



The Waimano Training School and Hospital Services for the Exceptional Child

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Exceptional children, because of their many specialized needs, require an array of services throughout their lives. One such service is the institution which can play a significant part in the training of the exceptional child toward total habilitation.

Waimano Training School and Hospital, Hawaii's state institution for the mentally retarded, accepts its responsibilities toward the exceptional child. It strives to recognize the rights of the child and to develop their potential to their maximal level. Situations which lend themselves to institutionalization are the child's need for:

1. Training and education in a setting which provides living-in accommodations.
2. Relieving families during periods of crisis such as deaths and separation.
3. Assisting the child during some of his difficult-to-adjust years such as during the young adult and old age.

For the exceptional child who can no longer remain in the community,

Waimano's program strives to provide a healthful and safe home-like atmosphere. To achieve this goal, the institution has been decentralized into semi-autonomous units which can adequately meet the special needs of the individual and small groups of residents. Its programs provide recreation and leisure time activities, special education classes, individual attention to meet the physical and emotional needs of each child, training opportunities for economic self-sufficiency so that the child can become familiar with the actual working conditions in the community, and religious education.

The institutional staff is an important ingredient in the quality and variety of services which the exceptional child requires. Waimano develops adequate staff by means of in-service and out-service training, primarily geared toward attitudes which assist the child to help himself in the development of a concept of the self as related to his environment and the community.

The community in which the institution is located is a vital considera-

tion in the total program. The program goals reflect the mores and social structures of the community to which the exceptional child will hopefully return. To this end, Waimano has an obligation for maintaining relationships with the community and to be deeply aware of all that is happening outside of the institution. Such goals are being achieved by the staff's conscious efforts to take part in community activities and inviting the public to visit Waimano during an annual spring open house.

Finally, Waimano's role in the services for the exceptional child encompasses in its responsibilities, the commitment to add new knowledge and practice to the field for the care and training of the retarded.

Waimano encourages research, demonstrations, new concepts in organization, programs and management to better service each individual who must be institutionalized. Waimano welcomes those interested in the retarded to observe, learn and gain experiences in the care, treatment, and total habilitation in an institutional setting.