



'Ohana is Forever

Beyond a Label

July 24, 2015 • Ko'olau Ballrooms • Kaneohe • Hawai'i

Keynote Speaker



Biracial and bicultural, Dr. C. Kimo Alameda grew up on the Big Island, a living example of multicultural Hawai'i. His Portuguese and Hawai'i ancestry meant he grew up in two different cultural traditions. These childhood experiences prepared him for his early work as a school counselor and special education teacher.

After many years in the Department of Education, Dr. Alameda went back to school and received a doctorate from the University of Nebraska.

In 2008, Dr. Alameda was presented with an award from Mental Health America as the Outstanding Government Agency Leader for his work in increasing cultural awareness in state government. As Dr. Alameda accepted his award, he was quoted with saying "we cannot be a first class state, with people who feel second class." His commitment to diversity has made him a popular speaker on cultural and social issues.

Currently Dr. Alameda works for the County of Hawai'i as the Director for the Office of Aging. On the weekends, Dr. Alameda coaches a number of youth sports and volunteers as a presenter for at-risk youth community programs. Most impressively, Dr. Alameda is the proud father of seven children.

Emcee Information



Malia Malufau is a former foster youth and mother to both a beautiful 12 year old girl and a one year old girl. Malia graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa with a Bachelor's in Political Science and a Certificate in Ethnic Studies. She currently works for the William S. Richardson School of Law as a Youth-In-Court Facilitator at Family Court in Kapolei. Malia generously shares her wisdom by helping plan and by serving as an emcee for youth events that include 'Ohana is Forever Conferences and Teen Days.



Keola Limkin is a former foster youth. Keola recently graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with his bachelor's degree in psychology and communication. He has served on the HI H.O.P.E.S. board for over 3 years and is currently working as a recorder for EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.



Gernani Yutob, Jr. is 25 years old and an alumni of the foster care system. He currently serves as the president of the HI H.O.P.E.S. Youth Leadership Board on Oahu and is active in advocating for improved outcomes for transitioning foster youth. He graduated from the University of Hawai'i - West Oahu with a B.A. in Public Administration, with a concentration on Justice Administration, and currently works for EPIC Ohana's Youth Circle program as a coordinator/facilitator, helping young people involved with

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Conference Presenters

Salome Bala graduated from the University of Hawai‘i School of Social Work with a Masters Degree in 2001. She worked for the Hawai‘i Department of Human Services/Child Welfare Services Division upon graduation for 3 years. Currently she is the Family Programs Hawaii Mentoring Connections Coordinator. Salome was a resource caregiver in the past and is now a proud adoptive parent.

Valerie Chang has been an occupational therapist for many years. She has enjoyed working with children with a variety of developmental delays and developmental disorders, difficulties with social-emotional health, especially with challenging behaviors and learning differences, and even with a few adults. She has a passion for approaching her work through the lens of sensory processing and how it may be influencing one’s participation in daily life.

Maile Corpman is Oahu’s Assistant Coordinator for the YES Hawai‘i program. She is also a former resource caregiver. Maile graduated from the University of Phoenix with a B.A. in Human Services with an emphasis in Management. Maile has been employed with the Honolulu Police Department as a Police Officer for the past 11 years. In her free time Maile loves to surf, dive and paddle.

Kamalei Grace is a certified life coach who practices a holistic approach in helping individuals create a life for themselves. She received her life and motivational coach certification at the Global NLP Institute. Through motivational speaking and facilitating workshops and retreats, Kamalei guides young people in finding their confidence and mapping out their dream life.

HI H.O.P.E.S. (Hawai‘i Helping Our People Envision Success) Youth Leadership Board is made up of current and former foster youth between the ages of 14-25. They provide the “youth voice” for the Hawai‘i Youth Opportunities Initiative (“HYOI”), a Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, to identify the needs of and advocate on behalf of transition-aged foster youth.

Nellieshy Mamuad is the East Hawai‘i Site Coordinator for the Y.E.S. Hawai‘i program. She is a former foster youth who spent 5 years in care and aged out at 18. She graduated from UH Hilo in 2012 with a B.A. in Psychology and is currently in her final year to complete her MSW via UH Manoa Distance Education Program. She is also employed at Hale Kipa as a CAMHD paraprofessional and at Catholic Charities Hawai‘i as a resource family co-trainer for child-specific families. Nellieshy has 2 beautiful children, ages 5 & 7.

Jenna Robinson believes music and poetry are the perfect tools to heal from trauma and grief, for they empower people to reclaim their past. After the passing of her brother in 2010 Jenna taught herself how to play over eight instruments and turned to open mics for musical therapy. She has performed across the U.S. as a street musician and as a part of several national slam poetry teams. Jenna holds a B.A. in History and Ethnic Studies from the University of Hawai‘i-Manoa. Her poetry performances and workshops are centered on cultural and queer identity, grief, trauma informed care, historical re-education, and community building. Jenna currently works for Girls Court at the Hawai‘i State Judiciary. She also works with several youth based organizations to inspire the therapeutic nature of writing and spoken arts performance.

Melody Rolnick is a former foster youth full of passion and determination. She graduated from high school in Kihei, Maui and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UH Manoa in December 2013. In January of 2014 Melody joined the 'Ohana at Family Programs Hawaii and is currently pursuing her passion to motivate foster youth with the Youth Empowerment and Success program (YES Hawai'i). To contact Melody or for more information about YES Hawai'i, please email MRolnick@FamilyProgramsHi.org or call (808) 540-2546.

Tiare Thomas is a dream coach, motivational speaker, and author of the upcoming book, "The Art of Dreamboarding." She is a Hawai'i an entrepreneur with a considerable background in event coordinating, fashion styling and modeling. In 2009, she discovered the power of dreamboarding and since 2010 she has traveled internationally, coaching more than 500 others to also put their visions into existence. Tiare says "My dreamboard has become my accountability partner. It represents the life I want to create for myself. When I find myself off track, I go back to my dreamboard and it reminds me of what I want." She has taught workshops around the world and established the Aloha Dreamboard, LLC. Tiare's goal today is to challenge youth to take action and pursue their dreams.

Judge Bode Uale was the first family court judge appointed in the United States who was of Samoan descent. He is currently the lead judge of the O'ahu First Circuit Family Court of Hawai'i Juvenile Division. Judge Uale has a strong interest in foster youth and has played a pivotal part in the 'Ohana is Forever conferences. He was raised in Laie, Hawai'i and graduated with a degree in political science Brigham Young University-Hawai'i and later earned a Juris Doctorate in 1984 from the University of Hawai'i . Uale and his wife are the parents of four children.

Francesca Weems is a native of the Big Island and is a 2005 graduate of Kealahou High School. She entered the foster care system at the age of 8 years old. As a "hard to place foster youth" Francesca bounced around from house to house before finding her "forever family" at the age of 14. Francesca has defied statistics for foster children going on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications and a Master's in Education. She was also a member of Cal's track and field team.

Francesca is now the Sports Anchor/ Reporter for Hawai'i News Now. She previously held the same position in Jackson, Mississippi. Francesca has worked all over the country, but is happy to be back in her home state helping make a difference in her community.

Rachael Wong, Director of the Hawai'i Department of Human Services, received degrees from Princeton University, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As the new Director, Rachael is committed to open communication, accountability, honesty, and respect for all. These values and commitments are coupled with the goal that guides almost everything she does professionally and personally: to improve quality of life for others.

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