

# A Needs Assessment to Explore the Professional Development of Early Childhood Practitioners with Online Resources



Berna Souza  
University of Hawaii- Manoa  
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# Poll Question

Do you know what the acronym  
ECE stands for?



- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. I think so

# Early Childhood Educator

Birth to 8 years old

- Center-based & Preschool
- Family Child Care providers
- Infant and Toddler specialists
- Early Intervention specialists
- Home Visitors
- Administrators
- Head Start teachers
- Special Education teachers
- Teaching Assistants
- Family Service staff
- Health Coordinators



# ABOUT ME

Lives:  
Kekaha, Kauai



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**Work:**

Child & Family  
Service- Kauai Head  
Start

St. Theresa Early  
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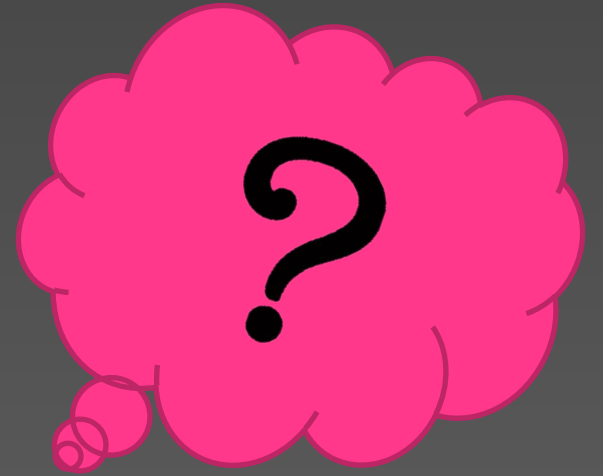
**Passion:**  
Early Childhood Education & Professional  
Development



# Hawaii Pushes for ECE . . . .

- ◉ In 2012, Gov. Abercrombie created the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and makes an appeal for State-funded Preschool.
  - **Benchmark of “high-quality programming”:**
    - Bachelor’s degree
    - Specialized pre-kindergarten training
    - 15 hours of professional development

Great Idea . . . . .





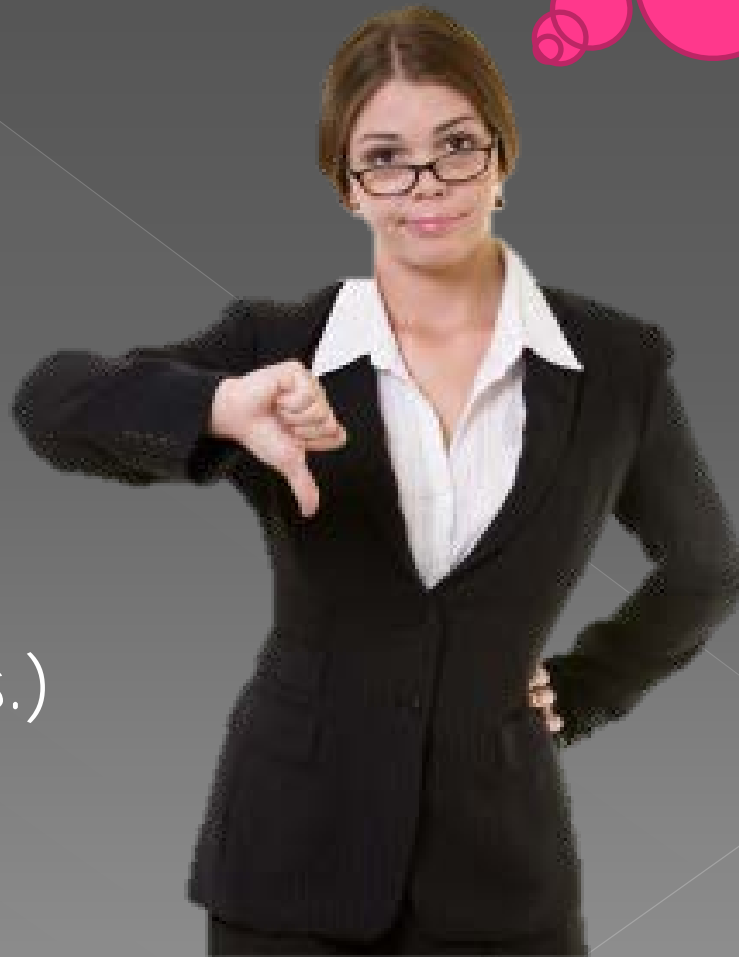
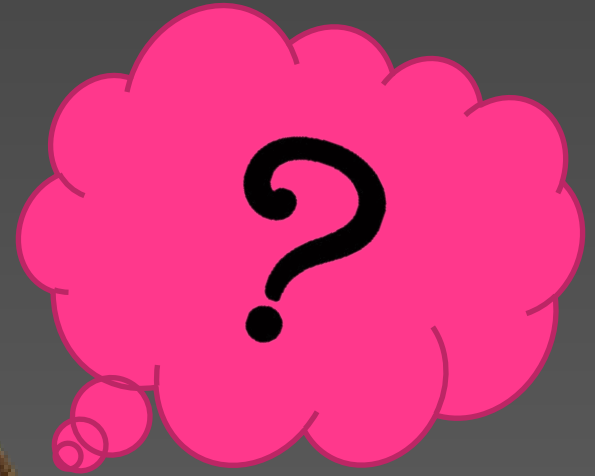
# Great Idea . . . . .

**DHS minimum  
requirements:**

1) Associate's  
degree in ECE

or

2) CDA (120 hrs.)



# Impact on Kauai's Workforce



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- Kauai Community College only offers an Associate's of Science in ECE



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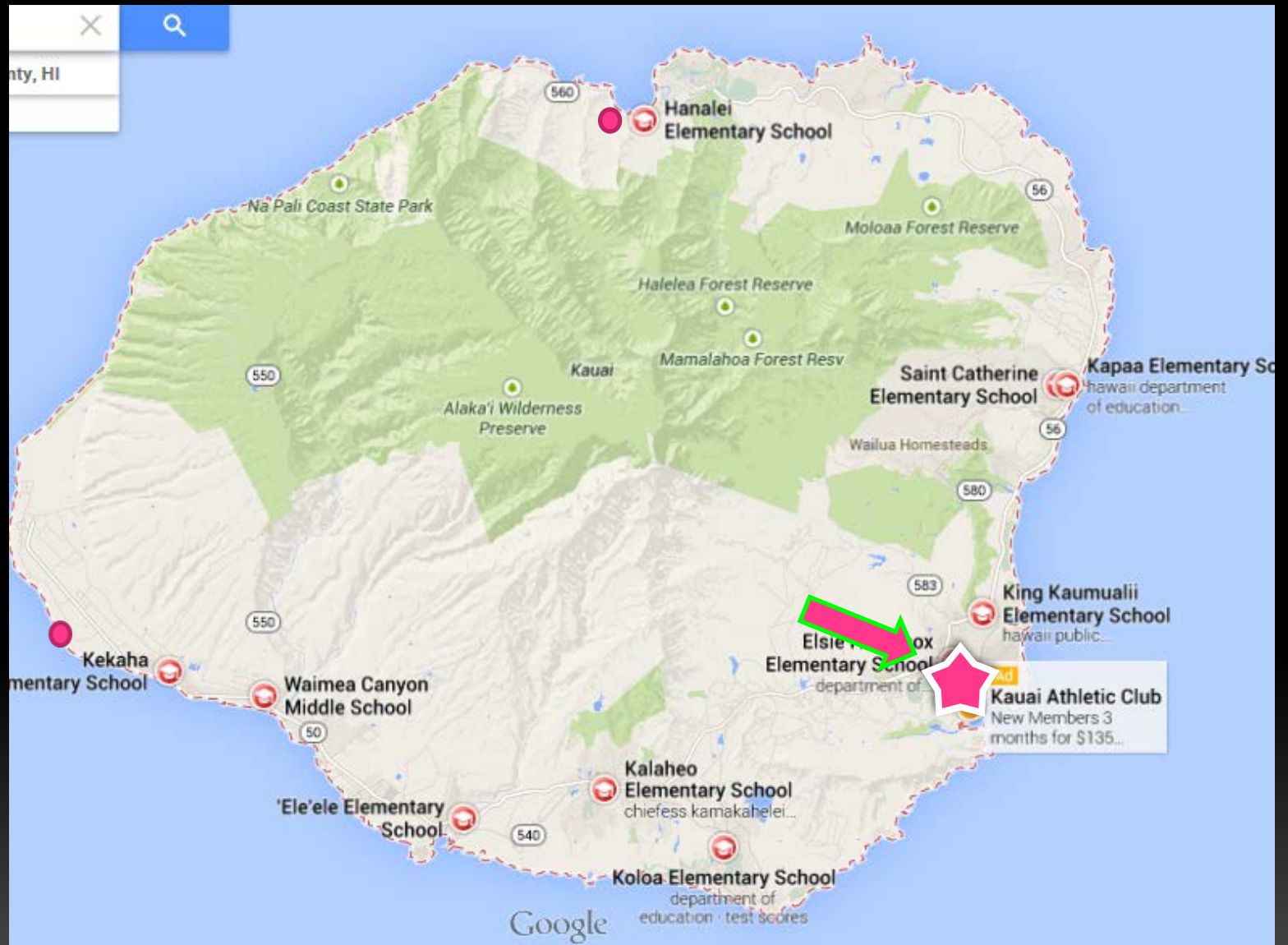


# Impact on Kauai's Workforce

- Kauai Community College only offers an Associate's of Science in ECE
- Limited direct access to high-quality & relevant professional development
- ECE practitioner technology capabilities are unknown



# RURAL KAUAI



Kauai is approximately 550 sq. miles.



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# Background Data

- ◉ **March 2013 Survey of 28 participants:**

1) 85.2% are motivated by “personal growth”

2) Day, cost, & distance prevents PD

3) 67.9% are Interested/Very Interested in online PD

# Background Data

## ◉ March 2013 Survey of 28 participants:

- 1) 85.2% are motivated by “personal growth”
- 2) Day, cost, & distance prevents PD
- 3) 67.9% are Interested/Very Interested in online PD

## ◉ Research & Literature Suggests:

- 1) EC Practitioners seek professional growth
- 2) Relevance & usefulness of topics
- 3) Ease of accessibility of online resources in rural areas

# Purpose Statement



A needs assessment was conducted using  
Google forms



A needs assessment was conducted using Google forms to explore the use of online resources for professional development





A needs assessment was conducted using Google forms to explore the use of online resources for professional development by early childhood practitioners on Kauai currently working with children birth to 5 years old.



# Instrument: Google Forms

- ◉ Free service
- ◉ Mobile-friendly
- ◉ Real-time data
- ◉ Response summary
- ◉ Data organizing capabilities



Online Resources for Professional Development Survey

\* Required

Name

Program

# Survey

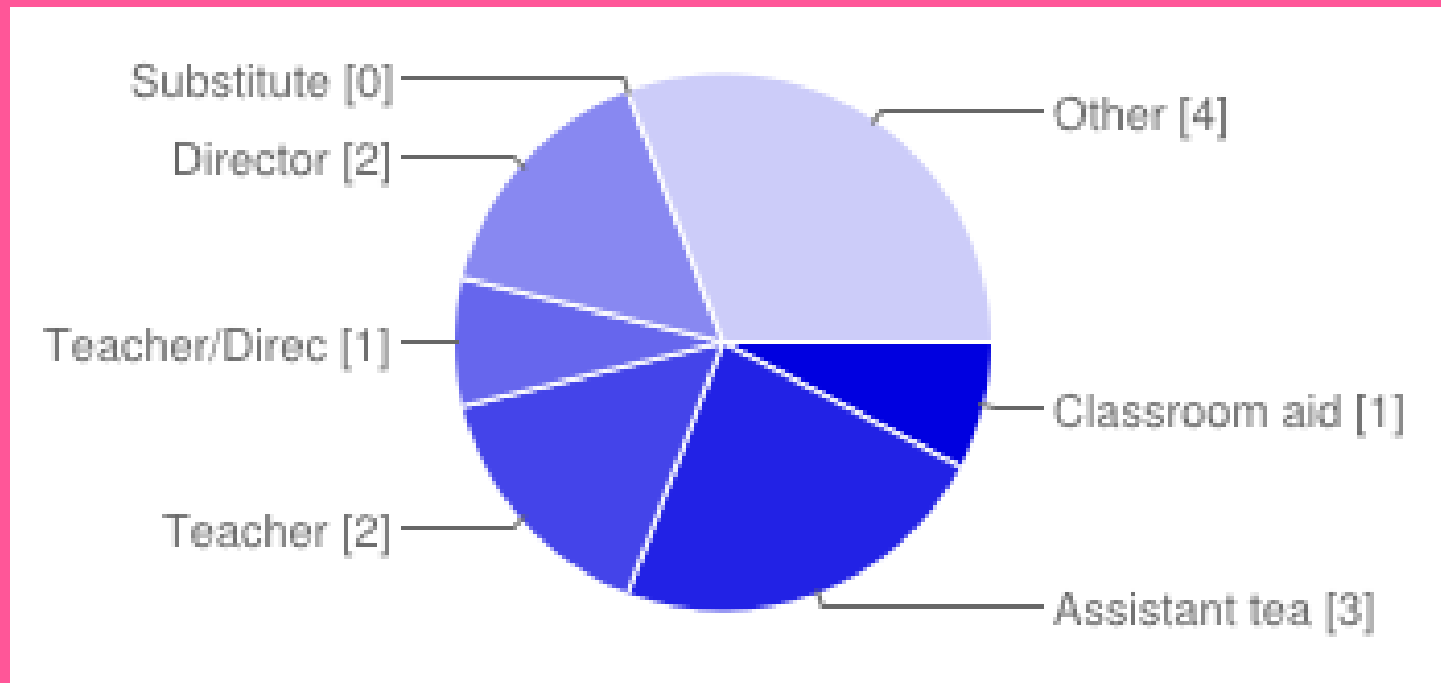
Please rate your level of familiarity with the following online technology resources. \*

	1 = Not familiar	2 = Heard of it	3 = Use it occasionally	4 = Use it frequently/Very familiar
Webinars (web-based seminar)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social media (ex. Facebook, Twitter)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Education blogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Synchronous learning environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- Likert Scale
- Multiple Choice
- Checkboxes
- Grids
- Comment boxes



# PARTICIPANTS



There was a total of 13 participants in this needs assessment survey who work with children from birth to 5 years old and are currently working in 6 different programs island wide in varying positions.

# Data Collection

- The survey was made available from February 5<sup>th</sup> – March 16<sup>th</sup> 2014.
- Attempts:
  - > February 5<sup>th</sup>
  - > February 24<sup>th</sup>
  - > March 12<sup>th</sup>
- Email ONLY

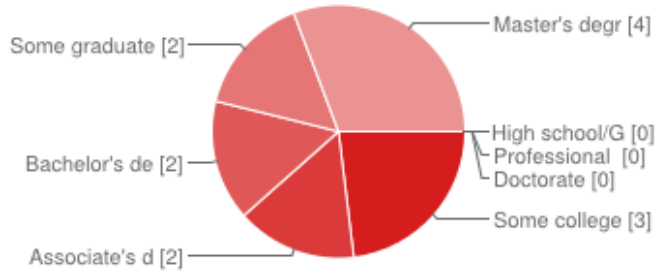
**Number of daily responses**



# EDUCATION

## HIGHEST Education

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

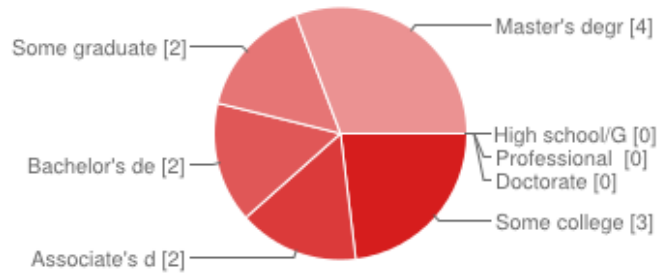


High school/GED	0	0%
Some college	3	23%
Associate's degree	2	15%
Bachelor's degree	2	15%
Some graduate school	2	15%
Master's degree	4	31%
Professional degree (ex. law, medicine)	0	0%
Doctorate	0	0%

# EDUCATION

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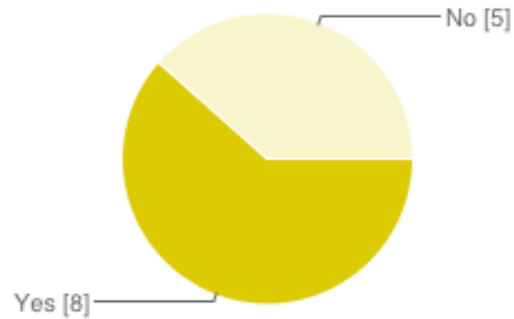
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## ONLINE Education

Did you enroll in any online or distance education courses in your higher education?

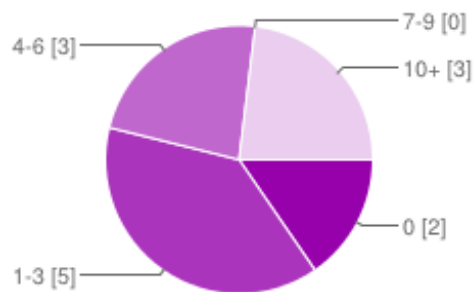


Yes	8	62%
No	5	38%

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATTENDED

How many professional development opportunities have you attend in the past year?

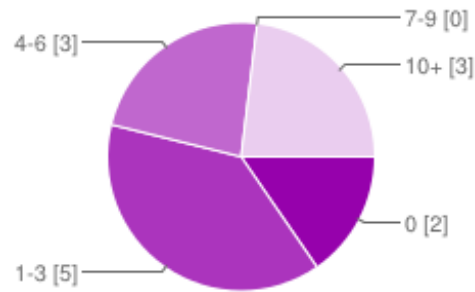


0	2	15%
1-3	5	38%
4-6	3	23%
7-9	0	0%
10+	3	23%

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATTENDED

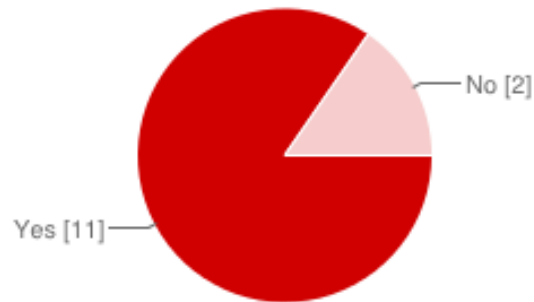
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1-3	5	38%
4-6	3	23%
7-9	0	0%
10+	3	23%

VIA ONLINE

Would you have attended more if they were made available via online resources?



Yes	11	85%
No	2	15%

# PREFERENCES

Day	In-person (AM) 8am or 9am	Online (AM) 8am or 9am	In-person (PM) 4pm, 5pm, 6pm	Online (PM) 4pm, 5pm, 6pm
Monday	5 (38%)	2 (16%)	7 (54%)	10 (77%)
Tuesday	6 (46%)	2 (16%)	6 (47%)	10 (77%)
Wednesday	6 (46%)	3 (23%)	6 (47%)	9 (70%)
Thursday	6 (46%)	2 (16%)	6 (46%)	9 (70%)
Friday	5 (38%)	2 (16%)	7 (47%)	10 (77%)
Saturday	12 (92%)	6 (46%)	0	6 (46%)

# Online Resources

Identifying the EC practitioners familiarity with & interest in various formats was important.

Type	1=Not Interested	2=Somewhat	3=Interested	4=Very Interested
Webinar	1 (8%)	4 (31%)	7 (54%)	1 (8%)
Facilitated	1 (8%)	5 (38%)	4 (31%)	3 (23%)
Blended	2 (15%)	2 (15%)	8 (62%)	1 (8%)
Collaborative BBC	2 (15%)	3 (23%)	7 (54%)	1 (8%)
Self-paced	1 (8%)	2 (15%)	7 (54%)	3 (23%)
Online Higher Ed	2 (15%)	1 (8%)	5 (38%)	5 (38%)
Teleconference	2 (15%)	3 (23%)	6 (46%)	1 (8%)
Web-based VC	2 (15%)	4 (31%)	6 (46%)	1 (8%)



# Limitations

- Needs Assessment Challenges:



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- 1) Soliciting participants exclusively via email



# Limitations

## ◉ Needs Assessment Challenges:

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- 2) Unintended misrepresentation



# Limitations

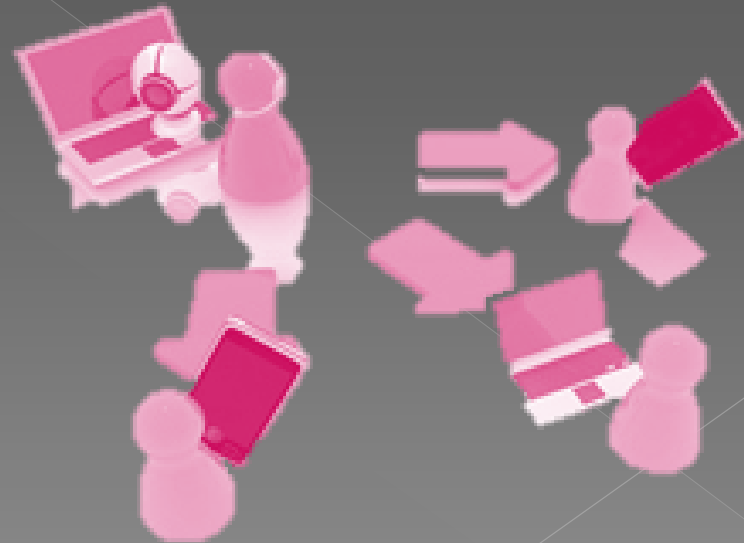
## ◉ Needs Assessment Challenges:

- 1) Soliciting participants exclusively via email
- 2) Unintended misrepresentation
- 3) Participation assumption



# Discussion

- Reasons for using online resources:
  - Ease of use
  - Convenience
  - Less restrictive
  - Time
  - Update credentials
  - Cost effectiveness
  - New skills/knowledge



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- Obstacles facing the ECE field on Kauai:
  - Building a sense of community in an online environment
  - Belief that F2F is the most concrete way to enhance learning.

# LEARN

- This needs assessment supports the idea that a “Blended Learning Environment” of in-person and online interactions for professional development would best suit the immediate needs of this rural island community.

# 旅行

THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES  
STARTS WITH A SINGLE STEP.

*Journey*

THANK YOU!

A shout out to the OTEC 2012 Ohana, our ETEC Professors, Tami Saito, & my family for supporting me during this amazing journey.