

# Building Connections

## A Newsletter for Resource Families

Volume 13 | Issue 2

October 2019

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## Returning Home

By Wilma Friesema



For Mike and Jessica Hikalea good days, these days, are all about family connection. On such a day they get up early -- well, early "enough," Mike says with a smile -- grab a cooler, pack the two kids who still live at home into the car, and head to the beach. There they meet up with more family. Both Mike and Jessica come from large families in the Waimanalo and Makaha areas. For them, a day at the beach is like a reunion; everybody hangs out, catches up, eats good food, has fun in the ocean, and simply enjoys being together. For the Hikaleas it's a day that feeds the body and soul.

It wasn't too long ago that such days were rare. Having been together for 28 years, Mike and Jessica have had their share of struggles and challenges. As young parents, Mike worked in construction and was a proud union member. Jessica was home raising the kids. Unfortunately drugs derailed them, resulting in the children being taken into foster care. Mike and Jessica stepped up, however, entered treatment, engaged in services, and got their kids

back within the year. Once back on track, they dreamt of moving out of their public housing into a home of their own. Mike was a good provider, Jessica was a good mom, and they were striving to have a more stable life. Then, in the course of two days, everything changed dramatically.

Prior to those fateful days, Mike had been a friendly and outgoing guy. At work, while waiting for trucks to be loaded, he'd scan his contact list and call family and friends out of the blue. "Hey, whatcha doin'?" he'd ask. "How's things?" He loved keeping in touch, and people loved him for it.

Of all the people on his list, his grandparents were his favorite. He was devoted to them. After working long hours Monday through Thursday, Mike would take time, every Friday, to pick up his grandparents and take them for a ride. One was in a wheelchair, the other used an oxygen tank, but that was no deterrent. For two years he religiously drove his grandparents around so they could get out and enjoy their beautiful Oahu. Riding in the car together was also a time to talk story. Occasionally his grandparents would talk about how they were going to die. Mike didn't take it seriously.

It came as a shock when their predictions came true. Because they were elderly Mike thought he was prepared, but when their deaths occurred only one day apart it was too much. By this time, he had already relapsed and the grief over their deaths caused him to dissociate even more. At the funeral he described standing in the middle watching everything but feeling completely disconnected. He felt he was in a bubble, and Jessica experienced him that way too. The Mike she knew and loved was far away.

That disconnection didn't pass as the days wore on. Mike stopped reaching out to family and friends. He thought he was ok, but he was seething with anger. He would fly off into a fit of rage, and it was a mean rage. Jessica said it was as if a switch had been flipped, he could erupt so quickly. She took the brunt of it, but the kids were impacted too. Their dad seemed crazy and they avoided him as much as possible. To make life even more stressful Jessica was pregnant and, while pregnant, learned she was a diabetic. She felt weak and sick and unable to fight back. She also felt powerless to help him. Eventually her family took the kids and she entered a domestic violence shelter.

Jessica and Mike struggled during their dark time. Jessica wanted to run away from her diagnosis; she was using drugs again too. Mike just felt lost and spiraled down even further. Most of the family avoided him, he seemed so toxic and unapproachable, but it was a conversation with an auntie on Maui that finally planted a seed of hope in his heart. She talked to him about Jesus and reminded him of his better self. It gave him a glimmer of light.

For both Jessica and Mike, the climb up from the bottom was a long one. Their two under-aged children were back in

## 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)

foster care so an 'Ohana Conference was held to bring family and service providers together to discuss the next steps. During the conference, however, family members confronted Mike and Jessica about their behavior and what it was doing to the kids. Jessica felt attacked and stormed out.

At that moment she wanted to go use again, but she realized she had a choice: she could smoke dope and lose her kids, or go into treatment and try to get them back. She entered Hina Mauka's Drug Treatment program that day and has stayed sober ever since.

About that same time, Mike entered the Po'ailani program where he learned he had the dual diagnosis of addiction and major depression. That diagnosis was a life changer. Finally his feelings, and what was going on in his head, started to make sense. He was taught how to identify feelings and talk about them rather than lash out. He was also taught exercises to balance his brain. With permission and support, he learned to express his hurt and anger in healthy ways and to cope with challenging emotions.

After treatment, to help them stay on track, their social worker referred them to Family Wrap, which is a strength-based, collaborative process that engages service providers and family to address underlying needs and barriers to reunification.

This time they were ready and they stayed. The process was helpful, they said, because it clarified what needed to be done and who could help. As they described it, the monthly meetings kept everyone on task and moving forward. Sometimes, because they had so much to do on their own, their recovery felt daunting, but the Wrap process helped them to feel less overwhelmed. By identifying what was needed and brainstorming tangible steps to take, Mike and Jessica's confidence began to slowly build. For them, that's what made all the difference.



Mike and Jessica happily report they have been sober and violence-free for over two years. They are committed to their children, each other, and their sobriety. For Jessica, the process of change was painful, but staying in the same rut of addiction was even more painful and spiritually disconnecting. For Mike, understanding depression and how to communicate his feelings has brought him back. As Jessica puts it, he's "associated" now. He's more loving, involved, and like the man she fell in love with so many years ago.

Today they have better ways of coping with stress: they laugh, reach out for support, and go for walks together. The walks, in particular, get them out into nature where the ocean breeze clears their heads. It also gives them time to talk and stay emotionally in touch. As they walk, they often pick up trash as a way to care for and connect with the 'aina. In addition, as a family, they all volunteer for beach clean-up projects, and they love to feed the homeless. They shared it helps them feel good about themselves to be caring and giving back.

For Mike and Jessica connection is what really matters. They are proud parents of six amazing children and one new grandchild. They are reconnected to their extended family, their community, and their faith. They are back to being loving and caring partners to each other. And, underneath it all, they feel connected to who they really are and who they are meant to be. As Mike says, "There's no more running away to Mars." Instead, they're happy being home, here on this island, with their family and each other.

## GO GREEN!

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



## 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!





## Rising Higher

By Wilma Friesema

EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Lifting young people up, helping them to learn how to survive and thrive in the work world, that's what HI Rising is all about. Begun in 2017, the HI Rising job training program is a Project of the Kids Hurt Too Hawaii (KHTH) nonprofit organization which serves Hawaii's children who have endured the loss of a loved one or have been exposed to violence or neglect. It's yet another very practical way that KHTH empowers youth to carry on with their lives, despite the loss and hardships they have endured.

"HI Rising teaches us the basics of life -- what we've got to do and how we can use those skills in life, work, or any situation," 17-year-old Tron Duenas tells me one day when I stop in to learn more about the program. For him, the program has been both a sanctuary and an inspiration. It gives him support, but it also encourages him to dream about his future and teaches him the skills he needs to make his dream a reality. For Tron, that dream is to start his own hat, clothing, and accessories line. He's currently learning about budgeting and marketing, and discovering how necessary those two pieces of foundational knowledge are for any successful business.

HI Rising's initial three-month program teaches youth all about business, and is available to current and former foster youth and KHTH alumni between the ages of 16 to 24. It offers classes in: computer literacy, graphic design, fundamentals of marketing, retail and personal finances, small business planning, merchandising, customer service, and mentoring and life skills. Typically, each week the youth spend 6 hours in class and 4 hours doing hands-on work. Within the Project, there are 130 educational milestones that, when achieved, the youth earn \$10 per milestone. A key component of their business education is participating in the running of HI Rising's Boutique & Cafe, located in the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Kukui Center at 245 N. Kukui St., in Honolulu.

The Boutique, run and maintained by the youth and HI Rising staff, is filled with clothing, personal care items, household goods, wall décor, hats, bags – you name it! There are three product lines created by former foster youth: facial products and soaps; cutting boards, coasters, and bottle openers (mostly made from local wood); and jewelry. T-shirt and hats with the HI Rising logo (also created by a youth), are staples of the Boutique. Snacks and drinks are available for purchase too. The goal, as the youth learn in their training, is to make the customers happy.

When I asked 19-year-old Bryanna Serraon how the program has helped her, she shared, "It's taught me that you make money by coming to work every day, showing up on time, and wanting to be there. You've got to love your job. You've got to show effort. Maybe one day a boss will be nice enough to give you a raise. When you work hard, it pays off."

Bryanna wants to become either a nurse or a social worker as a way to help kids who are experiencing difficult times, just like she once did. The lessons she's been learning at HI Rising will clearly help her along the way. For Bryanna, understanding the workings of business, and her part in it, has helped her to see that what she does matters; that the business depends on her, just like she depends on her paycheck. It's been a life changer.

For both Bryanna and Tron, the support they've received from the HI Rising staff has made all the difference. They credit Molly Norcross, Hiro Ito, Lena Mochimaru, Kristopher Kellenberger, Michael K. Moore, and TeeJay Tom for helping them to grow and learn new things about themselves. Tron has discovered that he has more potential than he thought he did, and that there's a lot more to life than being angry and playing video games. He has a passion for art and music, especially lyrical rap. Bryanna has realized that the picture she had of herself when she was younger -- that she had no talent -- wasn't true. By trying new things and being challenged in her classes, she's learning she has many interests and abilities. As a result, her confidence has grown tremendously.



Bryanna Serraon & Tron Duenas in the HI Rising Boutique & Cafe

I asked both of them what they would want other youth to know about HI Rising. Tron said, "The people here are really supportive of any situation you're in at the moment. Like, if you're depressed, they will help you out, they will understand where you're coming from and how you're feeling. If you need help with anything, like getting a job or having an interview, they're willing to go out of their way to help you with that."

Bryanna said, "Actually, if you've been traumatized, or wherever you are, you can always find an alternative. These people will help you, if you want the help. You've just got to put in the effort to do it. They're here. It's up to you. The door is open."

HI Rising, the social enterprise, workforce development Project of Kids Hurt Too Hawaii, is truly helping youth raise their heads and hearts high. Through support, education, and direct work experience, they are giving youth the tools they need to be confident and successful in the working world. As Bryanna said, their door is open. The Boutique door is open too, for any who want to support this worthwhile endeavor.

For more information about the Project application process or store hours go to: [www.kidshurttoo.org](http://www.kidshurttoo.org) and click on the HI Rising link or call 808-545-5683.

Each three-month session is limited to six participants. The next training session will begin in January 2020.



L-R front: Molly Norcross, Lena Mochimaru, Hiro Ito, Michael K. Moore,  
L-R back: TeeJay Tom, Kristopher Kellenberger



Tron Duenas & Bryanna Serraon



## National Reunification Month Celebration

By Wilma Friesema

For Mike and Jessica Hikalea, July 12, 2019 is a day they will always remember. Four years after Child Welfare Services removed their children from their home, the Hikaleas, along with extended family and numerous service providers, celebrated their family's reunification and continued success. It was Mike and Jessica's transformative journey, along with the hard work of the service providers, which was the focus of the two hour National Reunification Month (NRM) celebration.



For everyone, it was a time to highlight the importance of family, recognize and acknowledge that working together makes a difference, and to feel inspired by the Hikalea's journey of healing.

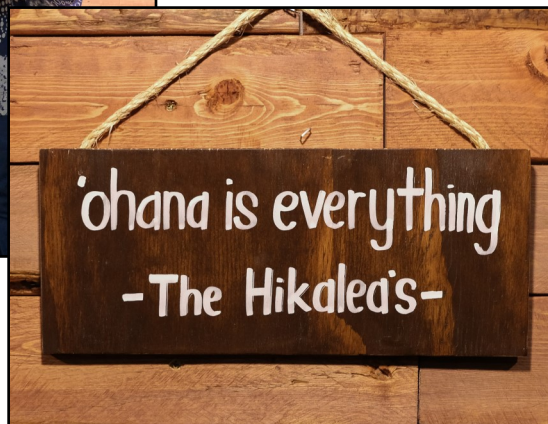
Held at the Hale Kealoha meeting hall in Kailua, the event was Hawaii's contribution to the NRM celebrations that were being held across the country. Begun in 1999 by the American Bar Association's Parent Attorney Project, this was Hawaii's 6<sup>th</sup> year of NRM participation.

For this year's festivities, the dining hall was decorated with colorful flowers and tablecloths, a stage was lined with large displays of heliconia and ginger plants, pictures were on display, and, most significantly, pots of kalo or taro plants, which Mike had supplied, were on each table. Attached to each plant was a small card with a description of how hāloa, the first born, become kalo or taro, and the second born, also named hāloa became the first kanaka. It's a story of how all Hawaiians are mutually responsible for each other and therefore forever inextricably linked. It's also a wonderful reminder of the interconnectivity we all share with one another and the environment, and how there is a give and take between all members of a family.

Highlights of the day were: a talk by Elladine Olevao, Director of the Department of Human Services; an introduction of the Hikalea's support team; a video of the family's story (which is available on-line at: <https://vimeo.com/347649573>); Mike, Jessica, and all the kids getting up on stage; a hula dance performed by Mike and Jessica's daughters Kalaimanuia and Anuhea; a musical performance by Mike's niece Jasmine Sniffen and her fiancé, Isaaco Kawai-Aweau; the presentation of the Governor's Proclamation; and the closing statements by Mike and Jessica.



As Mike and Jessica addressed the crowd, tears of gratitude and words of love and thankfulness were shared from their hearts. They also expressed a determination to survive and thrive. Mike and Jessica are proud of their children, optimistic about their future, and are grateful to be facing the joys and challenges in life together, as a family. For the Hikaleas, and all who were present, this celebration was an affirmation of their family's love and dedication, and of a bond that is strong and enduring. Their inspiring journey is a wonderful call to always hold on to hope.





## November is National Adoption month

### By Mindy Chung, Wendy's Wonderful Kids

As we move towards celebrating National Adoption Month, I just wanted to take a minute to share with you a story that left an epic imprint on my heart. However, before I tell you about this amazing event, let me highlight some of this family's story.



Three years ago a sibling group of five would come into the system, and the department would do everything they could to keep this sibling group together. As you can imagine, adding an additional five youth to a household could come with its challenges, and eventually these children would need to be split by gender: the three girls with one family, and the two boys with another. During the course of this case, two more siblings were born, and they too would become a part of the system and be placed with two additional families. Although their mother worked on addressing her struggles, she realized they were far greater than first anticipated, and in June of 2019 would decide on her own that her children had a better chance of a "good life" in the family's homes who were currently caring for them, and she terminated her rights. I thought this was an important part of this story, because not only did it take courage to look at herself honestly, but it also took great courage to then tell her children, face to face, what she had decided.

So, on October 1, 2019....six of these seven children were adopted by their foster families (the seventh adoption will happen at a later date) ALL AT THE SAME TIME!!!! Here is what their adoptive families had to say:



*"When they first came into our house, there were a lot of challenges, but from the start we already knew they were already our kids."* Tony and Joedi Wood



*"We got him two years ago, and he's quite the shining light! He is imaginative and we just love him!! He became a part of lives."*  
James Bott

*"We really felt called by the Lord, to make ourselves available as foster parents. Soon after that decision was made we got a call for the two boys. This has been the most challenging and the most blessed year and a half of our lives. During this year and a half, Dana and I have grown to love the boys...and we wanted to adopt them so they could become our sons. We are committed to loving them and supporting them the rest of their lives."*  
Harlan and Dana Nakasone



# LGBTQ POLICY

Effective October 11, 2019, Child Welfare Services has enacted a policy and procedure regarding people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or Questioning.

**Purpose:** In accordance with State and federal laws, each individual served by Hawaii's Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) has the right to receive services in an environment free of harassment and discrimination. CWS is committed to providing a healthy and accepting setting for all individuals by training and evaluating staff, instituting policies, and educating individuals to respect each other. CWS does not tolerate harassment or discrimination by or towards employees, volunteers, contracted providers, resource caregivers, families, parents, children, youth or young adults.

*The purpose of this policy is to:*

- A. Establish operational practices that reinforce our commitment to respect the dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual, 2-spirit, and gender non-conforming people (LGBTQIA2S, aka LGBTQ);
- B. Create a safe environment for all members of our CWS community; and to
- C. Ensure that all people have equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits provided by CWS.

Look for more information to come, and Resource Caregivers are strongly encouraged to attend the Family Programs Hawaii LGBTQ training in October and November, "Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth". **Refer to Calendar of Events for specific dates and locations.**



## Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth

Presented by: Causha Spellman



### Training Dates

**WAIANAE (OAHU): Friday, October 11**  
Mali Community Center; 5:30-8:00 PM

**KAUAI: Thursday, October 24**  
Kauai District Health Office; 5:00-7:30 PM

**LĀNA'I: Friday, October 25**  
Lili'uokalani Trust Kīpuka Lāna'i;  
10:00 AM-1:30 PM

**KONA: Monday, October 28**  
Kealahou High School; 5:30-8:00 PM

**HILLO: Monday, November 4**  
Hawaii Community College; 4:30-7:00 PM

**MAUI: Thursday, November 7**  
Maui High School; 5:30-8:00 PM

**MOLOKA'I: Friday, November 8**  
Lili'uokalani Trust Kīpuka Moloka'i;  
10:00 AM-1:30 PM

**WINDWARD (OAHU): Tuesday, November 11**  
Lili'uokalani Trust Kīpuka Kō'olau Pōkū;  
5:30-8:00 PM

### This Training Will Help Families:

- Get familiarized with the basics and foundations of LGBTQ+
- Increase their knowledge about LGBTQ+ life experiences
- Discover ways to help support LGBTQ+ youth

- Free training and childcare open to all **resource, adoptive, guardianship, permanency, and kinship** families.
- Childcare limited to registered children, ages 3-12, **based on availability**.
- Dinner will be provided during the first half hour. Training and childcare will follow.

This event is made available to you as a collaborative effort by The Department of Human Services, Hui Ho'omaluku, Catholic Charities Hawaii and Family Programs Hawaii.

You are invited to our private Facebook group for additional information about our programs and services. Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FPHRSS](https://www.facebook.com/FPHRSS)

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### 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 or fax to 440-6619

*PIDF is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer*

**Part-time Co-trainers Needed.** **Resource Caregivers/Formal Foster Youth on O'ahu, Kaua'i** 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. Pay rate: \$15.00/hour.

**Part-time Child Care Providers needed in West Hawai'i, Kaua'i, O'ahu and Maui** to provide child care (i.e., during trainings), in the evenings and weekends on an occasional basis. Training and compensation provided. Pay rate: \$15.00/hour.

**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. Pay rate: \$15.00/hour.

### Family Programs Hawaii ~ Resource Family Support Services

Email cover letter and resume to [hr@familyprogramshi.org](mailto:hr@familyprogramshi.org)

**On-call Child Care Providers needed in Waianae, Windward, Central Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Hilo, Kona** to provide child care during support events on an occasional basis. Training and compensation provided.



# Resource Family Basics ~ FYI

## Traveling With Children in Care

Parental consent is required for children in foster care to travel off-island with their resource caregivers. Children in foster care are NOT allowed to travel off-island without a court order.

Voluntary cases: If the parents do not consent, the child cannot travel. The process to get a court order allowing the child in foster care to travel needs a minimum of 3--4 weeks' notice.

Court cases: If the parents and the GAL/CASA consent, the Court must be informed that the parents and the GAL/CASA do not object. If the parents or the GAL/CASA object, a motion must be filed with the Court and the Court will render a decision on whether the child can travel. In situations where the parents cannot be located but the DHS & the GAL/CASA do not object, the Court must be informed of the Department's efforts to locate the parents and that there are no objections by DHS & the GAL/CASA.

### HELPFUL TIPS:

- ~ Start early! Court permission requires a minimum of 3--4 weeks notice.
- ~ Follow up. Workers have lots on their plate so it helps if RCGs follow up with friendly reminders.
- ~ Obtain information on medical coverage for out of state travel so you are prepared in case of an emergency.

## PRUDENT PARENTING:

### ATTENDING FUNCTIONS WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION

The following is an excerpt from the *Don't Say "NO" Until You "Know"* guide, which was developed by the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services and our community partners. The guide presents common questions and answers for Resource Caregivers on providing normalcy for children/young people in foster care so they can participate equally in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, social, and cultural activities, just as their classmates and peers do. These Q & A's can be found within the Normalcy Guidelines provided by your DHS licensing worker.



**Question:** Are children/young people who are in foster care allowed to attend functions without adult supervision?

**Answer: Yes.** Resource Caregivers and the identified Child Caring Institution staff should encourage their child/young person to participate in community, school, recreational and cultural activities that are appropriate to their age and development. Resource Caregiver and the Child Caring Institution staff shall use the prudent parent standards to determine what activity would not require adult supervision.



**Who Ya Gonna Call?**

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?"

If the child in your care requires Emergency medical care (after hours) contact the Child's Social Worker, 911, nearest emergency medical facility. You can also contact the DHS hotline at 832-5300 or toll free 888-380-3088





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

By Karen Kaneshiro-Soon, RFSS Warm Line Family Resource Specialist  
Resource Family Support Services (RFSS) is funded by the Department of Human Services

# Ask the Warm Line



**Karen  
Kaneshiro-Soon**

### Resource Families Ask: "Why is it that my child seems to act out more around the holidays or at family gatherings?"

As we look to the upcoming months, most of us are anticipating the joy and celebration of the holiday season. However, it is not always a carefree and happy time for our children in foster care. It may be a time when their stress and behavioral concerns increase due to their experiences of separation, loss, pain and trauma. What can we do to support and care for our keiki during this especially sensitive time?

Dr. Cheryl Andaya, a Clinical Psychologist with the Family Programs Hawaii's Family Strengthening Center, recently provided a valuable training to resource families on Oahu. "A Psychological Perspective on the Traumatized Child" provided participants with a deeper understanding and insight into how we can best support our children.

She noted that a child's behaviors may be triggered by unexpected circumstances (such as a holiday celebration or family gathering) when the child experienced a traumatic history. A child may suddenly regress, become infantile or child-like, fearful or angry, which are all possible manifestations of their trauma.

### "What can resource families do to help?"

Dr. Andaya suggested the use of transition options to assist the child in making changes, provide verbal assurances, opportunities for verbal and artistic expression, providing consistency, predictability and follow through, all towards the goal of allowing your child to feel safe and comfortable on a daily basis. In addition, she suggested addressing aggressive behaviors when your child is calm and more open to learning their triggers, developing a safety plan, and reinforcing their positive behaviors. Dr. Andaya cautioned caregivers to avoid power struggles and, instead, teach healthy decision-making skills.

A few other helpful examples include: making sure children get enough sleep, reducing distractions by limiting video games and electronics, teaching hygiene, providing structure, setting reasonable boundaries, and promoting a sense of belonging with firmness and LOTS of patience. Most importantly, the goal is to create a safe place for children in your home.

Wishing you and your 'ohana all the best during this holiday season!

### ONLINE TRAINING AVAILABLE

If you are interested in Dr. Andaya's full training on this timely subject, call the Warm Line for the vimeo training that is available online. This training, as well as other trainings, are always available to resource families at no cost.



### Family Programs Hawaii Warm Line

**HOURS: 7 DAYS A WEEK 8:30 am - 10:00 pm**

The Warm Line will now be available from 8:30 am - 10:00 pm, 7 days a week! Callers will be greeted by a live person ready to answer your caregiving questions and concerns. Our goal is to provide Warm Line support statewide, therefore, experienced Resource Caregivers from various islands will answer the Warm Line during evening and weekend hours.

*Mahalo nui loa for the ways you support our keiki in foster care!  
We look forward to answering your call soon.*

#### Benefits of Calling the Warm Line

- Talking to a real person about your caregiving needs
- Staff with experience being a Resource Caregiver
- Speaking to someone who understands
- Referrals to resources in your community
- RSVP to current Support Groups and Trainings
- CARE TO SHARE Program for needed items, such as dressers & beds
- Connect to in-person and online trainings and resources
- Available 7 days a week, 8:30 am - 10:00 pm

CALL US TODAY!

OAHU: (808) 545-1130 / NEIGHBOR ISLANDS: 1-866-545-0882 (Toll-free)



# Calendar of Events

## STATEWIDE

- Nov 13 (Wed)** **Online Support Group for Resource Families (Zoom Web-Conference):** 6:00-8:00pm. RSVP to FPH at 808-545-1130 or email [WarmLine@FamilyProgramsHi.org](mailto:WarmLine@FamilyProgramsHi.org).
- Nov 20 (Wed)** **Supporting Successful Transitions into Higher Education (Webinar Training):** 6:00pm-7:30pm. RSVP online at <https://tinyurl.com/FPH1120> or call 540-2538 by 11/13.

## O'AHU

- Nov 11 (Tues)** **(Windward) Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kipuka Ko'olau Poko. RSVP to FPH at (808) 540-2538 by 11/4.
- Nov 14 (Thurs)** **Foster Care Information Session:** 5:30pm-7:00pm. Hawaii Kai Public Library, RSVP to PIDF at 441-1117.
- Nov 22 (Fri)** **Waianae Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Maili Learning Center. RSVP to FPH at (808) 540-2538 by 11/15.
- Nov 23 (Sat)** **National Adoption Day Event:** Honolulu Zoo. For more information, call the Warm Line at 545-1130.
- Dec 8 (Sun)** **Family Programs Hawaii Annual Holiday Party** 10:00am-2:30pm. Special party for resource, guardianship and adoptive families. Location TBD. For more information, call the Warm Line: 545-1130.
- Dec 12 (Thurs)** **Foster Care Information Session:** 6:00-7:30pm. Nanakuli Public Library, RSVP to PIDF at 441-1117.
- Dec 20 (Fri)** **Teen Day** 11:00am-4:00pm. An event to lend a guiding hand to current and former foster youth ages 14 and older. Ronald T.Y. Moon Kapolei Family Courthouse. For more information, call the Warm Line at 545-1130.

## EAST HAWAII

- Oct 19 (Sat)** **Hilo Resource Families Support Group:** 12:00pm-2:30pm. Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/11.
- Nov 4 (Mon)** **Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth:** 4:30pm-7:00pm. Hawaii Community College. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/28.
- Dec 7 (Sat)** **Hilo Resource Families Support Group:** 12:00pm-2:30pm. Christ Lutheran Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 11/29.

## WEST HAWAII

- Nov 18 (Mon)** **Kona Resources Families Support Group:** 5:00pm-7:30pm. Kealahke High School. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 11/11.
- Oct 28 (Mon)** **Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kealahke High School. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/21.

## KAUAI

- Oct 24 (Thurs)** **Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth:** 5:00pm-7:30pm. Kauai District Health Office. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/17.
- Nov 7 (Thurs)** **Kauai Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Lihue United Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/31.

## MAUI

- Nov 7 (Thurs)** **Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Maui High School. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/31.



# Calendar of Events con't

**Dec 13 (Fri)** **Maui Resource Families Support Group:** 5:30pm-7:30pm. Kahului Union Church. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 12/6.

## LANAI

**Oct 25 (Fri)** **Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kipuka Lana'i. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 10/18.

## MOLOKAI

**Nov 8 (Fri)** **Providing Safety and Support for LGBTQ+ Youth:** 5:30pm-8:00pm. Kipuka Moloka'i. RSVP to the Warm Line at 1-866-545-0882 by 11/1.

*Please follow Resource Families Support Services on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FPH.RFSS](http://www.facebook.com/FPH.RFSS) for additional information about services and events.*

## REFER A NEW RESOURCE FAMILY AND RECEIVE A \$200 GIFT CARD! 'OHANA REWARDS

**Help us find more homes for Hawai'i's keiki in foster care and receive a \$200 Gift Card of your choice!**

**Here's how it works:**

- 1) Refer Prospective General Licensed Resource Family.**
- 2) When the family calls Hui Ho'omalua to inquire about fostering, they identify you as the referral source.**
- 3) The family asks the referral source to confirm the referral by contacting Hui Ho'omalua.**
- 4) Once the family is issued a foster home license by DHS the gift card is awarded!**

**Refer to the Calendar of Events for Foster Care Information Sessions! Invite friends and family!**

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

***Congratulations to this quarter's recipients!***

*Henrilyn Akima (East Hawaii)*

*Helene Moana Wright-Setterfield (East Hawaii)*

*Layne Tomaselli (East Hawaii)*

*Jacob and Kennie Bender (West Hawaii)*

*Erica DiCosmo (West Hawaii)*

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:

*State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services*

*Partners In Development Foundation*

*Catholic Charities Hawai'i*

*Family Programs Hawai'i*

*EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing*

*Family Court*

*Resource Caregivers*

*Adoptive Parents*