



**HUI HO'OMALU
STATEWIDE
RESOURCE
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

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Building Connections

A Newsletter for Resource Families



Volume 3, Issue 3

April 2010

Are You My Sister?

By Esther McDaniel, Project First Care Resource Caregiver

In 1995 I was pregnant with my first child and also expecting the first teenager in my home. My sister asked me to hanai her son, Chris, to ensure he would complete high school. It was the summer before my nephew's senior year and she was concerned about the violence around his school. There had been shootings and some of Chris's friends were killed. Chris arrived in late August and my biological son arrived a couple of weeks later. Chris went on to learn many valuable life lessons about sacrifice, hard work and responsibility and he received his high school diploma in 1996.



Throughout my life I look back at experiences I have had and so often see that God prepared me each step of the way. As a Resource Caregiver I try to remember that day in 1995 whenever I receive a call from the Department of Human Services-Child Welfare Services regarding the possible placement of a child. What was my response to my sister? What if I could not take care of my child and I needed to give him to someone for a short time? How would I want to be treated? How would I want someone to treat my sister? How can I be a blessing? I pray that my view of the birth family is one of empathy and understanding and also a healthy dose of wisdom. My family's role is to come alongside another family and provide love and care for their child while they take time and care to work on issues that caused their child to be removed.

Although my role includes parenting, I am not replacing the child's mother, rather I see myself as her sister. I am a woman who is willing and able to temporarily nurture her child while she is being nurtured towards being a healthier woman and mother.

Last year a young child was placed with my family and the next day we were to meet the child's mother during a doctor visit. When we met in the waiting area I hugged her and she pulled back a little saying I hurt her. She immediately advised me that her children have sensitive skin so I was not to use any lotions, ointments or powders on her child. This young woman was a confident mom and she was not going to show me her pain. Then the nurse placed mother, child, and me in the examination room together to wait for the doctor. It seemed like forever that we were in the room alone. It felt awkward because the room was so small. Although I was monitoring this time together, I did not want to sit and stare at them. As I watched this tender reunion, mom seemed

stoic, yet meticulous about checking the well being of her child. I felt I had to say something. I wanted to reassure her that I was not above her, that I was not judging her and that I would not be competing with her for her child. I blurted out, "Wow, you must have been through a lot." This strong woman who was keeping herself together let tears roll down her face while she told me about the ordeal she was going through that culminated with the separation from her children.



My family and I went on to join sibling visits with this mom. Today

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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 by Partners in Development Foundation 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

To be placed on the mailing list or if you would like to receive an electronic copy, please call 441-1125 (O‘ahu), 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) or E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

Partners in Development
Foundation
2040 Bachelot St.
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96817-2433

Are You My Sister? (cont.)

she is reunified with three of her four children and she continues to call us and give us updates on her progress. When her child left our home she gave us a card and wrote, "Thank you for being there for me and my son. I am so glad to have met such wonderful people like you. You will always be in my heart."

Relationships with birth families will not always look like this nor end this way, but by beginning with a gracious attitude of families helping families we will impact more lives for the better. We need to keep in mind that we will not and should not condone wrong actions of birth families, but we will be more effective in helping people change and possibly hasten reunification if we address those issues as coming alongside someone in sincerity. It is stating the truth in love for the sake of love.

Here is my kuleana: *Psalm 82:3 - Defend the poor and the fatherless, do justice to the afflicted and needy.* Could you view those who come into your life because their child is placed with you as your sister or brother, daughter or son? It could make a world of difference at your first meeting and beyond.



The following essay was written by Leslie Cummings for a school project. She wanted to let others know all of the wonderful things that Margaret Cummings, her grandmother, has done for her. Margaret has been caring for Leslie for the past 8 years and has also taken in four of her siblings. Leslie continues to have contact with her birth mother even though Margaret has legal guardianship. After reading this essay, there is no doubt that Leslie thinks the world of her grandmother who has created a sense of ‘ohana not only for her but in the lives of many.



This essay that I'm doing will be talking about my hero. My hero is my grandma. Her name is Margaret Cummings. My grandma is my hero because she is always there for me. Her encouragements, kindness, loving, and her caring comments are what keep me going. My grandma is so irreplaceable.

For example, she is nurturing. Like, she washes my clothes. She puts clothes on my back. She gives me love when I need it. She gives me a home to come back to. She puts food in my stomach when I'm hungry. She encourages me. She feels for me, she loves me, she protects me, she thinks about me, and she is always wondering about me.

Another reason is her encouragements keep me going. She gives me advice on how I look. Like, what matches me and what doesn't. She tells me the truth if I ask for her opinion. She is always complementing me. She shows me the way to go to get back on track. She tells me the right things at the very right time. She knows just when to say it.

Now you can see why my grandma is irreplaceable. She is like my best friend. She understands me. I can tell her anything even though I know it's wrong. She helps me learn from my mistakes I have made. How many people's grandmas still cook, cleans and do many other things for them? She did a very generous thing for me. She took me in when I'm supposed to be with a family of strangers. She means the world to me. My grandma is the best grandma anyone could ever have.

These are all the reasons why I think my grandma is my hero. She has the biggest heart anybody could ever have. Her arms will always stay open for me. She is always willing to help. I love her so much that even death couldn't do us part.

'OHANA CONNECTIONS CORNER

For this 'Ohana Connections Corner I've continued with the story of Fila and her aunt Leilani. Fila is the youth whom I interviewed for the January 2010 issue.

*–Wilma Friesema, OES
EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing, Inc.*



A Statement of Trust

By Wilma Friesema

"Why we do this guardianship thing, I don't know," Leilani grumbled under her breath as we waited outside the judges' courtroom. "Fila turns eighteen in four months anyway -- this is just one more thing you people make me do."

"Yeah, but it's what you wanted, plus it's four months where you won't have to deal with the State or the likes of me," I replied jokingly. Over the eight months that Leilani and I worked together to reconnect her with Fila, her seventeen-year-old niece, Leilani struggled with the demands of becoming a resource caregiver. Now she was becoming a legal guardian. It had been a challenging journey.

Leilani's involvement with DHS began nearly six years earlier when her brother-in-law sexually abused Fila. To keep Fila safe DHS removed her from the uncle's home. Unfortunately, this also resulted in Fila losing contact with the rest of her extended family. Years later, the deep hurt and anger from the separation would resurface again and again as Leilani interacted with professionals and encountered "system rules." Whenever an exchange carried even a whiff of distrust toward the family, her walls went up.

"Frick you, and frick this system!" she'd say. "I don't need this! I didn't ask for this! You people called me!"

Whenever that mild cursing flew out of her mouth, I knew Leilani was feeling things were backward: she and the family were being treated like they were guilty until proven innocent rather than the other way around. Time and again we walked her back from that edge of disempowerment and frustration. To her, the many forms, questions, meetings, and requirements -- which are familiar and make sense to those who work in the system -- felt insulting and often confusing.

"I know how to be an auntie, just give her back to us," she'd often say to Fila's team of service providers. "My brother-in-law was the one at fault, not the rest of us. We know how to take care of her."

The team wanted to return Fila to her family, but there were some concerns. Over the years, Fila had learned to avoid intimacy through a rotating cycle of hospitalization and foster placements. Her acting out was intense. Could the family really handle her?

Fila had her fears too. She knew how to work the system, but returning to the family posed the risk that she wouldn't be protected or she might be rejected. If either happened, she would experience the pain of losing her family all over again.

"I hate you, I wish you were dead!" Fila seethed when Abby, her social worker, told her she had to move in with Leilani. Fila wanted her family back, but not *all* the way back. That was too scary. Unlike at all her previous resource homes, there would be no easy way out from auntie's. Once she lived with Leilani, she'd have to answer to someone who wouldn't kick her out and who wouldn't disappear.

Abby stood firm and Fila moved in with Leilani. The family, in fact, did know how to take care of Fila and they quickly embraced her back into their fold. It wasn't long before Fila's anger and destructive behaviors subsided. "I'm doing good," she'd say over the phone, in a voice that was vibrant and clear. "I like living here with my auntie."



Entering into the courtroom that morning, I reflected on Fila and Leilani's journey. As the legal council reviewed the documents and read them into the record, the profound meaning of the procedure permeated the room. It seemed Leilani's plea to "just let me have my niece back" was truly being heard. Abby, with tears in her eyes, acknowledged the hard work that Leilani and Fila had done to get to that point. James, Fila's Guardian ad Litem, spoke to the joy of event. Judge Kuriyama, speaking directly to Fila, talked about Fila's tumultuous history with DHS and expressed wonderment and delight in Fila's pro-

(Continued on page 4)



Department of Human Services (DHS)
Child Welfare Services (CWS) Branch



Current Initiatives/Activities/Programs

Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch Up (ABC) Pilot Project:

A partnership with the Consuelo Foundation to address special emotional and relationship needs of very young children in child welfare services to develop secure attachments with their caregivers.

Casey Strategic Consulting

Ongoing partnership with Casey Family Programs for systems improvement with the goal to: 1) reduce the number of children and youth in foster care by 50%, 2) reinvest savings from reduced foster care populations to strengthen the system and vulnerable families, and 3) increase the safety and self-sufficiency of youth aging out of foster care as demonstrated by improved education, employment and mental health outcomes (collectively, the 2020 Goals).

E kūākūkā Mai Kākou No Na Kamali'i "Come and Let's Discuss the Children" - The Native Hawaiian 'Aha:

An effort to collaborate and partner with Native Hawaiian communities statewide to increase awareness regarding CWS efforts to keep at-risk children with their 'ohana and in their communities, whenever possible and discuss ways to help support children and families by increasing collaboration between the community and CWS.

Family Connections Consortium:

A network of CWS providers working together to support children, youth and families to search, link, re-establish, form and sustain enduring family connections with support services.

Family Finding:

Services and efforts designed to search, identify, and engage family/relatives to be a support, permanent connection, and/or placement resource for children and families up front and throughout the child and family's involvement with CWS.

Family Journal:

A tool designed to engage families and to clearly identify activities with the family and provide a calendar for events, tasks and services related to their service plan.

CWS Family Partnership and Engagement Practice Model:

A practice framework to capture the mission, values & principles to guide CWS day-to-day practice, with families & the community.

Higher Education Board Allowance Expansion

An expansion in benefit for youth who were formerly in foster care with DHS by increasing: 1) the initial length of time the youth has to apply for the benefit application period from one year after graduation to before the youth's 22nd birthday; 2) upper age limit from end of 21st year to the end of 26th year; and 3) total benefits to 60 months. The higher education board allowance help meet living expenses while attending an accredited academic or vocational institution of higher learning.

Housing Grant for Former Foster Youth:

In July 2009, Honolulu County received 100 Section 8 vouchers worth approximately \$1,068,000 from the Housing and Urban Development to increase housing opportunities for former foster youth.

Hui Ho'omalu:

An expansion of trainings and support services for resource families.

CWS Procedures Integration:

A project to update Internal Communication Forms (ICF) relating to CWS procedures and to develop an accessible online format to assist in consistent CWS practice.

Jim Casey Youth Opportunities:

Brings together a rich array of community stakeholders including foster youth, CWS, Family Court, EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing, the University of Hawai'i, Department of Education and the business community to develop, implement, assess and improve strategies to ensure that youth transitioning from foster care successfully transition into adulthood.

Keiki Placement Project:

Weekly review by CWS administrators of all cases with children, age 0 to 3, to ensure that relatives are identified and engaged early on in the case for placement if necessary and as support and connection for the child and family.

Kōkua 'Ohana:

Targeted recruitment and support of Native Hawaiian resource families. This includes community and faith based recruitment.

Licensing and Training to Support Resource Families:

Revisions to Hawai'i Administrative Rules, CWS Policies and Contractor's Procedures to support, streamline and expedite the licensing process. A Purchase Of Service (POS) contract was developed



CWS/DHS—Current Initiatives/Activities/Programs (cont.)

to make fingerprinting clearances more readily accessible to prospective resource families. A specialized H.A.N.A.I. Training Curriculum was developed to expedite, to have more flexibility in training delivery options and to be more culturally sensitive to Hawai'i.

Ma'ili Receiving Home – Ho'omalū O Na Kamali'i:

A comprehensive on-call residential assessment center for abused and neglected children on the Wai'anae Coast is designed to: prioritize the children and families from the Waianae area, keep siblings together, keep children in their same schools and neighborhood, conduct comprehensive medical and mental health assessments and facilitate accessible visits for the children and their families. An array of resources is available on-site, including support from elders in the community and foster youth mentors as well as Family Finding and 'Ohana conferencing, to facilitate case planning, to support reunification, and to search for relatives and kin for planned placement and ongoing connections.

'Ohana Conferencing:

Parents & extended family gathers with their social worker & service providers to make the best decisions for the future of their children.

'Ohana is Forever Conference:

Annual conference in partnership with the Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition, Kapiolani Child Protection Center's Foster Youth Mentoring Program and the Family Court to improve and celebrate efforts in family connections for foster children/youth.

Pohai Ke Aloha (Permanency Roundtables):

A collaborative project with Casey Family Programs, modeled after the successful Georgia Permanency Project to accelerate permanency for youth in foster care. A series of Roundtable discussions will take place statewide to encourage innovative thinking and breakdown barriers to having a permanent home for foster children/youth. The discussion teams include CWS staff, a master permanency practitioner from CWS, a Casey consultant, a Cultural Consultant as applicable and available, a Community Consultant with expertise in permanency, and a former foster youth and 'ohana.



Project First Care (PFC) for Infants and Toddlers:

Helping to carry out Act 199 is PFC, a partnership of CWS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Partners In Development Foundation, Hui Ho'omalū, Kōkua 'Ohana, the Na Kupuna Tribunal Council and EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing. PFC was implemented to provide safe, nurturing, temporary and on-call placement with specially trained PFC Resource Caregivers for infants and children in CWS custody. This model requires the Caregivers to work with the Birth Parents to support reunification or placement with relatives---through First Meetings, facilitation of meaningful and supportive visitations and participation in 'Ohana Conferencing.

Project First Care (PFC) for Teens:

Like PFC for Infants and Toddlers, this initiative provides similar supports and is designed for the needs of teens.

Rapid Assessment Instruments:

Standardized and validated tools from the Casey Family Programs to assist CWS workers in engaging families through a neutral, fair and objective process, to complete timely and accurate assessments. The assessments help identify the needs of families and children in CWS cases and assists in case planning. Tools are being piloted in East Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Maui and two units on O'ahu.

SHAKA - State of Hawai'i Automated Keiki Assistance system:

A user friendly data system under development for CWS by Maui Community College designed to capture and manage case information to support safety, permanency and wellbeing outcomes.

Threat of Abuse/Neglect Review:

In collaboration with the National Resource Center for Child Protective Services and Casey Family Programs, a team of CWS staff reviewed cases reported to CWS for threat of abuse and/or neglect to identify trends and areas for clarification to improve practice.

Youth Circles:

An expansion of 'Ohana Conferencing practice to help foster children and youth, age 16-21, plan for their future by developing individual goals. The youth choose who to invite to assist them in their planning and celebrate their accomplishments.

Zero to Three (O'ahu) Early Court:

Federally funded specialty court for maltreated children, age 0 to 3, active in the Family Court. The goal is to provide early intervention supports and services and frequent Court reviews to decrease length of stay in foster care, reduce multiple placements and enhance bonding and attachment for children.



Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By Chiyomi Chow, FPH RFSS Family Resource Specialist

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



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

Ask the Warm Line

QUESTION: Can I claim my foster child as a dependant on my taxes and for tax credits?

ANSWER: You may be able to, but there are certain criteria. A tax guide for resource and adoptive parents is available online at National Foster Parents Association's website: www.nfpainc.org. Also, the IRS has live telephone assistance, so that you can ask questions to help you prepare your tax return. Their number is: 1-800-829-1040 (toll-free) with hours of operation: Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Pacific Time. You also may want to seek advice from a tax professional.



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: dressers, bunk beds, luggage with wheels, baby gates, basketball hoop, high chair, and smoke detectors.

Examples of items currently available include: children's toys, Cinderella suitcase, children's books, baby walker, toddler potty, and infant/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

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.

For the Sake of the Child

By Eva Chau, FPH Resource Family Support Services Program Manager

Family Programs Hawai'i's most recent resource family training, "For the Sake of the Child", focused on the importance of working with birth families, where it is feasible and safe, in the interest of maintaining connections for children in foster care. During this particular training held in Wai'anae on February 2, 2010, Cheryl Ogawa Ho facilitated a candid open discussion in which a birth family, their children and a former resource caregiver/current service provider shared their experiences on the challenges and rewards of fostering such relationships. Cheryl is a social worker of 24 years with long-term youth in foster care and their resource, guardianship, adoptive, and birth families. Through the years, she has found that, when feasible and safe, the long term outcomes of working with birth families are beneficial for the children on her caseload.

Resource families have the difficult job of loving children in their care as their own, and at the same time, preparing for their possible return home to a safe and loving environment. To help with this transition, it is important for resource families to help children in their home maintain connections with their parents. Doing so is not an easy process. Birth families also feel many strong emotions about what is happening to them: sadness, anger, guilt, etc. Sometimes these feelings seem like they are getting in the way of moving towards being reunified with their children. Children also face many challenges when removed from their parents, but will most likely adjust better if they maintain some kind of connection to their parents.



Leslie Moody, a former resource caregiver and current Addictions Program Manager for women at Salvation Army, talked about some of the challenges families face in getting help and reunifying with their children. She shared that love is often not enough to address the problems of addiction. She explained that it may sound easy for birth parents to complete services and get their children returned, but when legal systems do not communicate effectively and collaborate efforts with one another, it can cause challenges. She further stated that by maintaining the bond to their family, the transition home for the children can be smoother.

Anna and Abe, birth parents, are thankful to Anna's sister for caring for their children when they could not. They expressed that they felt bad when they lost their kids and had to learn to take a step back and respect the resource caregivers who were caring for their children. Anna described working with the resource caregiver to be very hard at times, even though it was her own sister. She shared that she went through many classes with Abe, but "they never saw us, [they] just saw us as paperwork". Abe disclosed that he had to swallow his pride because another person was parenting his children.

Anna and Abe's children shared their experience and feelings about being in foster care. Anna and Abe's son, who is now an adult attending the University of Hawai'i, stated that "sometimes you have to hit bottom to change". He revealed that he has a better relationship with his parents today than he has ever had before. He thanks God for giving him an opportunity to build a relationship with his dad. He went on to say that he loves his aunt (resource caregiver) and that she taught him to be neat and organized and to get his priorities straight. He learned to humble himself even if he did not agree because his aunt worked hard to put food on the table and care for him and his siblings. Anna and Abe's adult daughter, also a former youth in foster care, expressed that she honored her resource caregiver as she did her own mom. She expressed her love for her aunt and her birth mom as being the same. She also described that it was hard to not have her parents with her every step of the way, especially when they were not there to be proud of her accomplishments. Anna and Abe's younger daughter, still in the care of maternal aunt, shared that it is hard to talk to friends about being in foster care because she did not want them to think she was crazy. She would tell her friends that it did not matter because her aunt loves her just the same as her mom. She described her experience of caring for her brother who cried every night for their parents. She explained that it was so hard to tell him that he could not go to see them. She had to tell him that it would be okay and that one day they would all be together. Her experience further illustrates the importance of preserving the bond between parents and their children.



Cheryl urged resource families to put themselves in the "kids' hearts, so they feel like you understand [them] instead of telling them not to lie or to tell the truth", because it is their hope sometimes that they will be going home to their parents. Cheryl advised families that it is okay to acknowledge and state how the child is feeling to show you have some understanding.

Resource families attending the training also had input on their experiences with birth families. Allene, long time resource caregiver, conveyed that she also needed to re-

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For the Sake of the Child (cont.)

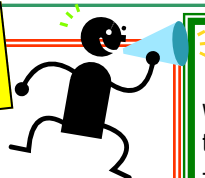
member to include birth families, when possible, on accomplishments of their children.

She described the difficult role she has of taking their place when parents cannot be there to be proud of their children's accomplishments. She shared it is an honor when a child in her care can return to their parents.

If we can understand the experiences and feelings of children in foster care, we may be more tolerant and open to helping them maintain a sense of who they are and where they came from. It will also help us to see that they are not just children in the system. By helping to maintain their connection to their family and relatives that continue to hold a place in their hearts, we are helping children adjust to difficult situations and continue to thrive in our care.

All RFSS trainings through FPH are funded by the Department of Human Services. If you are interested in attending any of our statewide trainings, please call us on the Warm Line on Oahu at 545-1130 and toll-free on the Neighbor Islands at 1-866-545-0882 or visit our Event Calendar on the web at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org (under the "Resources" tab).

HANAI Co-Trainers Needed



ARE YOU...

A current/former resource caregiver?

Comfortable presenting to groups?

Willing to share your experiences?

Able to express the importance of birth family work and partnering with DHS?

If you said "YES" to all of the above questions, consider becoming a HANAI Co-Trainer on O'ahu!

Training & compensation is provided.

Contact Stephanie @ Hui Ho'omaluu
441-1121
shelbush@pidfoundation.org

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!

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

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 & what makes them so special so we can let others know how wonderful they are!

Thank them today!

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

WOULD YOU LIKE A \$200 GIFT CARD?

Refer a Prospective General Licensed Resource Family to Hui Ho`omaluu, and receive a \$200 gift card!*

**Prospective resource family must complete the licensing process & be a licensable home.*

IT'S EASY...Just have your referred family let us know it was YOU that got them to call!

Call for more information on our 'Ohana Rewards Program!
441-1117 (O'ahu) ★ 1-888-879-8970 (Toll Free)

Hui Ho'omaluu, a program of Partners in Development Foundation, is funded through the Department of Human Services

2010 Annual Conference for Resource Families

Family Programs Hawai'i's Resource Family Support Services (FPH-RFSS) in collaboration with the Department of Human Services is proud to announce our 2010 Annual Conference for Resource Families. This one day conference, "Nurture Me & Watch Me Grow: Cultivating Healthy Resource Families" is being presented by Barbara Naki, RN, MA and Tom Naki, MPH of The Institute For Family Enrichment (TIFFE).

Barbara and Tom have over 40 years of experience working with families. As founders and trainers for The Institute For Family Enrichment, they continue to work to strengthen families. Both are national trainers and consultants for the Nurturing Parenting Programs. Both are also proud parents of their adopted daughter whom has blessed them with 4 grandchildren.

Barbara is the Director of Prevention and Education at TIFFE. Barbara has also co-authored the Nurturing Program for Prenatal Families and the Multicultural Parenting Guides, Hawaiian parenting component.

Tom's advocacy role for children began in 1968, with the ad-hoc committee for the protection of children of child abuse and neglect. Today, Tom works closely with incarcerated fathers within and outside the prison environment. Being of Hawaiian decent, Tom has designed a culturally relevant curriculum to teach men how to be nurturing fathers.

This one day conference focuses on developing and enhancing attitudes, skills, and the knowledge necessary to create nurturing families for children and youth. You will learn to apply nurturing principles and practices with children in foster care. This training will be presented in a shared and interactive learning environment. Individual and group hands-on activities and experiences will focus on how to be a nurturing parent.

CONFERENCE DATES & LOCATIONS

Hilo: April 6, 2010 (Tuesday) ★ 9am—3pm at Hilo Hawaiian Hotel
Kona: April 7, 2010 (Wednesday) ★ 9am—3pm at Keauhou Beach Resort
Maui: May 5, 2010 (Wednesday) ★ 9am – 3pm at Maui Arts & Cultural Center
Kaua'i: May 12, 2010 (Wednesday) ★ 9am—3pm at Aloha Beach Hotel
O'ahu: June 5, 2010 (Saturday) ★ 8:30am – 2:30pm at Dole Ballrooms

Free!

Free!



Family Programs Hawai'i is providing this conference statewide. We hope to reach as many resource, guardianship, adoptive and kinship families as possible through this training. We are dedicated to providing ongoing supports and trainings to support you along the challenging journey of caring for children in or previously in foster care and we hope you will join us!

Look for your registration form in the mail or you may register on the web at FamilyProgramsHawaii.org. You may fax your registration form to 808-441-1122 or mail to Partners In Development Foundation Hui Ho'omalua, 680 Iwilei Road Suite 500, Honolulu, HI 96817.

Funding for FPH-RFSS and this annual conference is through the Department of Human Services

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

O'AHU:

- ★ **May 2 (Sun): Resource Family Appreciation & Talent Show in Celebration of National Foster Care Month.** 3 pm—6 pm. Dave & Buster's: 1030 Auahi St., Honolulu, Victoria Ward Center. FREE for Resource Families. Music, Prizes, and Food! Space is limited to the first 240 Resource Family guests to RSVP so call today! There will be no exceptions at the door. To register your talent and/or to RSVP, call the Warm Line at 545-1130.
- ★ **June 5 (Sat): 2010 Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers.** 8:30 am—2:30 pm. Dole Ballrooms: 680 Iwilei Road, Honolulu. See page 10 for more details.
- ★ **June 26 (Sat): Family Programs Hawai'i Annual Summer Picnic.** Save the Date!!! More details to come.

MAUI

- ★ **May 5 (Wed): 2010 Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers.** 9 am—3 pm. Maui Arts & Cultural Center. See page 10 for more details.
- ★ **May 15 (Sat): Foster Care Informational Booth.** 10 am—2 pm. Keiki Kōkua Thrift Store: 810 Haiku Rd. For more info, call Ethan at 268-5122.
- ★ **May 22 (Sat): Pili Na Huewai ~ "Bringing Our 'Ohana into Balance".** An event for NFCM to thank Maui's Resource, Adoptive, Guardian & Kinship 'Ohana and all who work to help Hawai'i's keiki. Food, Games, Prizes, Entertainment, and Fun!!! 10 am—3 pm (Registration: 9:30 am—10 am). Ka'ehu Bay: 600 Kukona Place (From Sack-n-Save, head toward Waihee and take the 2nd right after the bridge). **May 21 (Fri): Preparation of Imu.** Sponsored by the Neighborhood Place of Wailuku, Department of Human Services, Maui Child Welfare Services, Hānai Coalition, Friends of the Children's Justice Center, Keiki Kōkua, Family Programs Hawai'i, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. For more info, call Lisa at 243-5164.
- ★ **May 3 (Mon): Sign Waving for National Foster Care Month.** 7 am—9 am. Corner of Haleakala & Hāna Hwys. There may also be another Sign Waving event during May—date/time TBD. For more info, call Ethan at 268-5122.

EAST HAWAI'I:

- ★ **Apr 21 (Wed): East Hawai'i Sign Waving for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.** 4 pm—5 pm. Hopaco intersection.
- ★ **Apr 24 (Sat): Celebrate Your Family ~ "Cherish the Child" Family Event.** 10 am—1 pm. Sangha Hall: 424 Kilauea Ave, Hilo. FREE Admission. Games, food, keiki ID, community information booths with activities for kids, and much more.
- ★ **May 1 (Sat): Resource Caregiver Mahalo Luncheon.** More information to come.
- ★ **May 6 (Thurs): Sign Waving for National Foster Care Month.** 4 pm—5 pm. Kamehameha Ave. on the Bay Front Soccer Field Area.

KAUA'I:

- ★ **May 12 (Wed): 2010 Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers.** 9 am—3 pm. Aloha Beach Hotel. See page 10 for more details.

MOLOKA'I:

- ★ **June 5 (Sat): 2010 Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers (O'ahu).** 8:30 am—2:30 pm. Dole Ballrooms: 680 Iwilei Road, Honolulu. For more information, call the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882.

LĀNA'I

- ★ **June 5 (Sat): 2010 Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers (O'ahu).** 8:30 am—2:30 pm. Dole Ballrooms: 680 Iwilei Road, Honolulu. For more information, call the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882.

MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mahalo...

*To Hawai'i's Resource Caregivers who have
opened their hearts and homes for our keiki in foster care and
Changed a Lifetime*



**HUI HO'OMALU
STATEWIDE
RESOURCE
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

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Honolulu, HI 96817-2433
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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 Health
Department of Human Services
EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing
Family Court
Family Programs Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalua
Resource Caregivers
Adoptive Parents
Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition
Heart Gallery Hawai'i
HOPE INC
It Takes An 'Ohana
Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalua & Kōkua 'Ohana
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work

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