always needed statewide. If you have these items and would like to donate them please call the Warm Line. If possible, please text pictures of items you would like to donate to the Warm Line cell at 808-348-1255 or email them to WarmLine@FamilyProgramsHi.org. This will help to facilitate a care to share match faster as families would be able to see what you have available and if it would best fit their child's needs.

RESOURCE FAMILY BASICS

Did you know...

There are Transition and Youth Services available? Talk to your child's social worker regarding referrals to the following programs for youth or call the Warm Line (O'ahu at 545-1130 or toll free for the neighbor islands at 1-866-545-0882) for more information:

1. Independent Living Program (ILP) Services: Helps youth (from age 12) develop knowledge, skills, and connections to make a successful transition to living on their own.
2. Ho'ololi mui noke ola Senior Program (HSP): Guides high school seniors in foster care to successfully prepare for and enter college or vocational training. East Hawai'i only.
3. E Makua Ana Youth Circle: Provides a group process for teenagers to celebrate their emancipation from foster care and to assist them in planning for their independence/interdependence.
4. Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition: Assists youth in the foster care system by advising and advocating for a successful future, providing transitional assistance, peer mentoring, and outreach.
5. Hawai'i Youth Opportunities initiative and HI H.O.P.E. S. Youth Leadership Board: Helps youth (14-26 years old) by working with public and private partners to improve policies and practices, promote youth engagement, apply evaluation and research, and create community partnerships.
6. Imua Kakou: A voluntary program to help young adults, between the ages of 18-21 who age out of foster care, successfully transition into adulthood. Foster board payment of \$676, reimbursement for bus passes, and \$300 clothing allowance (which includes clothing and diapers for any children of former foster youth) is available. Youth must participate in higher education, employment training, or be employed.
7. Mentoring Connection: Provides mentors for foster youth ages 13-20. On O'ahu only.



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Resource Family Basics (cont.)

8. Project Visitation: Brings siblings, who are living in separate foster homes, together for monthly visits. On O'ahu and East Hawai'i only.
9. Youth Empowerment & Success (Y.E.S. Hawai'i): Youth driven statewide program providing support and activities for youth ages 14-26.
10. Skills for Success: Trainings for youth and their resource caregivers. Youth will learn soft skills to help prepare them for adulthood in the areas of social well-being, physical well-being, financial, housing, intellectual potential, and employment/career. Resource caregivers will also receive suggestions on how to support youth in the different topic areas.

Find this information as well as a wealth of other resources at the following site:

<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/RESOURCE-FAMILY-BASICS-040516.pdf>

Adoptive Families Needed Through Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Noah is a 16-year-old male Caucasian male who entered care when he was 7 years old. He was originally born in Maryland, but has lived in Hawai'i, Alabama, and Utah.

He reports that he loves animals, is musically talented (can play piano by ear), likes going to the gym and enjoys watching movies. He likes to be active and has recently gotten involved in working with an animal shelter. He has also shown interest in joining the military in the future.

Noah is a resilient youth who currently lives in a residential center. Due to his history of experiencing abuse and trauma, he has difficulties trusting people and has established some maladaptive behaviors. However, he has a strong desire to be a part of a family and has not given up hope.

A forever family for Noah must be patient, consistent, and understand the effects of trauma on a child's behavior. Ideally the family would also have therapeutic training and experience with working with youth with similar needs. Noah needs to be an only child or only have older siblings. He has a large team of support and services who can assist his forever family understand his needs.



Wendy's Wonderful Kids seeks to find **good homes for great kids in tough situations**. If you are interested in learning more about Noah and his need for permanent, nurturing connections, please contact Mindy Chung, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, at (808) 540-2552 or by email at mchung@familyprogramshi.org.

The Other Side of the Wall

There was a young woman who took great pride in the growth and care of the flowers in her flower garden. She had been raised by her grandmother who taught her to love and care for flowers as she herself had done. So, like her grandmother, her flower garden was second to none.

One day while looking through a flower catalogue she often ordered from, a picture of a plant immediately caught her eye. She had never seen blooms on a flower like that before. "I have to have it," she said to herself, and she immediately ordered it.

When it arrived, she already had a place prepared to plant it. She planted it at the base of a stone wall at the back of her yard. It grew vigorously, with beautiful green leaves all over it, but there were no blooms. Day after day she continued to cultivate it, water it, feed it, and she even talked to it attempting to coax it to bloom. But, it was to no avail.

One morning weeks later, as she stood before the vine, she contemplated how disappointed she was that her plant had not bloomed. She was giving considerable thought to cutting it down and planting something else in its place.

It was at this point that her neighbor, whose lot joined hers, called over to her. "Thank you so much! You can't imagine how much I have enjoyed the blooms of that vine you planted." The young woman walked through the gate into her neighbor's yard, and sure enough, she saw that on the other side of the wall the vine was filled with blooms.

There were indeed the most beautiful blooms she had ever seen. The vine had crept through the crevices and it had not flowered on her side of the fence, it had flowered luxuriantly on the other side.

Just because you cannot see the good result of your labor does not mean that it bore no fruit.



Advertise in the Newsletter—Promote Your Business

100% of the proceeds will be used towards supporting Hawai'i's 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**

441-1125 (O'ahu) ★ 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) ★ Fax: 441-1122 ★ Email: RAC@pidfoundation.org

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

Calendar of Events

O'AHU

- July 21 (Fri)** **Wai'anae Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Mā'ili Learning Center. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 7/14.
- July 21 (Fri)** **'Ohana is Forever XI: Hiki No:** 9:00am-4:00pm at Ko'olau Ballrooms. Register online at itakesanohana.org
- Aug 11 (Fri)** **Windward Resource Families Support Group:** 6:00pm-8:30pm. Location TBD. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 8/4.
- Aug 24 (Thurs)** **Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. 'Aiea United Methodist Church. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 8/17.
- Sept 22 (Fri)** **Wai'anae Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Mā'ili Learning Center. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 ext. 245 by 9/9.

MAUI COUNTY

- Aug 17 (Thurs)** **Maui Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kahului Union Church. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 8/10.

KAUA'I

- July 21 (Fri)** **Training: Supporting Youth in Developing Healthy Gender Identities and Sexual Orientations.** Presented by: Jo Chang, JD. 9:30am-12:00pm at Līhu'e Lutheran Church. RSVP to the Warm Line (toll-free) at 1-866-545-0882.
- Aug 31 (Thurs)** **Kaua'i Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Līhu'e United Church. RSVP to the Warm Line (toll-free) at 1-866-545-0882 by 8/24.

EAST HAWAI'I

- Aug. 11 (Fri)** **Training: Supporting Youth in Developing Healthy Gender Identities and Sexual Orientations .** Presented by: Josephine Chang, JD. 5:00pm-7:30pm. Church of the Holy Cross. RSVP to the Warm Line (toll-free) at 1-866-545-0882 by 8/4.
- Sept 16 (Sat)** **Hilo Resource Families Support Group: 12:00pm-2:30pm.** Location TBD. RSVP to the Warm Line (toll-free) at 1-866-545-0882 by 9/8.

WEST HAWAI'I

- Aug. 10 (Thurs)** **Training: Supporting Youth in Developing Healthy Gender Identities and Sexual Orientations .** Presented by: Josephine Chang, JD. 5:30pm-8:00pm. West Civic Center. RSVP to the Warm Line (toll-free) at 1-866-545-0882.

****If you have access to the internet, please check the calendar at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org for any additional or updated events.**

Funding for FPH support groups, trainings, and annual conferences is provided by the Department of Human Services

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Part-time Co-trainers Needed. *Resource Caregivers/Former Foster Youth in Kaua'i and O'ahu* are needed to co-train new Resource Caregivers in the HANAI curriculum. Your experience is invaluable to a new family just learning about providing foster care. Come and share what you've learned/experienced over the years with others!!! Trainings are generally held intermittently on some weekday evenings and some Saturdays. Training and compensation provided.

Part-time Child Care Providers needed in East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i and Kaua'i to provide child care (i.e., during trainings), in the evenings and weekends on an occasional basis. Training and compensation provided.

Part-time Recruitment Assistants needed in West Hawai'i and Kaua'i to staff various recruitment booths and share information with potential applicants about the need for additional Resource Caregivers. Training and compensation provided.

HUI HO'OMALU

A Program of Partners in Development Foundation

See www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers

Email resume & application w/cover letter to: HR@pidfoundation.org or fax to 440-6619

PIDF is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



PATCH publishes a quarterly newsletter -- Training Tracks, to inform the community of our upcoming trainings around town, and provide the latest child care news and information to professionals and the public. PATCH offers over 100 FREE child care workshops open to all caregivers such as family child care, preschool and infant and toddler staff, before and after school care programs, parents, resource caregivers, medical professionals, babysitters and informal child care. Please visit our website for the latest news and training schedule:



www.PatchHawaii.org or contact your local PATCH office

O'ahu: 808-839-1988 ♦ Maui: 808-242-9232

Lāna'i & Moloka'i: 1-800-498-4145

Kaua'i: 808-246-0622 ♦ Hilo: 808-961-3169 ♦ Kona: 808-322-3500



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Statewide Resource Advisory Committee

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441-1125 (O'ahu)
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'omalua 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'omalua

Department of Human Services

EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing

Family Court

Family Programs Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalua & It Takes An 'Ohana

Resource Caregivers

Adoptive Parents

Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition

Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalua