

# 2016 ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE LAW UPDATE

**Ko'olau Golf Course, Honolulu, Hawai'i  
Friday, August 12, 2016**

## **PROGRAM**

**8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION**

**8:30 a.m. WELCOME**

Honorable R. Mark Browning, Senior Family Court Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit  
Thomas Haia, Esq., Program Emcee

**8:40 a.m. CHILD WELFARE STATUTORY CHANGES AND APPELLATE DECISIONS**

Jay Goss, Deputy Attorney General  
Patrick Pascual, Deputy Attorney General

(Q&A to follow)

**9:00 a.m. JUDICIARY AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH: CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND PLANS FOR 2016-17**

Family Court: Honorable Bode Uale, Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit

Department of Human Services: Kayle Perez, Child Welfare Services Branch Administrator, Department of Human Services (DHS)

Department of Education: Maureen Ikeda, Education Specialist, Comprehensive Student Support Services, Department of Education

Department of Health: Scott K. Shimabukuro, Assistant Administrator of Operations, Practice Development Manager, Clinical Services Office, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division

(Q&A to follow)

**10:00 a.m. BREAK**

**10:15 a.m. LGBTQ UPDATE: OVERVIEW OF CURRENT LGBTQ ISSUES AND LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HAWAII AND THE NATION**

Josephine Chang, JD, Community Advocate (LGBT Issues)  
Rebecca Copeland, JD, Appellate Attorney

**11:00 a.m. INTRODUCTION TO THE DHS UNKNOWN PERPETRATOR PROTOCOL**

Cynthia Goss, Child Welfare Services Assistant Branch Administrator, DHS  
Theresa Minami, Assistant Program Development Administrator, Child Welfare Services Branch, DHS  
Dina Koyanagi, Supervisor, Child Welfare Services Branch, DHS

**11:30 a.m. “PRUDENT PARENTING” STATUTE: PROMOTING WELLBEING AND NORMALCY FOR MINORS IN FOSTER CARE**

Panelists: HI-H.O.P.E.S. Board members Stephanie Kim, Keola Limkin, Noy Worachit; Delia Ulma, Esq., Statewide Initiative Coordinator for Hawaii Youth Opportunities Initiative; Judith Wilhoite, Advocate, Family Programs Hawaii

**Noon NETWORKING AND WORKING LUNCH**

**1:00 p.m. CURRENT DRUG TRENDS**

Presenter: Gary Shimabukuro, Certified Prevention Specialist, Laulima Hawaii

**2:30 p.m. BREAK**

**2:40 p.m. CURRENT DRUG TRENDS (CONTINUED)**

Question and Answer Session, time permitting

**4:00 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS**

Honorable Bode Uale, Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Gary Shimabukuro.** Gary Shimabukuro, a Certified Prevention Specialist, has been providing drug education for businesses, schools, apprenticeship programs, labor organizations, management groups, law enforcement agencies, military personnel, and other organizations since 1978. He was a clinical supervisor for a substance abuse treatment program and a former certified trainer and "Trainer of Trainers" for the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Since 1988, the trainings have focused on creating a Drug Free Workplace. Approximately 200,000 people have attended the various training programs throughout the State of Hawaii, Alaska, California, Missouri, Washington D.C. and the Pacific Basin, including Guam, Saipan, Palau, Pohnpei, Australia and New Zealand. Gary's communication skills have effectively overcome language and cultural differences for participants from countries all over the world.

Gary, through the nonprofit Laulima Pacific Inc. (LPI), has concentrated his efforts in drug prevention and education by conducting thousands of sessions for public and private schools for teachers, students, and parents; churches; youth athletic groups; rotary clubs; social groups; nonprofit organizations; and various other community groups.

Training law enforcement personnel is another mission of LPI. Programs have been conducted for the DEA, FBI, ICE, police narcotics and criminal intelligence units, DCESP personnel, OCDEF task forces, U.S Attorneys, prosecutors, Corrections staff, and other law enforcement agencies and staff.

Gary has presented in numerous conferences, including four National DARE conferences, two California DARE Conferences, eight Hawaii State DARE Conferences, Pacific Judicial Conference, Western BJA conference, International Association of Chiefs of Police, International GHB and Chemical Drug Conference, Australia's National Chemical Diversion Conference, New Zealand's Combined Law Enforcement Group Conference, South Pacific Criminal Intelligence Network Conference, and numerous Customs Pacific Basin Conferences.

The training programs have been endorsed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Gary has won numerous awards including the following:

- FBI Director's Award for Drug Demand Reduction in 1992 and 2001
- Honolulu Police Department's Certificate of Merit in 1993
- US Attorney General Certificate of Recognition
- Federal Executive Board Citizen of the Year for 1998
- Ola Pono Award in 2001
- National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators Life Achievement Award 2010
- U.S Senators and Representatives, Governors, Mayors, U.S. Attorneys, State and County lawmakers, and Police Chiefs and Commissioners have recognized the Laulima Programs.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**Honorable R. Mark Browning.** R. Mark Browning has served as a judge for over fifteen years. In 2010, he was appointed as a Circuit Court Judge. In 2011, he was appointed as the Senior Judge/Deputy Chief Judge of the Family Court of the First Circuit. He was appointed as a District Judge to the Family Court of the First Circuit in 1997.

While in Family Court, Judge Browning has stayed active in the community by serving on numerous boards such as Friends of Foster Kids and Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition. He also created Project Visitation to help facilitate foster youth familial relationships, and he was the presiding judge of the Juvenile Drug Court for eight years. Judge Browning developed the Volunteer Settlement Master Program to help expedite and facilitate the divorce process.

Prior to becoming a judge, Judge Browning was a prosecuting attorney for four years. He then was an associate with Shim, Tam, Kirimitsu, Kitamura and Chang for two years before becoming a partner in 1989.

Judge Browning has received numerous awards throughout his legal career including the Niu Award for Distinguished Contribution by an Individual from Volunteer Legal Services, Starfish Award from Hawaii State Foster Parents Association, Improved Justice Award from the Mediation Center of the Pacific, Angels in Adoption Award from the United States Congress, Daniel K. Inouye Award from the Hawaii Psychological Association Board of Directors, Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award from Hawaii Women Lawyers, and most recently the Judiciary Jurist of the Year Award.

**Josephine (Jo) Chang, J.D.** Jo Chang is a retired attorney-at-law, and a graduate of the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law. She served as a deputy attorney general in the Tax and Land/Transportation divisions. Prior to law school, Jo worked as a manager/supervisor of the HMSA Medicaid claims processing operations, was an analyst and project manager for the State Auditor's Office, and an administrator in the state Office of Community Services.

For over 25 years, Jo Chang has been active in community work as a community resource, advocate, and educator on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) issues, focusing on the needs of parents and children in Hawaii. She served on the Lesbian and Gay Teen Task Force, was on the Gay and Lesbian Community Center's speakers bureau, co-founded the parent (of LGBT) support group called "Da Moms," organized training and educational forums, such as the "Creating a Safety-Net for LGBT Youth" training conference in 2011 for professionals in juvenile justice, social services, education, and health; and the "Building Competency in Serving LGBT Youth" training conference in 2015 for stakeholder agencies in Hawaii's juvenile justice system; and has served since 2013 as a pro-bono consultant to the agencies on the "Committee on LGBT Youth In Hawaii's Juvenile Justice System," led by Senior Family Court Judge R. Mark Browning. Jo also provides support to parents of LGBT children and others in the community.

To contact Jo Chang: ph. 808 383-2111 or email at [ocsjosie@hotmail.com](mailto:ocsjosie@hotmail.com).

**Rebecca Copeland, J.D.** Rebecca is an attorney who concentrates her practice in the area of appeals. She is currently serving her second term on the Hawaii State Bar Association's Board as an Oahu Director, and also serves as a Board Member of the City and County of Honolulu's Zoning Board of Appeals. Rebecca is also a Board Member on the Hawaii Commission on Professionalism, the Hawaii Judiciary's Committee on Equality and Access to the Courts, the Hawaii LGBT Legacy Foundation, and Equality Hawaii. On behalf of Equality Hawaii, and as the mother of a transgender son, she has successfully advocated for bills in the Hawaii legislature including the passage of a bill that was signed into law in 2015 that ensures transgender individuals born in Hawaii are able to change the sex marker on their birth certificates without having to undergo gender reassignment surgery, and a bill in the 2016 legislative session to ensure that Hawaii insurance companies cannot discriminate against individuals on the basis of gender identity or perceived gender identity. She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Texas State University and her J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law.

**Cynthia Goss, MSW.** Cynthia Goss has served as Child Welfare Services (CWS) Assistant Branch Administrator since 2010. She has her Masters in Social Work from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Cynthia has been employed at CWS since 1984 (32 years), working in the areas of intake, assessment, case management, permanency, and program development.

**Jay Goss, J.D.** Jay Goss is a graduate of the Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Jay has been with the Office of the Attorney General for over 30 years. Jay is currently the Lead Deputy for child welfare issues, appeals, and legislation. He is also a member of the task force organized by the Family Court to review and propose legislation dealing with child welfare.

**Thomas Haia, J.D.** Thomas Haia received his Juris Doctor degree in 1995 from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Since then, he has practiced law as a solo practitioner, specializing in Family Law. Mr. Haia was also a foster parent.

**Maureen Ikeda, Ed.D.** Dr. Maureen Ikeda is an Educational Specialist within the Comprehensive Student Support Services Section for the Hawaii Department of Education, Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Student Support. She specializes in the area of primary prevention and intervention for our vulnerable and at-risk population. Maureen is a product of the DOE school system and later received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Loyola Marymount University, Master's Degree in Counseling from Loyola Marymount University, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California, all of which emphasize social justice, equity and access for traditionally marginalized populations. She served at various schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District and later returned to Hawaii DOE to serve as a classroom teacher, School Counselor and Student Services Coordinator for 10 years prior to transitioning to state office administration. Her current work entails policy development and implementation, public relations, interagency collaboration and program management components of educational governance to ensure all students have the

opportunity, through the provision of appropriate supports, to attain achievement and graduate from high school ready for college and careers.

**Stephanie Kim.** Stephanie Kim is a former foster youth, who currently serves as Secretary of the HI H.O.P.E.S. Youth Leadership Board on Oahu. She also works part-time at Epic `Ohana as an assistant to HYOI (Hawaii Youth Opportunities Initiative). Stephanie is a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she plans to graduate with a B.A. in Journalism and English by 2017.

**Dina Koyanagi, MSW and LSW.** Dina has worked for the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch for over 28 years. She is currently supervisor of the Oahu Child Welfare Services Unit 1, which has taken serious harm with unknown perpetrator intakes since October 2014 and all serious harm intakes since June 2015.

**Keola Limkin, B.A.** Keola (Ola) is a former foster youth. He grew up in Hilo, Hawaii, alongside five younger brothers and a younger sister. Ola and his siblings were split into three separate homes when he was 15. As the hānau mua (oldest child), he took up the responsibility of excelling at Hilo High School and at household duties. In 2015, Keola 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. Youth Leadership Board for over four years and is currently working as a WRAP Youth Partner for EPIC ‘Ohana.

**Theresa Minami, MSW.** Theresa Minami is an Assistant Program Development Administrator for Child Welfare Services. Theresa Minami has worked in social services for over 15 years. She began her career working in the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Division in 2000. Theresa joined the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch in 2007 as an Assistant Program Administrator.

**Patrick Pascual, J.D.** Patrick Pascual is a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Patrick has worked as a Deputy Attorney General in the Family Law Division with the Office of the Attorney General for over 20 years.

**Kayle Perez, MSW.** Kayle Perez is the Child Welfare Services Branch Administrator of the Department of Human Services (DHS). She has been with the DHS for over 30 years, beginning her career as a Social Worker on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island, then in Case Management and the Sex Abuse unit, before taking on her current position. Kayle received her Masters in Social Work in 1983 from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

**Scott K. Shimabukuro, Ph.D.** Scott K. Shimabukuro functions as Practice Development Manager for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health (CAMHD). He is a clinical psychologist board certified in family psychology.

**Honorable Bode Uale.** Judge Bode Uale was the first Family Court judge appointed in the United States of Samoan descent. He is currently the lead judge of the First Circuit Family Court’s 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 Political Science degree from Brigham Young University–Hawai'i and later earned a Juris Doctorate in 1984 from the University of Hawai'i.

**Delia Ulma, J.D.** Delia Ulma is a Statewide Initiative Coordinator for the Hawaii Youth Opportunities Initiative, which serves as the local site for the national Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, with EPIC 'Ohana as the lead agency. A large part of her work focuses on youth engagement, public will and policy efforts, and overseeing the advocacy work of the youth boards statewide. She holds a B.A. from BYU-Hawai'i and a J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Delia serves on the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council.

**Judith Wilhoite.** Judith Wilhoite has been with It Takes An 'Ohana (ITAO), now a program of Family Programs Hawai'i, for 16 years. Her practical knowledge of the child welfare community and best practices serve ITAO well as it strives to empower and give a voice to resource families. As a committed advocate and resource caregiver, Judith is dedicated to improving the lives of keiki who spend time in out-of-home care.

**Noy Worachit.** Noy Worachit is President of the HI H.O.P.E.S. Youth Leadership Board on Oahu. She spent six years in foster care and emancipated at 18 ½. Noy is currently a juvenile detention worker at the Hale Ho'omalua Detention Facility and an aircraft maintenance management analysis for the Air National Guard. Noy also serves on the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council. Her areas of interest and advocacy include systems change and increased awareness about the needs of young people affected by foster care, juvenile justice, and human trafficking.

**This program is funded by the Hawaii Court Improvement Program**

\*In order to ensure that this event is as “green” as possible, all conference resource materials will be available for download from [www.ittakesanohana.org](http://www.ittakesanohana.org) (Handouts/Facts > Conference Handouts)