

# Building Connections

## A Newsletter for Resource Families

Volume 12 | Issue 2

October 2018

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*Dear Reader, as someone who works at EPIC 'Ohana, the agency which provides 'Ohana Conferencing services, I have witnessed, first hand, the help and support that 'Ohana Conferences give to the family. For this article, however, I interviewed several social workers to explore and better understand if, and how, 'Ohana Conferences can be a support to the social worker. Below is what I learned from those conversations. Aloha, Wilma*

### The Power of Coming Together

By Wilma Friesema

Anyone who knows social workers will tell you this: social workers are notoriously busy. High caseloads, numerous reports and documentation requirements, court hearings and treatment team meetings, the submission and follow-up on referrals, monthly face-to-face meetings with the children – well, the list could go on, but you get the picture. Social workers have full plates.

Carving out the time for an 'Ohana Conference (OC) can be challenging, yet there are social workers who devotedly use the service. What might seem counterintuitive – adding on another meeting to a busy schedule – apparently is not. To understand how OCs makes a difference for social workers I interviewed three workers: Natasha Combs, Lisa Cook, and Robert Asato. All are seasoned social workers who have integrated OCs into their practice. All feel it is an essential component of doing good work on behalf of the children and families they serve.

While each of them has their unique experience of OCs, common themes emerged from our conversations: 'Ohana Conferencing is a powerful tool that brings people together; OCs are clarifying and ensure everyone receives the same information and is on the same page; OCs create accountability for everyone involved; and, finally, having a neutral third party facilitate the conferences creates safety for all the participants. OCs, they said, help move their cases forward in a positive way.

Natasha, who worked in the social services field in Hawaii for nearly 23 years, recently moved to the mainland and is now a social worker in Oregon, where they don't have OCs. She misses them. For her, OCs were a lifesaver. OCs, she said, were an opportunity to engage with the family, along with the other providers, and figure out how they were going to provide a safe home for the children. It wasn't an us/them approach, but rather a *we're all in this together* way of trying to help the family move through their immediate crisis and minimize its traumatic impact on the children. Through the OC she empowered families by asking them how they wanted to handle the crisis in *their* family. In doing so, trust was created and new solutions were often brought to the table. It also took all the problem-solving responsibility off of her shoulders, she noted, and was a great venue for concurrent planning, in the event the primary plan didn't work out.

On the practical side, Natasha appreciated that the meetings were set up by EPIC staff and she just had to show up. Because so many people would attend, she had fewer calls to make outside of the meetings. Because the OC team wrote reports, her paperwork for court was lessened. For cases that went to Permanency, Natasha found that OCs often reduced the need to go through a lengthy trial. Parents, she discovered, were less combative and more accepting of the results if they had gone through the OC process.

Lisa Cook has been a social worker for six years on the island of Kauai. On Kauai, she explained, social workers do everything, from the beginning investigations to filing for permanent custody of the children, if the case comes to that. As a result, for parents, it can be hard to get beyond "this is the person who took my kids away" when engaging in on-going CWS services with the same social worker.

Lisa finds having a neutral facilitator lead the OCs to be very useful. It helps pull people into the present and brings the focus onto the children. It also changes the relationship between the social worker and the family because, for the family, it no longer is just the social worker "telling me to do stuff." Likewise, with service providers who have either a limited or skewed perspective on the case, the OC provides a fuller picture so that everyone's contributions can be more effective. The OC's emphasis on being solution focused engages all the participants to problem solve together.

For Lisa, OCs are time consuming, but it's time well spent. Having an OC right before a review hearing is especially

*Continued on pg. 3*

## 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 quarterly by Partners in Development Foundation, 2040 Bachelot St., Honolulu HI 96817-2433, 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)

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please call:

441-1121 (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!



# OHANA IS FOREVER CONFERENCE



## A Great day was had by all who attended

By Jennifer O'Donnell, YES Assistant Coordinator



The annual Ohana is Forever Conference at the Koolau Ballroom was held on Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> 2018. It was attended by over 200 child welfare professionals and 140 young people who are currently or were formerly in foster care. This year's theme was "My Story, My Life." The audience benefitted from a presentation by the HI HOPES Youth Leadership Board that reviewed the new "Bill of Rights" for children in foster care. There was also an amazing panel of current and former foster youth who discussed overcoming challenges in order to find success as young adults. They recognized important supporters who made a difference in their lives. Service providers in attendance were treated to training on trauma and resilience.

Youth Empowerment and Success (YES!) staff were present to lead 2 afternoon breakout sessions. One group were tasked with brainstorming on topics like staying connected to family and friends, unmet needs, and feeling at home. This session collected info for use in creating 60 second documentaries. The other YES! breakout session focused on poetry and visual art. It provided a creative space for youth to write a poem or make a piece of artwork that represented their experience in foster care. Several brave poets stepped up to the microphone and delivered inspirational messages to their peers. Many participants left their artwork with YES! So we can share it on our blog. Visit [www.yeshawaii.org](http://www.yeshawaii.org) to see the art that was created. A new piece is posted each Friday. The YES! web site also features upcoming events on all islands for foster youth ages 14-26.

## Prudent Parenting: Common Question regarding allowance



The following is an excerpt from the *Don't Say "NO" Before You "Know"* guide, created by the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services. The guide presents common questions and answers for Resource Caregivers on how to provide normalcy for children/young people in foster care, so that the children/youth can participate equally with their classmates and peers in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, social, and cultural activities. These Q & A's can be found within the

Normalcy Guidelines provided by your DHS licensing worker.

**Question:** Can children/young people who are in foster care receive an allowance?

**Answer: Yes.** Earning an allowance teaches children/young people the value and use of money, a skill they will need in the future.

*Hawaii Administrative Rules 17-1625-42 Discipline and Guidance. (f)* The foster child shall be provided an allowance and/or earned privileges as practiced by the resource family with their own children.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Part-time Co-trainers Needed.** *Resource Caregivers/Former Foster Youth in Kaua'i and Maui* are needed to co-train new Resource Caregivers in the HANAI curriculum. Your experience is invaluable to a new family just learning about providing foster care. Come and share what you've learned/experienced over the years with others!!! Trainings are generally held intermittently on some weekday evenings and some Saturdays. Training and compensation provided.

**Part-time Child Care Providers needed in West Hawai'i, Maui, Oahu and Kaua'i** to provide child care (i.e., during trainings), in the evenings and weekends on an occasional basis. Training and compensation provided.

**Part-time Recruitment Assistants needed in Kaua'i and Maui** to staff various recruitment booths and share information with potential applicants about the need for additional Resource Caregivers. Training and compensation provided.

### HUI HO'OMALU

A Program of Partners in Development Foundation

See [www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers](http://www.pidfoundation.org/about/careers)

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

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### ***The Power of Coming Together can't***

helpful, she said, as the meeting gathers all the information she needs to submit to the court. They also give her an opportunity to explain actions taken by CWS that can be difficult for families to understand, such as: auto referrals and why extended family members are informed of CWS involvement, timelines related to services and court actions, and expectations around services compliance.

During several OCs Lisa has even had parents, who weren't capable of following through on their service plan, ask if the resource caregivers could adopt their children. These difficult decisions and requests came about because of the honest conversations the OCs encouraged.

Robert Asato has been an investigative social worker for 26 years, and with the Department for 30. He has seen OCs from the beginning and how they have evolved into the service they are today. "Lots of people, even some supervisors, don't know how to use OCs", he said. "They should be used early on, as soon as possible, as a way to work with the family." OCs should be convened even before going to court, he said, because it can be such a helpful way to keep the family together.

For Robert, looking at each case from the child's perspective is what matters. While some may feel that parents who are abusive or neglectful don't deserve their children, Robert thinks of what it must feel like for the children to lose their parents and/or be disconnected from their families. He believes CWS and all the service providers have to help the parents heal and become better parents so that the children don't have to go through that additional loss. If the parents cannot grow and change, then keeping the children with their families can still mitigate that painful separation.

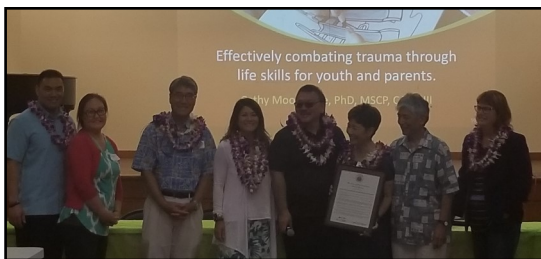
Robert always tries to treat the families with kindness, and strives to work collaboratively with them. It's what makes his work worthwhile, and how he brings about real change for the children and families. OCs are key in his efforts. Robert finds that, besides getting all the information out on the table and making it harder for people to hide behind lies, OCs are a way to engage the extended family in monitoring the safety of the children. In the past, Robert felt solely responsible for that monitoring, but by encouraging families to see that the children's safety is their job too, the defensive wall that often separates workers and families begins to crumble. Their love for the children and concern for their safety is all that really matters.

There are challenges with OCs of course, and not all run smoothly or have positive outcomes. Sometimes, according to Lisa, when lawyers are present and defending the parents, OCs can seem like mini court hearings. Other times, says Natasha, the facilitator may not be the right fit for the family so the conference doesn't achieve all that it could.

For the vast majority of meetings, however, OCs provide that safe space where people can come together and have authentic conversations about how a family's crisis can be resolved. For these three social workers, OCs have helped them fulfill their deep commitment to help the children and their families in their care. As Robert so poignantly said, "I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing without 'Ohana Conferences.'" They really can make such a difference for everyone.

## ***HAPA Conference 2018: Instilling Hope: Positive Parenting Strategies***

*By Annette Snyder*



Instilling Hope for foster and adoptive families was the focus for the Hawaii Adoption and Permanency Alliances' (HAPA) annual conference on September 29, 2018. A total of 30 individuals attended the conference to hear speakers on three different topics: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), How to Work with Schools around Behavioral Problems, and Effectively Combating Trauma.

Working with the schools around behavioral problems, HAPA offered the families tools on what the schools provide for children with behavior problems. Offering insight into the School-Based Behavioral Health Service program, which is comprised of the Department of Education and the Board of Health, the families learned that the program provides assessments for the child to identify and address behavioral problems.

The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) portion of the conference provided families insight into this invisible disorder with less than 10 percent of children being born with any facial features to indicate FASD in them. Individuals with FASD will have life-long physical, mental and behavioral difficulties that affect the entire body.

The Effectively combating Trauma portion gave families skills on how to establish trusting relationships in children who have experienced trauma and how to have meaningful interactions with them. It also talked about the Middle Path: learning to validate the caregiver's strengths and the child's strengths, reducing dichotomous thinking and increasing dialectical thinking and focusing on behavioral change.

The conference gave families hope that they can work with their children with difficult behaviors and be successful. They provided practical skills and answered difficult questions for the caregivers. Representative Mizuno made a special appearance at the conference and thanked the caregivers for all that they do in working with children who have difficult behaviors.



## Legislation Opportunity

**By Charla Weaver, Family Advocate with It Takes An Ohana**

Children in foster care are going through the most difficult time in their young lives. They need strong, caring people like yourself to guide them through this period and inspire them to build on their strengths. Taking on a role of caregiver is not easy. We understand how dedicated you are to ensure the well-being and safety of the children in your care. We want to invite you to join us in legislative advocacy.

We will work on issues that help families like yours.

To join us, please go to [www.ittakesanohana.org](http://www.ittakesanohana.org) and sign up on the right hand side of the webpage under Sign up for our Mail List. Let us help you get your voice heard! Thank you for all you do!

Here are some updates from this past legislative session:

### **HAWAII LAW AMENDED TO PROVIDE RIGHTS TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

The HI H.O.P.E.S board worked closely with the Department of Human Services, the Attorney General's office and other partners to submit a bill in the 2018 legislative session that would update an existing Guiding Principles statute. Senate Bill 2790 (SB2790) created "rights" for children in foster care, clarifying a new status and adding to the list of existing rights, SB2790 passed in April of 2018 and was signed into law as Act 105 by Governor Ige on July 5, 2018

SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes, chapter 587A is amended by adding to part I a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§587A- Rights of children in foster care. (a) The department or an authorized agency shall ensure that a child in foster care will:**

- (1) Live in a safe and healthy home, free from physical, psychological, sexual, and other abuse;**
- (2) Receive adequate food, shelter, and clothing;**
- (3) Receive adequate medical care, dental services, corrective vision care and mental health services;**
- (4) Be enrolled in a comprehensive health insurance plan and, within forty-five days of out-of-home placement, be provided with a comprehensive health assessment and recommended treatment;**
- (5) Have regular supervised or unsupervised in-person, telephone, or other forms of contact with the child's parents and siblings while the child is in foster care, unless the contact is either prohibited by court order or is deemed to be unsafe by the child's child welfare services worker, therapist, guardian ad litem, or court appointed special advocate. Withholding visitation shall not be used as punishment. If the department denies supervised or unsupervised visits with the child's parents or siblings:**
  - (A) If all parties, including the child, agree to the denial of the visits, the department shall submit a written report to the court within five working days to document the reasons why the visits are being denied; or**
  - (B) If any party, including the child, disagrees with the denial of the visits, the department shall file a motion for immediate review within five working days and the motion must include the specific reasons why visits are being denied;**
- (6) Receive notice of court hearings and if the child wishes to attend the hearings, to ensure that the child is transported to the court hearings;**
- (7) Have in-person contact with the child's assigned child welfare services worker;**
- (8) Have the ability to exercise the child's own religious beliefs, including the refusal to attend any religious activities and services;**
- (9) Have a personal bank account if requested, and assistance in managing the child's personal income consistent with the child's age and development, unless safety or other concerns require otherwise;**
- (10) Be able to participate in extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities; provided that if a child caring institution or resource caregiver authorizes the participation, it must be in accordance with the reasonable and prudent parenting standard, as defined in title 42 United States Code section 675(10)(A);**
- (11) Beginning at age twelve, be provided with age-appropriate life skills training and a transition plan for appropriately moving out of the foster care system which also includes reunification or other permanency, as well as written information concerning independent living programs, foster youth organizations, transitional planning services that are available to all children in foster care who are twelve years of age or older and their resource families;**

*Continued on pg. 7*



## DHS STAFF FEATURE ELLADINE OLEVAO CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BRANCH ADMINISTRATOR

By Stephanie Helbush

*I spent a few minutes with DHS's new Branch Administrator as of June 2018 and got to know a little more about Elladine. She has great vision for the Department and is committed to providing services to children and families with the right values.*



### **What is your position at the Department now?**

**I am the Child Welfare Services** Branch Administrator. If you picture a tree, there are different branches that oversee different programs within the Department of Human Services, such as Adult Protective Services, Welfare/Benefits, etc. I oversee Child Welfare Services (CWS) which deals with all cases of abuse/neglect. This includes eight Section Administrators statewide: 2 Big Island, 4 Oahu, 1 Maui county, 1 Kauai. My oversight includes practice of line staff/social workers, and I help to assure that workers are using best practice that is in compliance with State and Federal guidelines.

### **How long have you been at the Department?**

24 years. I grew up on Molokai, then came to Oahu for college. After I graduated from BYU, my first position was with CWS on Molokai. There, staff are what we call "hybrid" so I was responsible for everything from investigations to case management to licensing, the whole spectrum. I worked there for 12 years, then transferred to Maui as the Section Administrator for Maui County for 12 years. At end of June I came to Oahu to take my current position.

### **Interests, hobbies, what you like to do for fun?**

*I enjoy* spending time with family; I like to travel to see family and stay connected. I also bike a lot. I did a lot of cycling on Molokai, and I'm trying to do more on Oahu. I don't particularly like the beach, I'm not too fond of the sun. Like with all of my prior moves, my husband, son, and my dog all made the move with me to Oahu and the adjustment has been great. We like to try the variety of restaurants on Oahu —we eat yakiniku, especially at Gen in Ala Moana. I do see myself retiring on Oahu.

### **What do you feel is the most important role that a resource caregiver plays in a foster youth's life?**

Providing shelter, food, care are most tangible. Providing emotional support for the children is also very important since a lot of them come with emotional deficits. The idea is that resource caregivers would care and love the youth in their home as if they were their own. They would participate in school, assist with projects, etc. My wish is that every resource caregiver would be open to connecting with bio family and by doing that, become another support system; social capital for our children that they can rely on. I hope that the Department can bridge the connection between bio parents and resource caregivers for the sake of the child.

### **What are some of the biggest strides you feel the Department has made in meeting the growing needs of children in care?**

The Department is currently going through trauma informed healing collaboration. We are training our staff on this approach; what it looks like and how to incorporate it into practice. Our hope is that the outcome will be improved relationships with caregivers. We are focusing on this because we know that the return will be positive.

### **What is your vision for the Department?**

I hope to see DHS become a safety net only; that it is the *community* that surrounds the children that are the first line of support. We should not be the first ones that get called. If we have strong, healthy communities with a healthy relationship with the Department, we can work together to keep families in their community and in their family. Only if absolutely necessary, due to safety concerns, would the Department get involved. Healthy communities. Strong community partnerships.

### **Anything else you want to share about your position, the Department, yourself?**

Management is working hard to bring a practice model back to the forefront that reflects values such as being family focused, child centered, culturally sensitive. These are values that I believe in and the Department believes in. Our values drive our actions, and we hope that our actions do good by our families. It is these values that we are working to bring back to practice and perpetuate in the work that we do.



# NATIONAL REUNIFICATION MONTH CELEBRATION

On June 27th, 2018, on the beautiful grounds of Liliuokalani Trust in Lihue, Kauai, we honored Estrella Barnett and her daughter, Alexi, of Kilauea. It was a day to recognize the accomplishments of Estrella and her family who have reunited safely and successfully, and the important role that community partners have in providing a comprehensive network of services that support reunification.

There to share in the celebration with the family were DHS staff (Kauai Child Welfare Services and CWS Administration), County of Kauai representative Lenny Rapozo, Judge Acoba of Family Court, staff of Partners In Development Foundation, Lisa Arin, Julie Herr of Child and Family Service, Nalani Finn of Liliuokalani Trust, and Estrella's Mom, sister, and niece.

A special Mahalo to the NRM Committee, consisting of staff from DHS, Family Court, Partners In Development Foundation, Epic Ohana, Family Programs Hawaii, and the GLUE Committee for providing the funds and donations for the event.

See Estrella's full story in the July 2018 version of the newsletter by going to: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/home/child-welfare-services/foster-and-adoptive-care/rac-newsletters/>



## Legislation Opportunity (cont.)

(12) Have the right to be involved in developing a case plan and planning for the child's future, if the child is fourteen or older;

(13) If the child is fourteen or older, receive the child's credit report, free of charge, annually through the child's time in foster care - and to receive assistance with interpreting the report and resolving inaccuracies including, when feasible, assistance from the child's guardian ad litem;

(14) If the child has been in foster care for more than six months, and is aging out of care, receive assistance in obtaining certain personal records such as an official or certified copy of the child's United States birth certificate, a Social Security card issued by the Commissioner of Social Security, health insurance information, a copy of the child's medical records, or information to access the child's medical records, a driver's license or state identification card issued by the State in accordance with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005, Pub.L. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302;

(b) A child in foster care also has the following additional rights:

(1) To be treated fairly and equally and receive care and services that are culturally responsive and free from discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, immigration status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, physical and mental disability, pregnant or parenting status, or the fact that the child is in foster care;

(2) To meet with and speak to the presiding judge in the child's case;

(3) To have regular in person contact with the child's court appointed guardian ad litem, court appointed special advocate, and probation officer;

(4) To ask for an attorney, if the child's opinions and requests differ from those being advocated by the guardian ad litem pursuant to section 587A-16(c)(6);

(5) To attend school and to remain in the child's school of origin unless determined not in the child's best interest, and to be provided cost-effective transportation to be maintained in the child's school of origin; if the child changes school during a school year, the child should be enrolled immediately in the new school;

(6) To receive educational records to the same extent as all other students;

(c) Sua sponte or upon appropriate motion, the family court may issue any necessary orders to any party, including the department, the department of education, the department of health, the guardian ad litem, the court appointed special advocate, or the probation officer to ensure the child is provided with the rights enumerated in subsections (a) and (b)."

### **BILL WILL FUND FOUR ADDITIONAL CHILD WELFARE SERVICES CASE WORKERS FOR EAST HAWAII**

A state house-senate unanimously passed Senate Bill 2276 that will establish a five-year pilot program to fund four more full-time Child Welfare Services case workers on East Hawaii.

**There may be times when you, as a resource caregiver, have a question or concern and are not sure where to go for help. We will be presenting scenarios in each newsletter as a way to highlight different situations and suggestions on "Who Ya Gonna Call?"**

# Who Ya Gonna Call?

It's a Saturday morning and you encounter an urgent situation that does not require 911 but needs to be addressed before Monday morning. Your worker is not available. What do you do? Pull out your handy dandy "Who Ya Gonna Call" list that was in the January 2015 Building Connections Newsletter and look under *Worker not available in emergency that does not require 911 after DHS work hours*. Call the DHS hotline at 808-832-5300 or (toll free) 1-888-380-3088.



Did you know...

## RESOURCE FAMILY BASICS

(Sept. 2018 revised version being mailed to Resource Caregivers)

DHS is to sign the driver's license application for any youth for who DHS has permanent custody and who is qualified to apply for a driver's license. Consult your auto insurance agent regarding appropriate coverage and liability issues before you allow a foster youth to drive your car. Refer to the Don't Say "NO" Before you "KNOW" guide, section on Preparation for Adulthood, for more information.

You can find this information under the *Driver's License for Young Person* section on the Resource Family Basics document. This is just one example of the wealth of information you can find in the Resource Family Basics to help resource families! Go to the website below to see all that it has to offer!

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/RESOURCE-FAMILY-BASICS-with-signature-091218-2.pdf>





## Welcome to FPH's Resource Family Support Services Corner

By Salome Bala, RFSS Family Resource Specialist

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



Salome Bala

## Ask the Warm Line

With the holidays quickly approaching, you may already be thinking about and planning for the upcoming holiday celebrations. During the holiday season, the Warm Line receives calls from families expressing their confusion and at times frustrations when the children placed in their home behave in challenging ways during the holiday season. Families will call and share things like, "My child refuses to participate in any of our Christmas activities," or "My child had a total meltdown during Thanksgiving, I don't get it, it was such a nice dinner...."

As a resource caregiver, we sometimes are not aware of how difficult the holidays can be for a child in foster care because we equate the holidays as a time to celebrate and to have a good time with our loved ones.

It is important to remember that our children in foster care have gone through numerous losses, including the loss of being with their families during the holidays. Despite the challenges they may have gone through in their home, a child may have fond memories with their family during the holidays and now that they are placed in care, they may be mourning that loss. As resource families, we have to remember that part of our job is to help support a child through whatever they are going through, even when we don't understand it. As families we may have to adjust our holiday schedule or traditions a bit this year and also look for ways to incorporate our children's holiday traditions as well. This may also include involving the child's birth family in the celebration too.

Also, don't forget, our youth in care have rights. This year's Ohana is Forever Conference highlighted the fact that our youth have rights, such as the right to practice their own cultural and religious practices, even if they aren't the same as the resource families' practices. Please see the article on pages 4 and 7 on this year's legislative update to see specific information on the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

The holidays mean a celebration of love and family during a special time, and that definitely includes the youth in foster care placed in our homes.



### Save the Date: Annual Holiday Party for Oahu Resource Families

December 2, 2018

On December 2, 2018 we will be celebrating 20 years of family fun at the Annual Holiday Party, and you're invited! If this will be your 20<sup>th</sup> year or your very first year, it will be a fun time for all. With each child receiving a present from Santa, delicious food, numerous activities, and awesome entertainment, we can't think of a better way to celebrate the holidays with Oahu's resource families. Everyone who attends the party leaves with so much more than a full stomach and presents. Resource families make connections with other families so that they can build a greater network of support and children in foster care leave the party knowing that they are not alone and there are other children living away from home too. Please save the date and keep an eye out in your mail box for your invitation. We hope to see all of you at the party!

### November is National Adoption Month so it's time to celebrate!

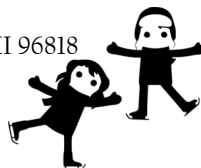
Who's Invited: ADOPTIVE FAMILIES  
(no friends or extended family members please)

Where: ICE PALACE HAWAII  
4510 Salt Lake Blvd. B6 Honolulu, HI 96818

When: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Time: 6:30pm-9:00pm

Cost: FREE!!!



Keep an eye out for the invitation in your mail or call Mindy at 540-2552 for more information.

Space is limited and  
you must be registered to attend.



### '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 be listed here as an 'Ohana Rewards recipient!

Emily Rogers (East Hawaii)  
Crystal Cathcart (East Hawaii)  
Glenn & Sandra McAulton (Oahu)  
Charlie Begeal & Gina Lawler-Begeal (Oahu)

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



# Calendar of Events

## O'AHU

- Oct 4 (Thurs)**      **Understanding Challenging Behaviors at Home and in School:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. EPIC Learning Center. RSVP to the Warm Line at 545-1130 by 9/28.
- Oct 12 (Fri)**      **Windward Resource Families Support Group:** 6:00pm-8:30pm. Kailua District Park- Downstairs Meeting Room. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 10/05.
- Oct 24 (Wed)**      **Why Are Our Youth Angry and How Can We Support Them:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Lili'uokalani Trust Honolulu. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 10/17.
- Oct 25 (Thurs)**      **Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Aiea United Methodist Church. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 10/18.
- Oct 30 (Tues)**      **Connecting In The Face of Trauma: Understanding and Minimizing Trauma's Impact on Relationships:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Maili Learning Center. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 10/23.
- Nov 6 (Tues)**      **Connecting In The Face of Trauma: Understanding and Minimizing Trauma's Impact on Relationships:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Daybreak Church. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 10/30.
- Nov 9 (Fri)**      **Windward Resource Families Support Group:** 6:00pm-8:30pm. Kailua District Park-Downstairs Meeting Room. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 11/02.
- Nov 16 (Fri)**      **Waianae Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Maili Learning Center. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 11/9.
- Nov 18 (Sun)**      **National Adoption Month Celebration at Ice Palace:** 6:30pm-9:00pm. A fun evening of ice skating for adoptive families. For more information, call the Warm Line: 545-1130.
- Dec 2 (Sun)**      **2018 Holiday Party: 10:00am-2:30pm.** Special party for resource, guardianship, and adoptive families at Neal Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall. For more information, call the Warm Line: 545-1130.
- Dec 20 (Thurs)**      **Central O'ahu Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Aiea United Methodist Church. RSVP to FPH at 540-2538 by 12/13.

## EAST HAWAII

- Oct 26 (Fri)**      **Connecting In The Face of Trauma: Understanding and Minimizing Trauma's Impact on Relationships:** 5:00pm-7:30pm. Church of the Holy Cross. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/19.
- Nov 17 (Sat)**      **Hilo Resource Families Support Group:** 12:00pm-2:30pm. Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 11/09.

## WEST HAWAII

- Oct 19 (Fri)**      **Connecting In The Face of Trauma: Understanding and Minimizing Trauma's Impact on Relationships:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kealahou High School. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/12.
- Nov 5 (Mon)**      **Kona Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30-8:00pm. Kealahou High School. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/29.

## KAUAI

- Oct 4 (Thurs)**      **Kauai Resource Families Talk Story Time:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Lihue United Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 9/27.
- Nov 13 (Tues)**      **Connecting In The Face of Trauma: Understanding and Minimizing Trauma's Impact on Relationships:** 9:30am-12:00pm. Lihue Lutheran Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 11/6.

## MAUI COUNTY

- Oct 18 (Thurs)**      **Maui Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kahului Union Church. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/11.
- Nov 1 (Thurs)**      **Connecting In The Face of Trauma: Understanding and Minimizing Trauma's Impact on Relationships:** 9:30am-12:00pm. Kahului Union Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/26.
- Dec 13 (Thur)**      **Maui Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-7:30pm. Kahului Union Church. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 12/6.

## STATEWIDE

- Oct 17 (Wed)**      **Online Resource Families Support Group:** 6:30pm-8:30pm. Zoom Web Conference. RSVP toll free to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/10.

If you have access to the internet please check the calendar for any additional or updated events at [www.familyprogramshawaii.org](http://www.familyprogramshawaii.org)

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

441-1121 (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*

*Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalua*