



**PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT  
FOUNDATION**

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

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# Building Connections

A Newsletter for Resource Families



**Volume 5, Issue 3**

**April 2012**

## A.F.T. (A Fostering Thought)

### Climbing the Stairs

*By Dr. Paul Brennan*

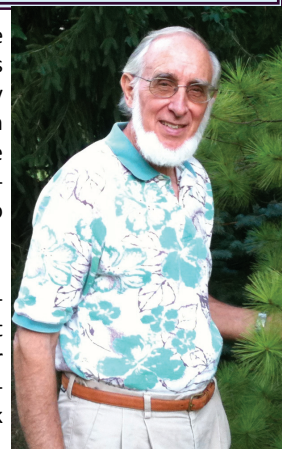
As you enter our home the front door opens to a spiral staircase leading up to the level on which we live. Any stranger should find it easy to navigate for the steps curve around predictably and the handrail is solid and easy to grasp. It is probably the most familiar part of our abode to the many youth who have come to live with us; even in the dark it is a safe structure to manipulate, without fear of falling. We who reside there take it for granted for it fulfills its function without questions needing to be asked. In addition, it is a useful metaphor for what we intend our home to be, in every part, for whoever might come to live with us.

So when Fred, our first foster child, re-entered our home last December—after being gone for 28 years—it was great to see his smile as he walked through the front door. “It’s still here!” he gushed on seeing the stairway, and making a bee-line for his old room. Suddenly the layout of our house and the memory of what was important to him—the landmarks on that early, impressionable terrain—flooded back with an innocent exuberance so delightful to behold. Our kitchen, the special foods, our yard, the neighbors, the church we attended . . . all were like warm beacons still shining in his memory bank, lights that must have cast their glow through the darkness of his troubled but salvaged youth. Even on his final morning with us, before flying off 4,000 miles away, Fred was up early to walk our street, to pause, to smile, to recollect.

The words “family” and “familiar” are derived from the same linguistic origin. Centuries ago what a person experienced within the family, became the map, the most ancient GPS, for navigating through life. What was familiar was what one could associate with his family, whether for the good or for the bad. Probably for most of us adults, what we experienced within our family was the comfortable, positive grid for helping us navigate through the unfamiliar, uncharted waters when we left our family. Disorientation came from the loss of the familiar.

I will forever remember the sense of disorientation when we took in two siblings fourteen years ago. They had been living in a tiny, two bedroom apartment with eight of their Chinese relatives. Each had a black, plastic bag filled with their possessions. Our dog bound to playfully greet them, which in itself was overwhelming, but even more so the interior of our house, which at every turn was ‘so big’. At bedtime, my wife and I assumed they would eagerly retire to their separate rooms to stretch out on their beds outfitted specially for them. But T.F., 12, found his surroundings over-stimulating and frightful. Trying to comfort him, I stayed up to try to answer his many, anxious questions: “Where did you get this?” “How did you buy your house?” “Do you have stocks?” Finally, close to midnight I thought he was comfortably ready for sleep in his bed. The next morning I found him sleeping on the floor beside his sister’s bed, the nearest equivalent to the familiar that could put him to sleep.

Seven years later, after he was enrolled in college, his phone call came to me on Father’s Day. “Guess what I’m eating for breakfast?” he challenged. “Oatmeal,” he said, knowing I would be impressed. He talked glowingly about the qualities of that grain, reminiscent of my words to him years before. Then he exclaimed, “Guess what? I’m giving hugs to my sister all the time!” “You wouldn’t guess that, would you?” And I wouldn’t have. He never once said, “Happy Father’s Day”, but his timing and sharing were unmistakable, and its impact on me will never be forgotten.



**Dr. Paul Brennan**



## HUI HO'OMALU STATEWIDE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

**This newsletter may be viewed on the following websites:**

[www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social\\_services/child\\_welfare/foster](http://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/foster)

[www.pidfoundation.org](http://www.pidfoundation.org)

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

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

## GO GREEN!

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



# March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month and this year's theme, "Social Work Matters", seeks to showcase the impact of more than 642,000 professional social workers in America. In celebration of their contributions, the Rotary Club of Hilo honored our East Hawai'i DHS social workers by presenting them with gift baskets.



**(L-R) E. HI Licensing Workers, Nora Kaaua and Diane Kubo**

★ Thank you Rotary  
★ Club of Hilo. This  
★ is the first time  
★ our DHS Social  
★ Workers were  
★ ever honored for  
★ National Social  
★ Work Month.



**(L-R) Peggy Hilton, E. HI CWS Director & Rotarian Misti Tyrin**



## MAHALO TO...

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

441-1125 (O'ahu)

1-888-879-8970 (Toll Free) [RAC@pidfoundation.org](mailto:RAC@pidfoundation.org)

## Bringing Siblings Together

*By Chiyomi Chow, FPH Project Visitation Program Coordinator*

Although the State tries to place siblings together in foster care, many sibling groups end up separated in different homes. Losing contact with their siblings can be devastating. Children often worry about and miss their brothers and sisters, especially when one held a parental role in caring for their younger siblings. Because of these unfortunate circumstances, youth sometimes run away from their foster homes in order to see their brother or sister.

That is why Project Visitation was started over 10 years ago and continues to help siblings who are separated from each other. Family Programs Hawai'i's Project Visitation provides opportunities for children in foster care to maintain connections with their siblings when placed in different homes on O'ahu and the Island of Hawai'i. The program serves approximately 200 children of all ages and legal status who have a history of involvement in foster care.

Volunteers dedicate their time to help sibling groups see each other on a monthly basis. Adoptive mother Sharon Ameen shares, "The volunteers are wonderful and supportive. They are so generous and giving of their time and resources to encourage Tabby and Fabian. We have enjoyed getting to know the volunteers, Evelyn, Phil, Cecilia, and Noreen. They have been faithful in getting Tabby and Fabian together almost every month!"

Siblings such as Tabby and Fabian may live in separate homes, but that doesn't mean they have to feel disconnected. They can enjoy spending time together each month through Project Visitation visits and events. Tabby and Fabian both love each other and look forward to their visits. They fondly remember going ice skating, playing water balloon toss, going to the beach, and going to the water park together. Tabby shares, "My brother is awesome! He is the best, because he plays with me." It is because of Project Visitation that siblings like Tabby and Fabian are making memories and building a relationship that will last a lifetime.



**Tabby & Fabian**

Thanks to donations, grants, and the help of approximately 120 volunteers, Family Programs Hawai'i continues to provide sibling visits on Oahu and West Hawai'i. Family Programs Hawai'i expanded services to include East Hawai'i, as well. For more information, you can call Chiyomi at 540-2544 on O'ahu or JoYi at 935-2876 ext. 237 in East Hawai'i.

## 'OHANA CONNECTIONS CORNER

Dear Reader,

In this newsletter's 'Ohana Connections Corner the story is one you may already be familiar with. It's the account of Fred Van Cleave, a former foster youth whose life was forever changed by a single year with his resource family, the Brennans. (Lee Cataluna wrote about Fred and the Brennans' reunion in the Star Advertiser on 12/13/11 as did Paul Brennan in January's Building Connections newsletter.)

As Resource Caregivers and service providers, it can sometimes be hard for any of us to know if we're really making a difference in our foster children's lives. This is particularly true if the time spent is fleeting or the child continues to have challenges that seem insurmountable. Even with our best efforts, the answer isn't often clear or clear-cut.

Those of us on the Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) chose to continue with this story because it is a strong reminder that kindness has its own power – a power that can ripple across time and distance. Though Fred only lived with the Brennans for a year, that year etched into his heart and mind an understanding of what a family could be, and values that were important to him. It was a lived reality he clung to over and over again through some very dark times.

We may never know who the Freds are in our lives – those children we may lose touch with but whom we've touched deeply. Those of us on the RAC committee want to thank all of you for the tremendous kindness and "gift of belonging" that you are giving to the children in your care. Your efforts can and do make a difference.

Aloha and mahalo from all of us at RAC.

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



### The Gift of Belonging

By Wilma Friesema, OES

Fred was as alone as any eight year old boy could be. His mom, Thuy, an immigrant from Viet Nam, was dying of cancer. His dad, Frederick, originally from Mississippi, had disappeared when Fred was three. There was no other family Fred could turn to. During his mother's final days, he slept on a cot in his mother's hospital room, clinging to her as she clung to life.

Fred and his mom were no strangers to hardship. Prior to his birth in 1972, Thuy had lived in war-torn South Viet Nam. She was doing administrative work for the army when she met Fred's dad. They fell in love and moved to Hawai'i in 1969. Thuy became a naturalized citizen in 1978.

As a single, immigrant mom, Thuy worked hard to make ends meet. Fred, a bright young boy, attended five different elementary schools as his mom struggled to find a stable home. Thuy was fiercely protective of her son, but she couldn't shield him from the precariousness of her circumstances. Despite the ups and downs, however, they always made it, they always had each other.

Breast cancer was one obstacle they couldn't overcome. Thuy fought the disease for three years, undergoing chemotherapy and a mastectomy, but in the end she couldn't win. The night she died, Thuy's nurse took Fred home and kept him until he entered foster care.

Fred had been in two resource homes before he was placed with the Brennan family. Those early foster experiences were painful. In the second home he noticed the foster children were treated differently than the biological children. He felt unwanted and like an inconvenience, which heightened his loneliness and isolation. Overwhelmed, his pain and sorrow came out sideways in difficult and destructive behavior.

It was a local minister who first asked the Brennans to take Fred in. The boy was a terrible, disruptive ten year old, Paul Brennan was told, but one in need of male figures in his young life. Paul, and his wife Dottie, had four sons; their home was bursting with boy energy. Paul and Dottie had no foster care training, but what they did have was a loving family and a desire to respond to a child in need. They hoped it would be enough.



It was clear there was much Fred could learn from the Brennans. He had been an only child living in the city. The Brennans lived in the country; their four boys were athletic and active. Fred had never gone on a hike, played basketball, ridden a bike, or had siblings to drag him into new adventures. He had never sat at a dinner table with so many people with so many opinions. He had never known the rituals and unspoken rules that kept family life humming. What Fred soon learned, however, was Paul and Dottie praised and disciplined him like he was one of their sons, like he was part of the family.

The Brennans had their own learning to do. Sometimes Fred had intense outbursts, at home and in public places, that were outside the realm of Paul and Dottie's experience. Sometimes the Brennan boys thought their foster brother was treated with favoritism, and they begrudged having to share their possessions and parents. While those moments were fleeting, the Brennans repeatedly had to step outside of their comfort zone to integrate Fred into their family.

It was the depth of his loss, however, that affected the family the most. As a close-knit unit, they had never experienced having their world turned upside-down in one fatal moment. They never knew the deep ache and shock waves that such a traumatic loss could create, but they witnessed it in Fred. It was especially visible one day when he was late for lunch and nowhere to be found.

"Fred, Fred, where are you?" they yelled, inside and outside of the house. They were about to give up when Paul finally thought to look in the attic. There was Fred, sitting with his mother's pictures and dresses, completely lost to the world, crying quietly, privately.

(continued on page 6)



# Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

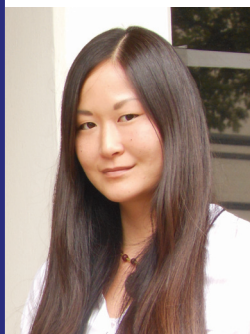
By Eva Chau, RFSS Program Manager

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



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

## Ask the Warm Line



Sabrina Lee Dixon

### Who is answering the Warm Line?

Sabrina Lee Dixon is the new voice of the Warm Line. She will be assisting resource families with their questions, need for referrals, and information about various programs, necessities, and upcoming events.

### Who is she?

Sabrina previously worked at Child and Family Service on Maui, providing children and families with therapeutic services, many of whom are in the Child Welfare System. Her background is in clinical psychology, where she studied at Hawai'i Pacific University and attended graduate school at the California School of Professional Psychology in San Diego. Her dissertation topic was about experiences of hānai on the adult individual. While investigating the topic of hānai, Sabrina began to explore her own adoption experience, which led her to decide to move back to Seoul and find out where she came from. Needless to say, it was an incredible journey that led to astonishing revelations about her roots, which in turn became the missing pieces to her identity puzzle.

### How can she help?

Given her professional background and personal experience of being an adopted child, Sabrina can provide therapeutic support and feedback as well as resources, referrals, and information to better assist you and your family members. She is inspired to give back in the ways that she knows how and looks forward to connecting and supporting the families of Hawai'i.



## 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.

Items that are in high demand include:

Children's desk  
Bunk beds  
Clothes for 7 yr old boy size 14-15 (junior)  
Feeding booster seat with tray  
Twin beds with mattress  
Trundle bed (hideaway bed)  
Desk lamp

Children's dresser  
Bed sheets (twin)  
Toddler bed  
2 double bed frames and mattresses  
Dressers  
Computer chair

Examples of items currently available include: Luggage, potty chair, strollers, high chair, and women/children/newborn clothing in specific sizes.

For an up-to-date list of items by island, check out Care to Share at [www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org](http://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](mailto:WarmLine@FamilyProgramsHI.org)

Monday—Friday 8:30 am—5 pm

*This program, brought to you by FPH's Resource Family Support Services (RFSS), is funded by the Department of Human Services*

### 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](mailto:RAC@pidfoundation.org)

### REPRESENT MAGAZINE

This magazine is aimed at foster youth and has many articles written by the youth themselves. This is a great resource for youth, resource families and service providers.

<http://www.representmag.org/>



# 5th Annual Conference for Resource Families & Service Providers

## “Fostering CommUNITY: Connecting our ‘Ohana”

Guest Speakers: Dr. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D., Laurie Jicha, MSW, & Lynne Kazama, LSW



This conference is open to all resource, guardianship, adoptive, and kinship families, and service providers. Come join us for an open and candid discussion that will inspire and challenge participants to:

- ♦ Promote healthy attachment, development, well-being, and positive adjustment to placement through Visitation-‘Ohana Time.
- ♦ Understand the benefits and purpose of Visitation-‘Ohana Time for children in foster care, birth families, and resource families.
- ♦ Learn how to supervise Visitation-‘Ohana Time in a way that maintains safety and is productive to both the families and children.
- ♦ Look at the perspectives of the child, birth parent(s), resource caregiver(s), and social worker on Visitation-‘Ohana Time through a panel discussion.

**3 Ways to Register:** 1) Online at [www.familyprogramshawaii.org](http://www.familyprogramshawaii.org); 2) Complete and mail in the registration form; or 3) Complete and fax in the registration form.

### CONFERENCE DATES

**KAUA‘I:** May 1, 2012 (Tues) 9am-3 pm Kaua‘i Beach Resort  
**EAST HAWAI‘I:** May 7, 2012 (Mon) 9am-3pm ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center  
**O‘AHU:** May 12, 2012 (Sat) 8:30am-2:30pm Ala Moana Hotel  
**MAUI:** May 17, 2012 (Thurs) 9am-3pm UH Maui College  
**WEST HAWAI‘I:** May 23, 2012 (Wed) 9am-3pm Keauhou Beach Resort  
**MOLOKA‘I & LĀNA‘I:** Airfare reimbursements are available.  
 Call the Warm Line for details and arrangements.

### FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH, CHILDCARE, FAMILY GIFT &

**A CHANCE TO WIN A STAYCATION IN HONOR OF NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH!**

WIN OTHER  
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INCLUDING GIFT CARDS

For more information,  
Please contact the Warm Line:  
545-1130 (O‘ahu)  
1-866-545-0882 (Toll Free for Neighbor Islands)  
[warmline@familyprogramshi.org](mailto:warmline@familyprogramshi.org)



### **Presented by:**

Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Family Programs Hawai‘i,  
Partners in Development Foundation-Hui Ho‘omalua Program, State of Hawai‘i Judiciary, Zero To Three Program

**MAHALO...**

# May is National Foster Care Month



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

## 'OHANA CONNECTIONS CORNER (cont.)

From that point on, the Brennans tenderly and respectfully embraced Fred's grief. Paul offered to take him to visit to his mother's ashes, if ever he wanted. He did ask, several times, and each time Paul put aside what he was doing and drove Fred to the Moiliili temple.

Paul accompanied his young companion to the entrance of the temple, but always let him be alone at his mother's memorial. "Take your time," he said, "I'll be right here if you need me." He never pressed Fred to hurry, and afterward, on the ride home, never pressed him to share how he felt or what he had said to his mother. Paul saw it as a grieving boy's private, sacred time.

While Fred was living with the Brennans, Child Welfare Services located his father, Frederick, in Mississippi. After much communication, DHS granted dad's request for his son to fly to the mainland for a month-long visit. The agreement was for that *limited* visit. Paul flew with Fred to Dallas to put him on a plane to Mississippi. He told Fred, in no uncertain terms, that he would meet him at the LA airport in a month's time to take him home.

In the LA airport Paul waited with growing apprehension for the very last passenger to debark. No Fred. The Brennans, devastated, called the authorities, but despite their efforts Fred was never found.

Frederick did not allow Fred to return to Hawai'i. They moved from town to town.

Fred was fourteen when his father abandoned him by the side of the road in Texas. Alone, again, he found his way back to Mississippi and was taken in by a friend's family. They were helpful, but they weren't his legal resource family so he lived under the constant fear of his father's return. He thought of the Brennans often – he continued to hear their encouraging voices in his head – but the time with his father had taken its toll. He, stubbornly and shamefully, wouldn't reach out to the Brennans until he felt he was all right.

He finally dialed the Brennan's number on a New Year's Eve, twelve years after he had boarded that plane in Dallas. He was 23 years old. When Jason, the youngest son, asked, *Who is this?* Fred answered, "This is Fred, I'm your brother." Jason cried out, "Mom, pick up the phone! It's Fred! It's Fred!" The family was ecstatic. Their lost son and brother was finally found!

Last December Fred came home to the Brennan's and Hawaii for the first time in nearly three decades. It was a joyous and tearful reunion for everyone. Now 39, Fred's been married for 14 years and works as a hospital billing administrator in Mississippi. It's been a long journey back to the family, but one he's grateful to have made. Fred says many positive things about life with the Brennans: they gave him the attention, energy, and structure which he desperately needed; they gave him a security that nurtured him and allowed him to thrive; they taught him the value of hard work, honesty, and creativity; they modeled what a healthy family could be.

Most of all, he says, the Brennans made him feel he belonged. Not only did they treat him like a son and brother, they accepted him for who he was and what his life experience had been. For a boy unanchored by loss, the Brennans had been an island of stability and a haven for a tender, motherless child. They had given him more than a roof over his head and food in his belly. As he likes to say, they gave him his *Year of the Family*. It was a year that helped birth a man of thoughtfulness, integrity, and compassion.

It was also a year that changed the life course of a family. After Fred, the Brennans took in twenty more foster children. Though they could never predict how things would turn out for the children, they always felt it was a worthwhile endeavor. Paul frequently says, "When you say yes to opportunities, good things can happen." Their experience with Fred has taught them just how true that can be.

## '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 like these individuals!



**Ingrid Clark  
Jackie Garcia**



Call Hui Ho'omalu 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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### O'AHU:

- ★ **May 6 (Sun): Resource Family Appreciation Day in Celebration of National Foster Care Month (NFCM).** 9 am—3 pm. All resource families currently providing foster care & former foster/guardianship youth are invited. Kualoa Ranch's "Secret Island". Ocean & beach activities, lunch included. \$5/person. Contact Elisa at 527-4921 for more info.
- ★ **May 12 (Sat): 5th Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers & Service Providers.** See pg 5 for details.
- ★ **May 18 (Fri): Waianae Resource Families Support Group.** 5:30 pm—8 pm. 'Ohana Ola O Kahumana. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245.
- ★ **May 19 (Sat): Visitor Industry Charity Walk.** Join us to celebrate and help to bring awareness to NFCM. \$35/person. Call Arlina at 441-1123 by May 11 (Fri) for details.
- ★ **June 8 (Fri): Windward Resource Families Support Group.** 6 pm—8:30 pm. Faith Baptist Church. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245.
- ★ **June 22 (Fri): Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group.** 5:30 pm—8 pm. O'ahu Veteran's Center. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245.

### MAUI

- ★ **May 3 (Thurs): NFCM Luncheon.** Hosted by Maui DHS. For more info, contact Scott Yoshida at 243-5149 or Ann Fitzpatrick at 243-4619.
- ★ **May 10 (Thurs): Sign Waving for NFCM.** 7 am—9 am. Corner of Ka'ahumanu Ave. and Kane St. (mauka side). For more info, call Ethan Aronson at 268-5122.
- ★ **May 17 (Thurs): 5th Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers & Service Providers.** See pg 5 for details.
- ★ **May 19 (Sat): NFCM Foster Care Awareness Day.** 11 am—2 pm. Keiki Kōkua. Discounts for resource families, free t-shirts to those who have someone sign up to become a resource caregiver. For more info, contact Marq or Lisa Morrison at the Keiki Kōkua Thriftstore at 575-5393.
- ★ **June 21 (Thurs): Maui Resource Families Support Group.** 5:30 pm—8 pm. Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, Wailuku. RSVP to Kim Bowlin at 250-4457.

### WEST HAWAII:

- ★ **May 7 (Mon): West Hawai'i Resource Caregiver Support Group.** 5 pm—7:30 pm. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Kailua-Kona. RSVP to Susan Acacio at 885-5043.
- ★ **May 18 (Fri): Healthy from Head 2 Toe Event.** 3:30 pm—7 pm. Old Kona Airport Pavilion. Free event with live entertainment, concessions, giveaways, information booths, and much more! For more info, call 322-1532.
- ★ **May 23 (Wed): 5th Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers & Service Providers.** See pg 5 for details.

### EAST HAWAII:

- ★ **May 4 (Fri): Resource Caregiver Appreciation Dinner/Dance.** Sponsored by East Hawai'i Friends of Foster Families. More information to come.
- ★ **May 7 (Mon): 5th Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers & Service Providers.** See pg 5 for details.
- ★ **May 11 (Fri): Sign Waving for NFCM.** 4 pm—5:30 pm. Bay Front. For more info, contact Michele at 987-5988.
- ★ **May 12 (Sat): East Hawai'i Resource Caregiver Support Group.** 12 pm—2:30 pm. Haili Congregational Church, Hilo. RSVP to Michele Carvalho at 987-5988.

### KAUAI:

- ★ **May 1 (Tues): 5th Annual Conference for Resource Caregivers & Service Providers.** See pg 5 for details.



*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](http://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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888-879-8970 (Toll Free)  
Fax: 441-1122  
E-mail: [RAC@pidfoundation.org](mailto:RAC@pidfoundation.org)

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

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

RAC Committee Members:

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