



# SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

SPECIAL  
PARENT  
INFORMATION  
NETWORK

## Avoiding Summer Slide

**May 2017**  
**Volume XXXIII, No. 4**

SPIN is co-sponsored by the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Department of Education. Services include a phone line for information referral and support, a quarterly newsletter, an annual conference and community workshops. SPIN is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and people with disabilities.



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Summer slide refers to the learning loss that students may experience during summer vacation. While research results vary, some studies point to a 1 month loss of math skills, and a greater loss of reading skills without access to reading activities.

If your son or daughter is not enrolled in an academic program this summer break, here are some ideas to occupy his or her brain with something other than video games, TV or YouTube:

1) **Pre-register for the Hawaii State Public Library System's Summer Reading Program**

which runs from June 4- July 15. (<http://www.librarieshawaii.org/2017/05/08/register/>) It's for children, teens AND adults, so you can set goals for your reading, too.



2) **Keep your keiki physically active.** Studies suggest that children who are more active are better able to focus their attention, are quicker to perform simple tasks, and have

better working memories and problem solving skills than less-active children. They are also less likely to be overweight.

3) **Sign your child up for music or singing lessons.**

There are lots of benefits related to music that can be found on the PBS website: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-benefits-of-music-education/>.



4) **Learn a second language together**, even if you only pick up a few words or phrases. The effort of learning another language increases creativity and critical thinking.

5) **Head to a museum.**

Wikipedia lists over sixty museums that you can sort by island and subject: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_museums\\_in\\_Hawaii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Hawaii). There's something to interest almost everyone in the family.



**SPIN is moving on June 1st.**

Come check out our new location at the Kamamalu Building on Richard Street (right next to the YWCA).

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# A Look Back at the 2017 Legislative Session

As we look in the rear view mirror at the legislative session that came to a close on May 4th, we see both relief and frustration on the faces of folks who lobbied for services and programs to benefit students with disabilities. Many funding bills were negatively impacted by two events occurring after the session was underway:

- a disappointing forecast by the Hawaii Council on Revenues that required the Legislature to cut \$250 million from the state's two-year budget; and
- last minute wrangling over how to fund the Rail project.

Here's a breakdown on a number of the money requests:



## Full Funding

✓ **Preschool Teachers & EAs**  
40 additional special education teachers and 20 educational assistants were funded for SY 17-18 and 18-19 to reduce class size and meet the support needs resulting from late-born five year olds spending more time in preschool.

✓ **Hawaii Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn**  
\$2.8 million in general funds and \$2.8 million in federal funds for SY 17-18 to increase access to wellness and health services in Hawaii schools through a partnership between the UH School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, DOE, DOH and DHS.

✓ **SBBH Positions**  
An extra School-Based Behavioral



## Full Funding (cont.)

Health position for Maui and the Big Island.

✓ **Restraints Training**  
Nearly half a million dollars to certify school staff in training to prevent seclusion of students and apply positive behavioral strategies to minimize the use of restraints.

✓ **Rate hikes for providers**  
Monies for the Developmental Disabilities Division and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division to pay contracted providers fairer rates for providing services to youth and young adults with disabilities.



## Partial Funding

✓ **Early College Initiative**  
\$1 million of the \$3 million requested for the **Early College High School Initiative** which provides opportunities to take college classes while still in high school to students who are less likely to attend college.

✓ **Pre-K Expansion Program**  
Monies to expand the Executive Office on Early Learning pre-kindergarten classes by five classrooms in SY 18-09 (of the 10 requested). These classrooms are prioritized for low income late born five year olds, and may include some students with disabilities.



## No Funding

### ✓ **Constitutional Amendment for Funding Public Education**

One of the biggest disappointments to teachers and educational advocates was the failure to pass a bill allowing voters to decide whether to amend the state Constitution to allow raising additional monies for public education through taxes on investment properties and hotel rooms. These funds could have been used to raise teacher salaries and buy needed services and supplies for students.

✓ **Weighted Student Formula**  
DOE and the Board of Education had requested \$50 million dollars to be added to the Weighted Student Formula--money budgeted directly to schools to help close achievement gaps. The Governor reduced the amount to \$10 million, but in the end, no monies were provided for next school year.

✓ **Data System for EIS**  
The Early Intervention Section (DOH), which serves 0-3 year olds with developmental delays and disabilities, had asked for \$1.5 million to purchase a web-based data system that would help them better track services to these keiki and ensure that they receive timely services.

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If you would like more information about any of these funding initiatives, please feel free to call or email SPIN.

*Andrew F. v.*

*Douglas County*



## Supreme Court Decision Impacts Special Education

### The Student

Andrew (“Drew”) F. is a student with autism who attended public school in Douglas County, Colorado from preschool through fourth grade. During those years Drew failed to make reasonable gains on his academic and behavioral goals, so his parents enrolled him in a private school in fifth grade where he made significant progress. His parents then filed a due process complaint that Douglas County school district had failed to provide Drew with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and requested reimbursement for his private school tuition costs. They lost the due process hearing and their appeals to both the federal district court and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, because the hearing officer and federal judges held that his public school IEP was adequate as it had provided him with *some* educational benefit.

### The Question

What kind of ‘educational benefit’ does the Individuals with disabilities Education Act (IDEA) require public schools to provide to students with disabilities to comply with the FAPE requirements of IDEA?

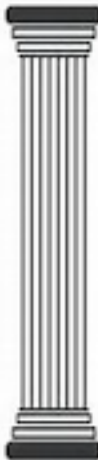
### The History

In 1982, the Supreme Court issued its first and only ruling, *Board of Education v. Rowley*, on the meaning of FAPE: an appropriate education is one that is reasonably calculated to confer some educational benefit. Congress amended IDEA in 1990, 1997 and 2004. Some courts of appeal interpreted these changes to require that the IEP show “meaningful benefit” while others interpreted *Rowley* to require just more than the bare minimum (*de minimis*).


### The Decision

In *Andrew F.*, the Supreme Court held that the IDEA requires an ‘ambitious’ program with ‘challenging objectives. The unanimous decision rejected the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals’ ruling that schools need to provide only a little more than the bare minimum to achieve FAPE, and sent the case back to the 10th Circuit to apply the tougher standard. The Supreme Court judges felt that the amendments to IDEA since *Rowley* require schools to enable a student to progress appropriate to his or her capabilities. For students not fully included in the regular education classroom and not able to achieve on grade level, the “IEP need not aim for grade-level advancement if that is not a reasonable prospect. But that child’s educational program must be appropriately ambitious in light of his circumstances, just as advancement from grade to grade is appropriately ambitious for most children in the regular classroom.” The Court conceded that it was outlining a general standard and not a formula for FAPE. (To view the decision, go to: [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/16pdf/15-827\\_0pm1.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/16pdf/15-827_0pm1.pdf))

### Quotes



*“When all is said and done, a student offered an educational program providing ‘merely more than de minimis’ progress from year to year can hardly be said to have been offered an education at all.”*



*“To meet its substantive obligation under the IDEA, a school must offer an IEP reasonably calculated to enable a child to make progress appropriate in light of the child’s circumstances.”*

*“The goals may differ, but every child should have the chance to meet challenging objectives.”*

-- Chief Justice  
John Roberts



The **Electric Company** and **Sesame Street** have created a free app that empowers children to explore their emotions by building expressive vocabulary skills so they can use words to express their thoughts and feelings. Features of the app include:

- 3 vocabulary-based games
- A digital diary
- A glossary of 50 emotion vocabulary words
- 10 story makers and
- Add your own music, photos and videos.

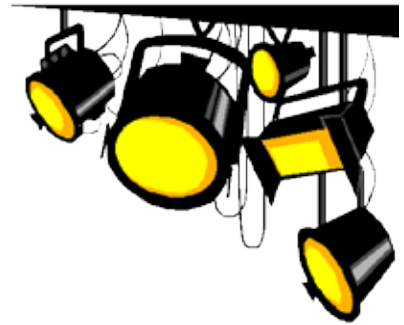


This app was created as part of a military family initiative to help kids whose parents are deployed express their difficult emotions, but all kids can benefit from using this app. It can allow them to connect to their inner emotions

using spoken or written words, rather than acting out or repressing them.

The **Feel Electric** app is available for free from both the Apple App Store and Google Play store and is rated for kids 4 and up.

## Spotlight on Support



*DD Council*

**The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities** is a Governor appointed council of self-advocates, parents, family members and public and private agency representatives. Their mission is to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, so they can control their own destiny and determine the quality of life they desire. They do this with a number of activities and programs including:



Staff support to SAAC - Self-Advocacy Advisory Council



Events like “Day at the Capital” to bring awareness of the issues to legislators



Supporting staff and advocates on neighbor islands to make sure the needs of families and self-advocates are met and community services are provided



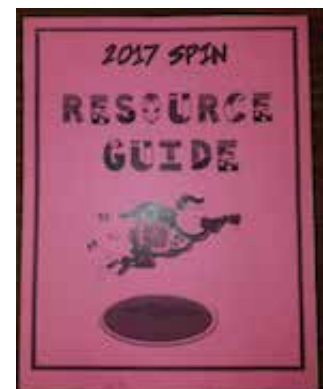
Introducing legislation, informing the public and providing leadership development in legislative advocacy.

You can call the DD Council at 586-8100 to see what they are doing next or to get involved.



SPIN recently updated two of our popular parent resources--**A Parent's Guide to Partnership in Special Education** and the **2017 SPIN Resource Guide**. You can get copies one of three ways:

1. Find them on our website: [spinhawaii.org](http://spinhawaii.org)
2. Pick one up at a Community Children's Council meeting (call SPIN @ 586-8126 for a listing of locations and times).
3. Request a copy by mail.



# 2017 Parent of the Year Awards



**Brian De Lima**

Brian is a Super Dad who has been serving the state and his community for over three decades. He began his journey as a crusader as the first student representative to the Board of Education, helping to draft the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. In 2011, Brian was appointed to the Board of Education and has recently been re-appointed for another 3 years. His career as an attorney and his experience parenting his special daughter Blair, has made him a super advocate and the perfect hero for the educational needs of children with disabilities.



**Jason & Michelle Maga**

With the birth of their beautiful and loving daughter, Anya, Jason and Michelle became a dynamic duo for change. They worked tirelessly with agencies to create and pass legislation to mandate orthodontia coverage to children with orofacial anomalies, saving families tens of thousands of dollars in treatment. Jason serves as the Co-Chair of the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council. Michelle is the secretary for Family Voices of Hawaii, completed the intensive Hawaii MCH LEND Program and serves on the Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities.



# 2017 Family Choice Awards



## **Rachelle Matsumura**

As the Principal of Honoka'a Intermediate & High School on Hawaii island, Rachelle has deep roots in her community and school. She not only graduated from the school she leads, but also served as a teacher and Vice Principal. By using her "Lasso of Truth", she brought together her school and community by embracing a new and innovative parent engagement program and family academy as well as a comprehensive mental health plan for the school that includes teachers, students and the community. Rachelle employed her super vision power to help get farmland back to the school and created a successful cultural hub for her students and the community.



## **Daintry Bartoldus**

As a Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities staff member, Daintry is responsible for monitoring, tracking and keeping the public informed on legislation both locally and nationally. She has been known to don the "Cloak of Invisibility", working behind the scenes to find solutions to individual issues while using that knowledge to create changes for everyone. Her bionic hearing has allowed her to listen for challenges and make changes with small and large impacts to our community. Daintry's belief in equal rights and empowerment of self-advocates and families is a super strategy in helping others take the steps needed to accomplish their goals.

# 2017 Professionals of the Year

## Leah Chang

Leah is the Branch Chief of the Family Guidance Center at the Diamond Head Health Center in Kaimuki. Using her “Shield of Longevity” she empowers keiki and their families with knowledge, mentoring and emotional support. For the past nine years, she has donned her cape twice a month to attend both the East and West Honolulu Community Children’s Council meetings, encouraging parents to ask questions regarding mental health services and sharing her direct contact information to ensure follow-up and continued support. Fighting for truth and justice for all keiki, Leah battles the super-villians of bureaucracy, miscommunication and provider shortages for a better life and successful pathways for our keiki in Hawaii.



## Suzanne Chun-Oakland

Suzanne is a Superhero Extraordinaire and has been a Voice and Champion, Convener, Coordinator, Collaborator and Catalyst who has brought people of all ages and diverse backgrounds to the table. She served in the House of Representatives from 1990 to 1996 and as a Hawaii State Senator from 1996 to 2016. Her moral code is made of steel and her strong belief in justice and humanitarian service has led her to battle discrimination and inequity in our most vulnerable populations of keiki, kupuna and individuals with disabilities. Suzanne has embarked on her next chapter as the Program Coordinator at the Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center on Oahu where she wields her power of integrity, compassion and aloha every day.





# Summer Events & Workshops



- Workshop on Adult Relationships**  
**6/2** Windward Health Center, 1-4 pm  
**6/9** Waimano Complex, Hale E, 1-4 pm  
**6/16** Diamond Head Health Center, #418, 1-4 pm  
 For parents of adults with I/DD; RSVP by calling Laine Tokumoto @ 733-9197
- 6/3 Sensory Diets** presentation will explore sensory input needs and strategies of children on the ASD spectrum. FREE 9:00 - 10:00 am at Shriner's Hospital 1310 Punahou Street.  
[www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org](http://www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org).
- 6/3 AccesSurf Day at the Beach** provides adaptive surfing, shoreline flotation and swimming for any person with a disability. FREE 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. White Plains, Ewa Beach. [www.accessurf.org](http://www.accessurf.org)
- 6/5 STOMP Workshop for Military Families**  
**6/6** Interactive workshops for IEP goals, learn about modifications & accommodations & advocacy. FREE 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, Porter Community Center, Wahiawa. RSVP 655-4227.
- 6/9-11 Family Learning Vacation** is a weekend event for families of children who are deaf/hard of hearing to share experiences and learn more about deafness with a parent and a children's program. For children 0-21 and their families. Call for cost. 808-733-4999 or email [roz\\_kia@hsdb.k12.hi.us](mailto:roz_kia@hsdb.k12.hi.us)
- 6/13- CSC Summer Enrichment** for keiki ages 6-13 who are deaf/hard of hearing/deaf-blind and their siblings. Daily activities will include hands-on activities, fun in the sun and team building. \$80 for the 3-week program includes lunch, drinks and snacks. 8:00 am - 2:00 pm.  
 Email [admin@csc-hawaii.org](mailto:admin@csc-hawaii.org).
- 6/14 Epilepsy Talk Story** are information meetings on current research and networking with the epilepsy community. FREE 5:30 - 6:30 pm Ward Warehouse, 1050 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 2550. RSVP by email: [naomi@epilepsyhawaii.org](mailto:naomi@epilepsyhawaii.org)
- 6/17 Sensory Friendly Film "Cars 3"** sponsored by the Autism Society of Hawaii. 9:30 - 11:30 am. Keiki with ASD are free, parents \$10.75, siblings \$5.50. Olinos Consolidated Theaters in Kapolei. For info, visit [www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org](http://www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org).
- 6/17 I.D.E.A. Marathon Training** sponsored by LDAH. workshop will review special education law, understanding the evaluation process and developing and IEP. FREE 245 N, Kukui St. Suite 205  
 RSVP 536-9684.
- 6/21 Honolulu District Families Embracing Autism Support Group**  
**7/19** FREE 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Kukui Center 245 N. Kukui Street. Free parking.  
 RSVP for childcare 536-9684.
- 6/24 Autism: Elopement/Wandering** workshop, part of the Police and Families as Partners series. FREE 12:30 - 1:30 pm, Waimalu Elementary, 98-825 Moanalua Rd., Aiea  
[www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org](http://www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org)
- 6/24 Autism Society Sibshop Mixer** is a FREE event at Zippy's on Vineyard. Open to siblings ages 12 and over, of a child with a disability. 2:00 - 3:00 pm.  
 RSVP required: [austimhi@gmail.com](mailto:austimhi@gmail.com)
- 7/22 Sensory Friendly Film "Despicable Me 3"** sponsored by the Autism Society of Hawaii. 9:30 - 11:30 am. Keiki with ASD are free, parents \$10.75, siblings \$5.50. Ward Consolidated Theaters in Honolulu. For info, [www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org](http://www.autismsocietyofhawaii.org)
- 6/24 Marathon IDEA Workshop** sponsored by the Learning Disability Association of Hawaii will offer insights into special education law, understanding evaluations and how to develop your child's IEP. FREE. To register, call 536-9684.



## Keep up to date with happenings and events:

1. Sign up for E-Blasts directly to your email inbox. Send us an email to [spin@doh.hawaii.org](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.org).
2. Visit our "Events" page on our website [www.spinhawaii.org](http://www.spinhawaii.org)
3. Like us on Facebook for upcoming workshops, events, and community engagement. Look for "Special Parent Information Network".