

**STATEWIDE
 RESOURCE
 ADVISORY
 COMMITTEE**

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Building Connections

A Newsletter for Resource Families



Volume 6, Issue 2

January 2013

A.F.T. (A Fostering Thought)

Transparent Parenting

By Dr. Paul Brennan

The needles from our trees have been swept up and the ornaments carefully tucked away until another December rolls around. In other homes, perhaps, the menorah and the candles have similarly been removed until the next go-round. But for those youth where neither Christmas nor Hanukkah were celebrated with any meaningful understanding, questions unable to be voiced might have been shelved for lack of courage or no one to answer.

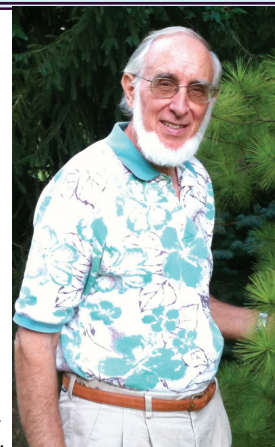
Being able to engage in honest, helpful dialogue these days is becoming a rare experience, in spite of the fact that more technological gadgets exist now than ever before. Our homes provide the most natural setting for discussions of many kinds, and we parents remain in a position to engage in conversation which might be constructive, open and helpful. Not only does the word "transparent" suggest the possibility of transmitting light, but also "free from pretense or deceit—open and frank." The traditions that we regularly celebrate in our homes are worth talking about, especially to those of different backgrounds who may not understand their meanings. Why do we eat certain foods, sing certain songs, and decorate our homes in certain ways? Just because "we have always done it that way" may not be sufficient to young minds wanting to find logical, understandable answers.

My wife and I well remember when two youth, ages 12 and 15, were about to be placed in our home. On our first meeting 24 years ago, both were predictably quiet and stoic to begin with, showing almost a robotic, emotionless personality. The boy asked the first question—"Are you rich?" After my answer, he revealed that his goal was to be rich. His sister then asked her provocative question—"Are you religious?" After both my wife and I attempted an answer, she asserted, "I'm an atheist!" These first exchanges quickly gave way to many more questions, each carefully posed—"Do you speak other languages?" "What does your name mean?" "Do you eat rice?" On the day when they moved into our home, the discovery process intensified. Late into the night, the younger sibling (who wanted to be rich) inquired as we explored the house, "Do you have stocks?" "What kind?" "Did you buy this house from your stocks?"

Many years later, after both siblings had graduated from college, the dialogue has continued. What began innocently, candidly, transparently, has now grown into much more thoughtful even intimate conversation, with subjects like love, happiness and fulfillment. Both of us recognize that the trust and mutual respect established early on have allowed for much more mature conversation. Likewise, we both know that a person's thoughts, not their feelings, are what genuinely count, for they truly reflect the character of the person.

With every youth we have taken in, there are those initial ground rules—the authoritative kind—that needed to be established: "Smoking is not permitted in our house." "We won't permit profanity." "We will respect each others' feelings." The rationale for doing any of those hopefully will be understood, and form the foundation stones for even further reasonable positions in life.

When one of our former youth, now 30, emailed us just before Thanksgiving to implore us to provide a special gift, we tried to listen to where she was coming from. "Please, please," she begged, "I won't ask you for another thing. This is the best offer I've seen, and there are only four left. If you get this for me, you can count it as my Christmas gift and my next two birthday gifts." What was this special opportunity? Membership in a spa for two years, and it only cost \$2,000! You can guess our response, for it was quite immediate **and transparent**. "No, we won't get that for you. It's not really what you need!" We then tried to remind her of some other values we had tried to instill in her when much younger. Maybe she had momentarily forgotten. Maybe she needed some parental reminder. Whatever it was, it stimulated a good laugh from us. Her quick acceptance of our answer suggested she also knew what the right answer was. Next time we don't think she'll forget!



Dr. Paul Brennan

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

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

GO GREEN!

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



Resource Caregiver: Helping Youth Transition

Written by Gernani Yutob, Jr, President, HI H.O.P.E.S

On paper, her relationship to me was "resource caregiver", but from the outside looking in, it was difficult to tell. Katherine was like a mother to me and that became evident when she defined that role prior to me transitioning out of care. When a foster youth turns 18, the title of "resource caregiver" is dropped and it is no longer their official responsibility to provide for their youth anymore. I entered one of the challenging stages in my life because I knew that my time was up and I was not ready to face the real world. I faced the possibility of having to leave my resource caregiver's house to fend for myself. Fortunately, that was not the case! A couple months prior to transitioning out of care in 2008, she took care of the necessary procedures to make sure that my transition to adulthood would be smooth and successful. She motivated and inspired me to attend college and take advantage of the resources and opportunities that were out there for me to better my life. Not only did she adopt the role of mother but *social worker* and *independent living worker* as well – she helped me with everything. From there on out I felt I was in good hands.



**Gernani Yutob, Jr &
Katherine**

There were several tedious forms she helped me to fill out that were essential to my transition out of care into adulthood: Higher Ed., Education and Training Voucher (ETV), and Med-Quest. Without her guidance and support, I would have most likely given up in frustration because of the complexity of the forms, especially the Med-Quest forms. After completion I felt like I was ahead of the game. I felt confident and secure knowing that there were going to be monthly board payments to pay for rent while attending school, extra money from the ETV to pay for books and supplies, and medical coverage for health and dental.

The most critical segment of my transitioning stage was a safe, stable, and affordable home. Without a home, the probability of moving forward and attaining success is minuscule. Think about this while you are reading this article: where would you be right now if you never had a place to live? When she offered me the chance to remain in her home until I graduated from college and moved on, all the burden and worry that I carried with me was lifted! This meant that I could focus on school without worrying where I'm going to get my next meal or lay for the night. I just had to give my Higher Ed checks (worth \$529) to her every month to cover my rent which is a deal if you think about the cost of living in Hawai'i! I did not mind because I had enough money from my scholarships to cover my meals and other necessities.

Five years later after starting my first semester at Honolulu Community College in Fall 2008 under her love and support, I made the Dean's List two consecutive times, was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of the Two-Year Colleges, graduated with my Associate of Applied Science in Administration of Justice with Honors, transferred to University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu and made the Dean's List three consecutive times. I will be inducted into Golden Key International Honour Society in January and will graduate with my Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration with a concentration in Justice Administration with Academic Distinction and a Certificate in Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management this coming May! She is the reason that I am the person I am today. When she decided to adopt the role of mom instead of resource caregiver that's when I knew she loved me so much and wanted only the best for me.

My advice for resource caregivers out there is to not look at your foster youth as a product of the state but rather your own child. What would you do for your own child? Would you want the best for him/her? Foster youth need that guidance and support in order to excel in life. My resource caregiver motivated me so I could accomplish things that I could only imagine before. Will you go the extra mile to make sure that your foster youth successfully transitions into adulthood?

OUTSTANDING DHS WORKER!



Erin Yamada (CWS worker)

"She has been our licensing social worker since we began (I think 5 years) and she has always been kind, knowledgeable, and helpful. If I can't reach our child's social worker or don't know who to contact for something specific, she has ALWAYS helped us get in touch with whoever we need or guided us in the right direction. She has been invaluable because of her assistance in this way."

Sandi Dale, Resource Caregiver

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!

'OHANA REWARDS

Want to know how you could receive a **\$200.00 gift card**?
Would you like your name to appear in a
future RAC newsletter?

**All you need to do is help us find more homes for
Hawai'i's keiki in foster care!**

If you can refer, help, cheer, and see your referral to the finish line to become licensed, you could earn a **\$200 gift card** of your choice and join this list of folks who have received their 'Ohana Rewards:

**Freeman Cheung
Tammy Geurts
Brad McDaniel
Gayle Sale**



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

A BIG MAHALO to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage of Hawai'i, LLC

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage of Hawai'i generously donated 100 duffle bags for our youth in foster care! Each bag was filled with a variety of useful items. Julie Sueyoshi, a DHS Social Worker, reported the bags "went like hotcakes" as Social Workers picked them up for distribution.



Mahalo for supporting Hawai'i's families and keiki in foster care!

(L-R) David Kam (DHS),
Manny August Jr (Wells Fargo),
Bob Isonaga (Wells Fargo),
Chiyomi Chow (FPH),
Julie Sueyoshi (DHS),
Tonia Mahi (DHS),
Dana Kano (DHS)



A BIG MAHALO to Alberta de Jetley at Lāna'i Today

Ms. Jetley at Lāna'i Today generously provided 6 months of free advertising to Hui Ho'omalū to help in their recruitment efforts for Resource Families! Mahalo for supporting Hawai'i's families and keiki in foster care!

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

Family Program Hawai'i's 14th Annual Holiday Party

By Eva Chau, FPH RFSS Program Manager

What makes a Holiday Party spectacular for children in foster care?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| * 100's of donors and sponsors | * 1665 hard working volunteers | * 175 virtual table sponsors |
| * 300 entertainers | * 22 activity booths | * 35 toy drives |
| * 1300 individually wrapped presents | * 100 turkeys | * 450 pounds of stuffing |
| | * 16 sheet cakes | |



What makes the Holiday Party extra special?

THE SMILES AND LAUGHTER OF 2000 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES!

Family Program Hawai'i's 14th Annual Holiday Party for O'ahu's resource families was a sight to behold! Food, music, activities, fellowship, and family fun filled the cheerfully decorated room at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall on December 1st, 2012. A BIG MAHALO to all of the donors, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters who helped make this event a success. An EXTRA SPECIAL MAHALO to all the Hawai'i families who tirelessly provide love and care to the keiki in your homes. You do such an amazing job of opening your hearts and homes EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR!

WE WISH YOU AND YOURS A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

Importance of Foster Youth Attending Their Court Hearings

Attending court benefits both youth and the court. Youth develop a sense of control over the process when they actively participate. They also have the opportunity to understand the process by seeing the court proceeding firsthand. The court learns more about the children than simply what is presented in reports.

1. Sense of control

When a youth is removed from his home, he generally has little control over when or why that occurs, where he goes, and what happens to his parents. Important things in his life are taken away, including his ability to make decisions. He generally is placed in a new home, goes to a new school, has to develop new friends, and has new parents and new siblings.

All of these events are beyond his control. He is told there will be a court hearing at which a judge, whom he may never meet, will decide if he will return home. Sometimes a child advocate identifies his needs and conveys his best interests to the court. If he is not in court, he may simply be told the outcome and either remain in his foster home or go home. If the goal of the child welfare system is to do what is in the best interests of the child, the child should give input. When a youth has adequate representation, she is informed of the process and her role. When a youth attends a court hearing, she senses the judge who is deciding her best interests and has listened to her. Regardless of the outcome, youth have reported that simply being heard by the decision maker empowers them and gives them a sense of control over what is happening to them. They feel they have a part to play and can influence the outcome.

2. Understanding the process

In an ideal situation, the youth has good representation, the social worker regularly communicates with the youth, the birth parents are honest with the youth about the situation, and the foster parents (referred to as "resource caregivers" in Hawai'i) are present in court and openly discuss the case with the youth. However, a youth may not fully understand what is happening without seeing it firsthand. The youth is told that critical decisions are made by a judge in court. Yet, in most instances the youth is not involved in that component of the case.

Continued on pg 6

Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By Lorie Naftel, FPH RFSS Family Resource Specialist

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



FAMILY PROGRAMS HAWAII

Ask the Warm Line



Lorie Naftel

I need childcare for a foster child that was just placed in my home. Are there any resources or financial assistance to help me with this?

To find childcare options in your area, you might want to start by calling PATCH or visiting their website at www.PatchHawaii.org. From their website you can access a list of childcare providers in your area. If the child is under three years old, there may be an Early Head Start (EHS) program in your area, and for children three to five years old you may want to call the nearby Head Start (HS). Both EHS and HS are federally-funded, comprehensive programs with home-based, free half-day, and affordable full-day options.

For childcare subsidies, you can apply for Arbor Child Care Connections subsidies to help pay for childcare costs. Resource caregivers need to be working and/or going to school, and for two-parent families both would need to be working or attending school and have overlapping hours. The child's social security number and a copy of his/her birth certificate will be needed.

Preschool Open Doors, through PATCH, also provides childcare subsidies to families sending their children to a licensed preschool during the school year prior to their entering kindergarten to increase school readiness for children four years old and three years olds with special needs. There is a limited period of open enrollment beginning March 2013 and is dependent on the availability of funds and the geographic area.

For children of Hawaiian descent, you may want to consider applying the child to Kamehameha Preschools or for Kamehameha Schools' Pauahi Keiki Scholars for possible scholarships for specific quality preschools. The Pauahi Keiki Scholarship application will be available in January 2013. Both programs have early application deadlines for the following school year.

If you have a question or need assistance finding resources, please contact the Warm Line Monday through Friday from 8:30am-5pm at 545-1130 (O'ahu) or 1-866-545-0882 (Toll-free on Neighbor Islands). You can also e-mail us at WarmLine@FamilyProgramsHi.org.



Care to Share



There have been many requests for cribs, bunk beds, twin beds and small dressers. If you or anyone you know have these items in good, clean, and usable condition and would like to donate them to a resource, guardianship or adoptive family, please call the Warm Line at 545-1130.

You could really be helping a family in need to lessen some extra expenses. Also, should you need any items please don't hesitate to call the Warm Line.

For an up-to-date list of items by island, check out Care to Share at www.FamilyProgramsHawaii.org, under "Resources"

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



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Part-time/On-call Co-trainer wanted to assist PIDF with HANA! trainings on O'ahu and Kaua'i. Trainings generally done on weekday evenings and Saturdays, approximately 11 hours for the full training. Current and previous resource caregivers or former foster youth may apply.

HUI HO'OMALU

A Program of Partners in Development Foundation

See www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers

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

PIDF is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

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 or contact your local PATCH office for the latest news and training schedule:

www.PatchHawaii.org

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



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!



Celebrating Adoptions

By Chiyomi Chow, FPH Project Visitation Program Coordinator

November was a great month to celebrate adoptions! On November 17th, Hawai'i Adoption and Permanency Alliance (HAPA) hosted a big National Adoption Day celebration at the Honolulu Zoo. Over 80 adoptive families (450 people) came out to celebrate. Families were provided free admission to the zoo for the day, lunch, activity booths, and great entertainment. Mayor Peter Carlisle proclaimed the day as National Adoption Day in Hawai'i, and HEA Dance Group, Magician Santos the Kidd, and Storyteller Aunt Margaret provided great entertainment for all ages. Also, The Glitter Fairy & Friends and Bianca Cunningham offered face painting and nail painting. Wendy's Wonderful Kids, Hui Ho'omalu, and Child and Family Services had an informational booth with temporary tattoos, and Honolulu Zoo Society provided an educational booth with free zoo tours. A HUGE MAHALO to: the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Zoo Society, A Taste of the Wild Catering, the Glue committee, HAPA Committee members, and all the entertainers, volunteers, supporters and other donors who made this event possible.

As one adoptive parent shared, "Thank you so much for a wonderful National Adoption Day event at the Honolulu Zoo! My daughter and I thoroughly enjoyed our day, especially the Polynesian dance show, as well as the animals, of course! The face painting was a real hit with her. I really appreciated the opportunity for my daughter to see other families that have been created through adoption. What a blessing it was to us."

Another adoptive parent also said, "We are so grateful for opportunities for adoptive families to get together for fellowship and fun! It helps to encourage and strengthen us for those hard days when we need encouragement to get by. We are so thankful for all the support that we receive! God bless you all!"

HAPA is a group of individuals and agency/organization representatives within the adoption community who meet for the common goal of promoting, supporting, and maintaining permanency for children, youth, adults, and families through facilitation, advocacy, collaboration and education. Present HAPA members include: adoptive parents, adoptees, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Child & Family Service, Department of Human Services, Family Programs Hawai'i, Hawai'i International Child, HOPE INC, Inc., LDS Family Services, and Partners in Development Foundation. If you would like more information on how you can join the HAPA Committee, please email Chiyomi Chow at: cchow@familyprogramhi.org.

Adoptive Families Needed Through Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Families are sought to provide permanent homes for several Native Hawaiian children. We are featuring Amy in this newsletter who is currently in foster care and legally free for adoption. Names have been changed for confidentiality. Please help to spread the word. If you know of a family who would be interested in learning more about Amy, please contact Katie Joosse at Family Programs Hawai'i at 808-540-2552.

Amy is a 14-year-old girl in need of an adoptive home that can embrace her unique qualities. She wants to be loved and cared for and desperately wants to belong and be accepted. She is of Hawaiian and Caucasian decent and is a Christian.

Amy has a great smile, is friendly, loving, thoughtful, and sweet. She is funny and has a good sense of humor with a great belly laugh. Amy is outgoing and talkative and will stop to chat with anyone. She loves to read and particularly enjoyed the Twilight series, the Hunger Games, and books by Ellen Hopkins and Cassandra Clare. Amy also loves listening to music of all kinds, enjoys movies, doing art work, hanging out with friends, and going to the beach. Like many other teens, Amy enjoys getting manicures, pedicures, and make-up. Onion rings and li hing mui treats are some of her favorite foods.

Amy loves animals, little children, and the elderly. She is protective and loyal to those she cares about. She tries to make people feel better.

Amy has struggled in school and does better in a small group with 1:1 instruction, preferably in an alternative academic setting. She reads at a high school level, while she struggles in math, which is her least favorite subject.

Amy has challenges with impulse control. In the past, she lashed out before thinking and has difficulty calming down once she is upset. With the proper guidance, Amy may learn different coping strategies.

Amy would like a family who is nonjudgmental. As she has been so negatively and harshly judged all her life, she needs someone who is patient and calm, nurturing, and straight-forward. Amy does not like dishonesty. Amy also has a tendency to test for genuineness, so a family will need to be committed even during difficult times. She needs a family who will treat her with respect, while still being able to set appropriate rules and follow through with consequences for her.

Amy needs a family who will support her through present and future decisions that need to be made in her life. A family with few children that can provide extreme patience, structure, consistency, predictability, calm mannerisms, and role modeling would best meet her needs.

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'omalu—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

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

Importance of Foster Youth Attending Their Court Hearings (cont.)

When a youth attends court, he can ask his advocate questions about what is happening. He hears what the social worker says about his home, school, visitation with parents, etc. He hears what his parent(s) say about their progress. When the judge makes a ruling and discusses why she orders something, the youth hears it and can ask questions.

3. Information for the court

Many questions that the court will have about the case may be addressed by the child welfare agency's and child advocate's reports, the parent(s), resource caregivers and other service providers. However, if the youth is present and the court has a question about how often he has seen his mother or how he is doing in school, the youth can provide the answer.

The youth makes the case more real and vivid for the judge. For example, the court may be deciding whether it is time to change the permanency plan to adoption because the parents haven't complied with the agency's family service plan. If the youth is in court, the court doesn't have to rely on the reports to see how long the child has been in care. The court can see that the child is getting older and needs permanency in her life. Indeed, the youth may say this directly to the judge. Even if the youth is not verbal, the court can observe how the youth appears and interacts with others.

If the youth is very young and cannot speak to the judge, being present in court will bring the case to life and help show the case is about a human being with wants, needs, desires, and hopes that should be considered. When youth attend the hearing, the court is less likely to focus primarily on the parents' circumstances. When only the parents attend court, the focus is on what they have and or have not accomplished. When the youth is present, there is equal attention on the youth and what the youth needs.

Role of the Resource Caregiver

The child's primary caregiver, often the resource caregiver, plays a critical role in ensuring the child has a meaningful court experience. The resource caregiver must support the child's involvement in preparation for the court hearing, during the court hearing, and debriefing with the youth after the court hearing.

The Court should presume that the youth will attend the court hearing unless he chooses not to or there is a compelling reason to limit his participation. The Court ultimately decides whether it is in the child's best interest to attend the hearing. The resource caregiver should have a voice in this decision and should discuss the following with the GAL and the social worker at least two weeks before the court hearing:

1. Any scheduling conflicts the youth has with the hearing, e.g. school, therapy, recreational activities.
2. Whether the youth expressed interest in attending the court hearing.
3. Whether transportation will be an issue.
4. Whether the youth has had any problems seeing parents or anyone else who may attend the court hearing.
5. Any thoughts on how the youth may react to discussions about the case.
6. Thoughts on how the youth may respond to participating in the hearing.
7. Whether any accommodations need to be made for the youth to participate.



Once it has been decided that the youth will attend the court hearing, the resource caregiver should help the GAL and social worker prepare the youth. The resource caregiver should let the GAL know if the youth has questions about what will occur, who will attend, or what to expect.

The resource caregiver should contact the school to let them know the youth will be absent, why, and get any homework that the youth can do while waiting for the hearing. If the youth is going to miss activities, the resource caregiver should try to reschedule them. If the youth wants to speak at the hearing or write a letter to the judge, the resource caregiver should work with the youth and GAL on what to say and how to say it. The resource caregiver should also help the social worker arrange for transportation or personally transport the youth.

During the hearing, the resource caregiver should ask the youth whether she wants the resource caregiver present. At the hearing, the resource caregiver should:

1. Support the youth.
2. Comfort the youth if she gets upset.
3. Help the youth understand what is going on.
4. Encourage the youth to ask the GAL questions.

The courtroom can be a scary place and the resource caregiver is one of the only familiar faces for the youth. The resource caregiver can help the youth have a meaningful experience in the hearing by simply being present and supporting the youth.

Following the hearing, the resource caregiver should talk to the youth about what happened. If the youth has any questions, the resource caregiver should encourage the youth to call the GAL or social worker. If the youth does not want to talk about the hearing, the resource caregiver should not push the issue.

Child welfare cases are about taking care of youth and doing what is best for them. Youth need and deserve to be a part of that process. A critical component of that process is court hearings. The more guidance resource caregivers have on incorporating youth into their child welfare proceedings, the more likely the youth will have the opportunity to participate.

Andrea Khoury, JD, is the director of the ABA Youth at Risk Bar-Youth Empowerment Project, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law

In Hawai'i, the Family Court believes that foster Youth should attend every court hearing unless the youth has been timely informed of the hearing and its importance and chooses not to attend or there is a compelling reason why the youth's attendance at the hearing would be harmful to the youth. Work with your child's GAL and/or social worker when deciding if attending his/her court hearing is right for your foster child or youth.

In addition, it is also important to remember that when it comes to court, resource caregivers have a vital role to play. Although judges have the responsibility to make decisions about children, they can only make good decisions if they receive good information. Resource caregivers can have a huge impact on the lives and welfare of children by attending court hearings and sharing information about the children and youth in their homes.

For more information and/or a copy of "Caregivers and the Court", visit www.ittakesanoohana.org or contact Judith Wilhoite, Family Advocate, at jwilhoite@familyprogramshi.org or (808) 540-2543.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STATEWIDE:

- ★ **Foster Parent College Online Training** for resource, guardianship, adoptive and kinship families.* Training topics vary from “Anger Outbursts”, “Childhood Anxiety Disorders”, “Kinship Care”, “Lying”, “Sexualized Behavior” to “Working with Birth Parents”, among others. An active email account is required to participate. For more info, e-mail Michelle Sajona at MSajona@FamilyProgramsHI.org.
- ★ **FREE Online Bullying Prevention Training Modules** are now available on StopBullying.gov. The training modules offer a PowerPoint presentation for community events, speaker notes with suggested talking points, a Community Action Toolkit, and a video for use in bullying prevention efforts in communities.

O‘AHU:

- ★ **Waianae Resource Families Support Group.** 5:30pm-8pm. ‘Ohana Ola O Kahumana. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245.
 - ◆ Jan 18 (Fri)-RSVP by 1/11/13 ◆ Mar 22 (Fri)-RSVP by 3/15/13
- ★ **“Better Start & Supporting Teens to Have a Successful Transition to Adulthood” Training.** 5:30pm-8pm. RSVP to 540-2565.
 - ◆ Jan 23 (Wed): Leeward Community College-RSVP by 1/18/13 ◆ Feb 15 (Fri): Honolulu Community College-RSVP by 2/19/13
- ★ **Ho‘olohe Pono Training.** 5:30pm-8pm. See below for details. RSVP to FPH 521-9531 ext. 245. See below for details.
 - ◆ Jan 24 (Thur): Faith Baptist Church, Kailua, O‘ahu. RSVP by 1/17/13 ◆ Feb 1 (Fri): Goodwill ‘Ohana Career & Learning Center, Kapolei. RSVP by 1/25/13.
- ★ **25 Hour Training** by Hawai‘i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Jan 24 (Thur), 25 (Fri), 31 (Thur), & Feb 1 (Fri). To register for training and for more details, go to www.hscadv.org.
- ★ **Windward Resource Families Support Group.** Feb 8 (Fri) @ 6pm-8pm. Faith Baptist Church, Kailua. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245 by 2/1/13.
- ★ **Central O‘ahu Resource Families Support Group.** Feb 22 (Fri) @ 5:30pm-8pm. O‘ahu Veterans Center, Honolulu. RSVP to FPH at 521-9531 x245 by 2/15/13.
- ★ **Working with Native Hawaiian Youth: Strategies for Success.** Feb 27 (Wed) @ 8:30am-12:30pm. \$60 general/\$50 Student or NASW member. Honolulu Info: Theresa Kreif at 956-6120 or kreif@hawaii.edu & www.outreach.hawaii.edu/noncredit.

MAUI:

- ★ **Ho‘olohe Pono Training.** Jan 17 (Thurs) @ 5pm-7:30pm. Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center-Annex Bldg. See below for details. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 or e-mail: warmline@familyprogramshi.org by 1/10/13.
- ★ **Maui Resource Families Support Group.** Feb 21 (Thurs) @ 5:30pm-8pm. Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 or email: warmline@familyprogramshi.org by 2/7/13.

WEST HAWAI‘I:

- ★ **Ho‘olohe Pono Training.** Feb 6 (Wed) @ 5pm-7:30pm. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Kailua-Kona. See below for details. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 or e-mail: warmline@familyprogramshi.org by 1/30/13.
- ★ **West Hawai‘i Resource Families Support Group.** Mar 4 (Mon) @ 5pm—7:30pm. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Kailua-Kona. RSVP to Susan Acacio at 885-5043 by 2/18/13.

EAST HAWAI‘I:

- ★ **Ho‘olohe Pono Training.** Feb 7 (Thur) @ 5pm-7:30pm. Church of the Holy Cross, Hilo. See below for details. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 or e-mail: warmline@familyprogramshi.org by 1/31/13.
- ★ **Hilo Resource Families Support Group.** Mar 9 (Sat) @ 12pm—2:30pm. Haili Congregational Church, Hilo. RSVP to Michele Carvalho at 987-5988 by 2/23/13.

KAUA‘I:

- ★ **Ho‘olohe Pono Training.** Jan 28 (Mon) @ 5pm-8pm. Lihu’e Lutheran Church. See below for details. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 or e-mail: warmline@familyprogramshi.org by 2/21/13.

FREE Training!

“Ho‘olohe Pono” Training

Presented by Antonia R.G. Alvarez, LMSW



About the training:

- ◆ Increase Resource Caregiver’s knowledge and understanding of bullying and suicide among youth through prevention, intervention, and post-vention strategies
- ◆ Provide skills to identify high-risk populations for bullying and suicidality and identify tools to increase resiliency in youth
- ◆ Learn the importance of creating a “Web of Support” for yourself and your foster keiki
- ◆ Hear real-life stories and statistics from local youth

This event is made available to you as a collaborative effort by the Department of Human Services, Hui Ho‘omalua, and Family Programs Hawai‘i

PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
2040 Bachelot St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817-2433

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STATEWIDE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2040 Bachelot St.
Honolulu, HI 96817-2433
441-1125 (O'ahu)
888-879-8970 (Toll Free)
Fax: 441-1122
E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

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

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

RAC Committee Members:

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