

Promoting Diverse Abilities Across the Lifespan



Director's Corner

Dr. Kiriko Takahashi
CDS Interim Director

Welcome to our fall newsletter! In this issue we continue to highlight information about our 40th Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity, including volunteer, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities. We hope that you consider being part of our legacy conference in one way or another!

Please also note and attend various events and workshops sponsored by our community partners across the state. The events range in topics from early childhood to mental health issues.

Every other month, we also invite our partner organizations and agencies to share more about their work. In October, we have invited Easterseals Hawaii. Come join our partner seminar series to learn about their services!

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Center on Disability Studies, College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Join the CDS email listserv for the latest updates at <http://go.hawaii.edu/JBJ>.

WORKBOOK HELPS DISABLED COPE WITH MAUI FIRE

By Dr. Maya Matheis,
mmatheis@hawaii.edu

 #mauistrong #mauiwildfires #disability #traumainformedcare



Photo: Travis Urayanza, and Natalie Greenleaf, & Maya Matheis

We're proud to share that CDS's efforts to support individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families in Maui following last year's devastating wildfires, led by Dr. Maya Matheis, have been featured in the Star Advertiser.

The article highlights the impactful intervention workbook developed to help children and adults with DD with processing their traumatic experiences. This recognition underscores our commitment to providing compassionate care and resources to those in need during challenging times.

Read the full article here: <https://go.hawaii.edu/a4t>

Updates for the #PacRim2025

By Genesis Leong,
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Pacific Rim Conference

40th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity

By Us and For Us: Legacy and Future of Our Movement

Tuesday, April 15 - Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Hawai'i Convention Center (in-person with virtual options)

<https://pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu/>

Organized by the Center on Disability Studies



Volunteer

Application closes December 15, 2024.

More information: <https://go.hawaii.edu/ajk>

- Volunteer for eight (8) hours throughout the two-day conference in exchange for complimentary conference registration.
- Be of service to individuals in the fields of disability studies, law, education, social work, health, and self-advocates!
- Electronic certificate of appreciation and recognition letter, verifying your volunteer hours!
- And much more!!

Virtual Training - Tuesday, April 13, 2025, 4:00 PM – 4:45 PM HST

In-Person Training - Monday, April 14, 2025, 4:00 – 5:00 PM HST



Sponsorship

Applications due December 31, 2024.

More information: <https://go.hawaii.edu/RNa>

- Connect to influential Hawai'i, national and international leaders, service providers, advocates, and individuals within the disability community.
- Elevate and cement your brand as community-focused, diverse, and inclusive.
- Reach targeted audiences for your services, products, and messaging.
- Access multi-platform opportunities to share your logo, links, and information.



Exhibitor

Applications due January 31, 2025.

More information: <https://go.hawaii.edu/aNi>

- **Expand your Reach:** Connect with a diverse audience of professionals, stakeholders, and individuals passionate about disability and diversity issues.
- **Showcase Innovations:** Present your latest products, services, and initiatives that promote accessibility, inclusivity, and equity.
- **Network Opportunities:** Engage in meaningful conversations, build connections, and explore potential collaborations with like-minded individuals and organizations.
- **Visibility:** Gain exposure and increase brand awareness among conference participants, including disability advocates, researchers, policymakers, and industry experts.
- **Support a Worthy Cause:** Contribute to the advancement of disability rights, social inclusion, and diversity by being part of an event dedicated to these important issues.



Attendee

Early Bird Applications due December 31, 2024

General Applications due Saturday, March 1, 2025

More information: <https://go.hawaii.edu/KNa>

- All refund and cancellation registration requests must be completed no later than March 1, 2025 (HST). If requested by the deadline, a full refund will be administered minus any transaction fees.

SPIN - SPECIAL PARENTS INFORMATION NETWORK

By Genesis Leong,
genesisl@hawaii.edu



Special Parent Information Network (SPIN)

Providing information, support and referral to parents of children and young adults with disabilities and the professionals who serve them.

Parenting a child with special needs can be a puzzling journey. SPIN helps families put together the pieces of the puzzle, so they can have a clearer vision of where they are heading.

SPIN tries to make the journey of parenting a child with disabilities a little less puzzling by keeping families linked to important information through a variety of media and events including:

- a free electronic quarterly newsletter with current events and trends;
- a “warm” line of parent-to-parent support and understanding;
- information about services, educational programs, and support and advocacy agencies; and
- an annual conference with opportunities for information gathering & networking.

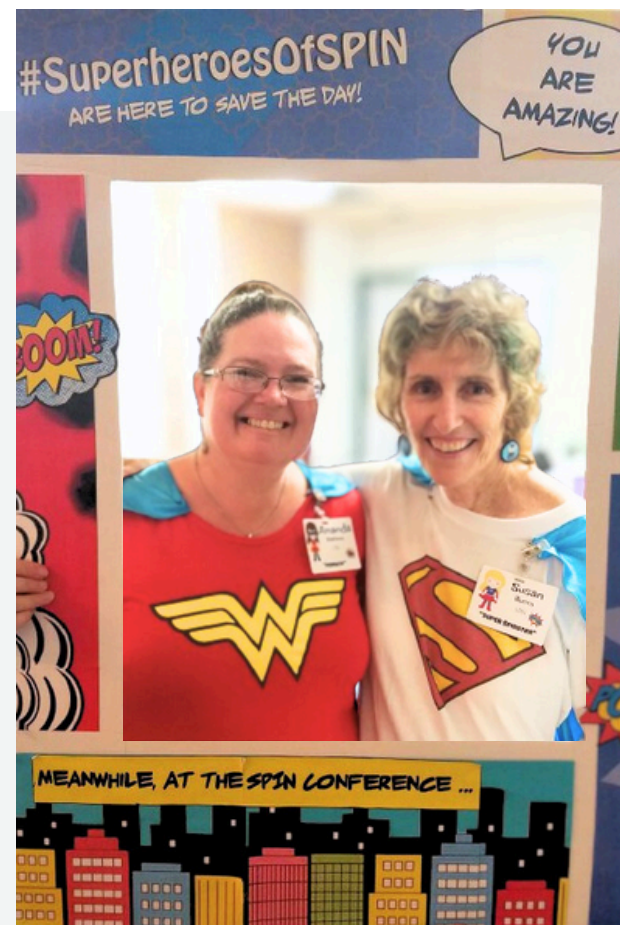


Photo: Amanda Kaahai and Susan Rocco

Special Education 101

- [Parent's Guide to Special Education](#)
- [Deaf / Hard of Hearing / Deaf-Blind](#)
- [Starting Special Education Services](#)
- [Diploma or Certificate Track](#)
- [IEP Teams / Hawaii DOE Structure](#)
- [Extended School Year](#)
- [Special Education Advisory Council](#)
- [SPIN Conference](#)
- [Chapter 60 IDEA & 504 Plans](#)
- [Words to Know](#)
- [Inclusion Materials](#)
- [Transition to Adult](#)
- and much more!!

Parent's Guide to Partnership and Special Education

Developed by the [Special Parent Information Network](#) (SPIN) and the [Special Education Advisory Council](#) (SEAC)—Hawaii's state advisory panel on special education—with support from the [Department of Education](#). Download a PDF of the parent guide [here](#)!!

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS



39th Annual SPIN Conference

March 22, 2025

Stay tuned for more info on the 2025 SPIN Conference! We will be hosting a hybrid event with in-person workshops & resource fair, along with virtual access using Zoom. You can still expect excellent workshops relevant to families, networking opportunities and the resources you need.

Information available on SPIN's [website](#).



17th Annual Traveling Mini Conference

The Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai'i (LDAH) traveling mini conference features workshop presentations, interactive panels with state and county legislators, and valuable resources to empower self-advocates, parents, and families. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect and network with attendees.

Oct 2, 2pm-6pm: Kona - West Hawai'i Civic Center

Oct 5, 10am-1pm: Maui

Oct 16, 10am-1pm: Moloka'i

Oct 19, 9am-2pm: Kaua'i & Ohana Footsteps to Transition

Oct 20, 2024, 9am-1pm: Hilo

Nov 2, 11am-1:30pm: Lāna'i

Nov 9, 10am-2pm: O'ahu



2024 Kaua'i 'Ohana Footsteps to Transition Fair

October 19, 2024, 9am-5pm, Kaua'i Veterans Center

The event include in-person workshops focusing on special education, transitioning, and healthcare for those with developmental disabilities. There will be resource tables, free child care, lunch and refreshments, along with the chance to engage with county council candidates and Kaua'i legislators.



- Mayor Kawakami & Deziree Tacub Self-Advocate SAAC, Mr. Hamada DOE, Kaua'i Community College, ABE Accounts, Alternatives to Guardianship LDAH Presentation, DVR Services, Health Care Transition, DD Division Services and other option, and Work Now Hawaii.

Partners include: Community Children's Councils, Hawai'i State Department of Education, Department of Health, DD Council, Hawai'i Disability Rights Center, Hawai'i Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of Hawai'i, and Special Parent Information Network: Hawai'i.



OTHER UPCOMING EVENT

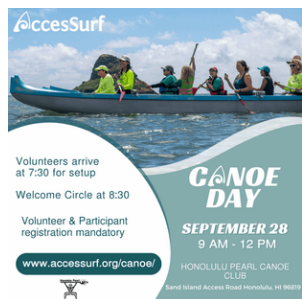


2nd Annual Early Childhood Conference

October 10-11, 2024, Moanalua High School
2825 Ala Ilima St, Honolulu, HI 96818

Brought to you in partnership by: Executive Office of Early Learning, Hawai'i State Department of Health, Department of Education, and Hawai'i P-20.

This FREE event will be open to parents, teachers and community members! More information will be released soon visit SPIN's [calendar post online](#).



AccessSurf Canoe Day

Sept 28, 9am-12pm, Honolulu Pearl Canoe Club
Sand Island Access Rd, Honolulu, HI 96819

Welcome circle at 8:30am.

This FREE event will be open to participants. Registration is required and mandatory. Please visit us [online](#).



AccessSurf New Volunteer Virtual Training

October 3, 2024, 5:30-6:30pm
Zoom Virtual

We're looking forward to you joining our community! If you are a new volunteer, we ask that you attend one of our New Volunteer Virtual Trainings. *This FREE event will be open to participants. Please visit us [online](#).*



AccessSurf Day at the Beach

Oct 5th & Nov 2nd, 2024, 8:30am-1pm
Kalahele (White Plains Beach) in Kapolei

Join us for the next Day at the Beach!! The event begins at 8:30am. Registration is required accesssurf.org/datb. *This FREE event will be open to participants. Please visit us [online](#).*



AccessSurf Wounded Warriors

Oct 16th & Nov 20th, 2024, 8:30pm-1pm
Kalaeloa (White Plains Beach) in Kapolei

Welcome circle at 8:30am. *This FREE event will be open to participants. Registration is required and mandatory. Please visit us [online](#).*



Mental Health Matters:

Mental Health Matters

As part of the DD Council’s 5-year strategic plan, we are conducting an important statewide survey to better understand the mental health needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), a mental health diagnosis, or dual diagnosis. Your participation will play a critical role in identifying the unmet behavioral health needs across Hawaii, particularly in both urban and rural areas.

Our goal is to improve the state’s behavioral health care system, ensuring it is better equipped to meet and respond to the unique mental health needs of individuals with IDD and other related conditions. This survey is designed for:

- Adults with IDD, dual diagnoses, or a mental health diagnosis
- Parents or guardians of children under 18 who have a mental health diagnosis or IDD

Contact (808) 586-8100 or by email at hiscdd@doh.hawaii.gov.



Transitions & Career Readiness Workshop

October 18, 2024 6pm-7:30pm
University Laboratory School, 1776 University Ave

Best Buddies Hawaii Staff will share the new Transition Project with interested adults with intellectual and development disabilities ages 18 and over and families who are aging out of the school system or interested in learning about career readiness in series of 6 workshop session through the Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.

Register now at <https://rb.gy/e5k962>.

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE

By Genesis Leong,
genesisl@hawaii.edu



To promote full participation of people with disabilities; to help maintain, sustain, and maximize independence.

As a Center for Independent Living, Access to Independence serves independent living services for the Honolulu disability community through programs including: VAAIA (Low Vision & Blind); Ōpio (Youth Transition); Koho Balota (Voting Advocacy); and Information & Referral.

Meet the Program and Systems Change Manager Leelynn Brady and learn more about upcoming events and resources.



Photo: Leelynn Brady

Leelynn has been involved in the disability community since she was a little girl. Growing up with her family heavily involved in disability justice throughout Guam and Hawai'i, she continued this legacy during her time in Virginia and Hawai'i. In Virginia, she was appointed by Governor Ralph Northam and served as Secretary and Treasurer for the Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) from 2020-2024. She was also appointed by Governor Ralph Northam and served as the SILC Liaison for the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) for the Department of the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI). She was instrumental in developing Virginia's Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) and was a panel member for the Virginia Emergency

Management Symposium, speaking on Inclusive Emergency Management from the Perspective of Virginians with Lived Experience. She graduated from Mililani High School and is studying International Relations at Hawai'i Pacific University.

My goal with Access to Independence is to continue to foster our relationships with our partner organizations and continue to show the disability community that we are a resource they can trust to help them with their independent needs.

I look forward to collaborating more with CDS and other partner organizations through various systems change advocacy efforts. I've been working with Dr. Violet Horvath on the Hawai'i Disability & Healthcare Coalition, and have been working towards more systemic change efforts in regards to transportation and housing.

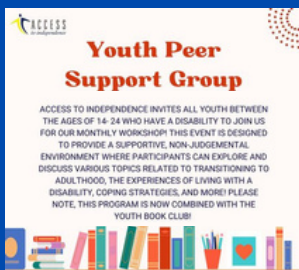
I'm really happy to be back on my home island, and sometimes I have to remember that it's been 12 years since I've been back. Being able to bring back all of my knowledge and experience from the mainland back home has been such a huge honor and I'm glad to be able to give back to my home in this capacity. Contact Leelynn Brady at lbrady@accesstoindependence.org.



Cross Disability Support Group

October 23, November 27, 1-3pm HST

Our monthly gatherings center on emotional support and social connection. In this welcoming space, consumers share experiences, explore coping strategies, and foster meaningful connections that go beyond boundaries. Expect a supportive community where heartfelt discussions and carefully curated activities foster emotional well-being and social bonds. From personal journeys shared by guest speakers to interactive sessions promoting open dialogue, the Cross-Disability Support Group is a place to find understanding, encouragement, and shared strength.



Youth Peer Support Group

October 17, November 21, 2-4pm HST

Access to Independence invites all youth between the ages of 14-24 who have a disability to join us for our monthly workshop! This event is designed to provide a supportive, non-judgmental environment where participants can explore and discuss various topics related to transitioning to adulthood, the experiences of living with a disability, coping strategies, and more! Please note, this program is now combined with the Youth Book Club!

FIRST FRIDAYS

MAKE ART, CHANGE LIVES



**Make Art,
Change Lives**

By Annie Moriyasu,
anniemoriyasu@gmail.com



“Make Art, Change Lives,” an exhibition supporting artists with disabilities, in its Courtyard Gallery. The exhibition, which runs from September 27 - October 26, 2024, will be free and open to the public, on view during regular gallery hours, Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **The Opening Reception will be held on First Friday, October 4, from 5:30 - 8 p.m.**

Featured Artist: Claire Alo, Eleanor Carr, Madison Cox, Narda Farrales Harry Haraguchi, Gay Hayashi, Barbara Hernandez, Mui Giang Cedric, Kim Wah Sang, Leung Claire Lum, Steven Lopes, Kamalu Manalo, Leonard Mariano, Natalie Miyahira, Ken Oki Jonah, Quach Harry Young, Eben Hoey, Sarah McGowan, Lynelle Mateaki, Eugene Perreira, Eva Ujano, Daniel Vasile, Alexandra McClurg, & Robert Stuart.



Partner Seminar Presented by the Center on Disability Studies at UH Mānoa:
Providing a Lifespan of Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Delays and Disabilities

A FREE WEBINAR



Kalina Hatzell

Senior Director of Behavioral Health & Autism Services

With an MA in child development and an MBA in healthcare administration, Kalina is responsible for the planning, origination, & oversight of the Autism Services program.



Michelle Perry

Director of Early Childhood Services

With a BS in business and a background in business management & consulting with corporate & private sectors, Michelle provides direct oversight & coordination of early childhood programming across the islands.



Monica Patrie

Vice President of Programs

With her BSEd in Early Childhood Education & Master of Education in Special Education, Monica started as a program manager & is now Vice President of Programs as of July 2022.

More Information

Early Childhood and Early Intervention Programming, Autism Services, Employment Support, Adult Programming and new opportunities to fill gaps in services and support individuals with innovative and adaptive program designs.

Participants will...
 ...learn about Easterseals Hawaii's services, current research and individualized family and client supports and new technology and program designs.

Thursday, Oct 17, 2024
 1:00pm-2:00pm HST

Register Now!

<https://go.hawaii.edu/E6a>



Registration QR Code