



SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

SPECIAL
PARENT
INFORMATION
NETWORK

February 2017
Volume XXXIII, No. 3

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.

SPIN

919 Ala Moana Blvd., # 101
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814



PHONE
586-8126

Neighbor Islands dial the exchange below, then 6-8126

Kauai - **274-3141**
Hawai'i - **974-4000**
Maui - **984-2400**
Molokai - **1-800-468-4644**
Lanai - **1-800-468-4644**



FAX
586-8129



E-MAIL
spin@doh.hawaii.gov



WEB
www.spinhawaii.org



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FINDING YOUR INNER SUPERHERO

Most of the superheros we see on our movie and TV screens are not born a hero. They are self-made. Often their transformation from average citizen to superhero is due to a special set of events that trigger an intense passion, a search for justice and knowledge, and a need for creativity. Those character traits describe a lot of parents of children with disabilities that we know. Not to mention super-teachers and super-therapists.

There's an event coming up on **April 22nd** that will nurture the superhero in each of us. It's our **31st**

Annual SPIN Conference,

of course, and it is boldly titled "**Superheros of SPIN!**" If you sign up for the conference on page 7, here's some of the super stuff you can look forward to:



A sidekick or a group of friends that know your secret.

While superheros can do things by themselves, they are more powerful in teams. The SPIN Conference is the perfect place to find like-minded folks and new friends.



Folks that inspire courage.

Sometimes it takes listening to other parents and professionals to get over our fear of taking action. Between our award winners and exceptional speakers, you'll find lots of positive role models.



Resources to help you get the job done.

We're gathering over fifty agencies and support services in our **Hall of Resources** to assist you in saving the world--one special keiki at a time.



The ability to fly!

If you're a Neighbor Island parent who hasn't yet collected an airfare scholarship, you'll want to act fast.



Super food.

Over the years, the folks at the UH Manoa Campus Center have learned that the way to superheros' hearts is through our stomachs. **YUM!**



Caped crusaders.

Part of the charm of a SPIN conference is that it's both fun and friendly. You'll be in great company, if you decide to dust off your cape or superhero T-shirt and wear it to the conference. We hope to see you there!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Statewide Assessments	2
Test Accommodations	3
Vision for Inclusive Ed	4
Nā Hopena A'o	4
Camp Cool	5
SPIN Award Nominations	5
Superintendent Search	5
Spotlight on Shriners	6
APP Corner	6
Day at the Capitol	6
SPIN Conference !!	7
Calendar of Events	8

Preparing for Your Child's Assessment



February 22nd marks the beginning of the testing window for the **Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)** --Hawaii's statewide assessment given to students in grades 3-8 and 11. The SBA is intended to test all students in these grades with the exception of a small percentage of students with IEPs who, because of the severity of their disability, will take an alternate assessment called the HSA-Alt.

The SBA is designed to provide three categories of testing supports to fit the need of individual students:

- **Universal Supports:** tools that are available to all students. They include options on the computer like zoom text, highlighter, breaks, and math tools, as well as extra supports like scratch paper or a Thesaurus.
- **Designated Supports:** additional supports that have been listed as needed by the student by a teacher or team (like color contrast, text-to-speech technology, or a separate test setting).
- **Accommodations:** changes in procedures or materials that increase equal access to the test for students with disabilities. An example is an American Sign Language video for a student who is Deaf.

In each of the three broad groups of assessment supports, the optional features are either *embedded* (built-in to the software) or *non-embedded* (provided on the spot).

Embedded	Non-Embedded
 <p>Zoom Text • Color contrast • Closed captioning • Braille • other supports as part of the technology</p>	 <p>Supports like dictionaries, seating, extra time, etc.</p>

A student with a disability can be supported in test-taking by all three categories of supports--embedded and non-embedded--as needed. If you are not sure what kinds of supports will be provided to your child this testing period, look at your child's most current IEP. Then read on, as we talk more about how determinations are made and how certain supports benefit students with specific kinds of disabilities.

Smarter Balanced & the IEP Process

The annual IEP meeting requires a discussion of individualized supports and accommodations that may be needed in statewide assessments. Given that the IEP team is made up of individuals who know the strengths and needs of the student--including parents and the student, as appropriate--here are some **relevant questions to help with decision-making**:

Does the student need accommodations in daily instruction? If so, he or she will likely need them during testing.

What testing accommodations has the student regularly used? Are these accommodations or designated supports available in Smarter Balanced?

What do team members think about how well prior testing supports and accommodations have worked?

Here are some **additional things to consider**:

Review Accommodations Annually

An accommodation should not be automatically carried over from year to year without a discussion of its fit to the student's current learning needs.

Involve the Student

The more a student is involved in selecting his or her accommodations, the more likely they will be used.

Practice Makes Perfect

Make sure the student has had opportunities to practice using the support or accommodation prior to testing.

Types of Supports & Accommodations

Accommodations have often been described as falling into the following four categories:

- ✓ Presentation
- ✓ Response
- ✓ Setting
- ✓ Timing/Scheduling

On page 3 we list Accommodations and Designated Supports for students with disabilities by category.



For more information, go to the Hawaii Department of Education's webpage on statewide assessments: <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/Testing/StateAssessment/Pages/home.aspx>

DESIGNATED SUPPORTS & ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

PRESENTATION: Different ways for the student to access information		
Who Can Benefit	Designated Supports	Accommodations
Students with print disabilities (difficulty or inability to visually read standard print because of a physical, sensory or cognitive disability)	Color contrast Color overlays Magnification (using an assistive technology device)	
Students who have reading-related disabilities	Read aloud by a trained adult (except for reading passages) Text-to-speech technology	
Students with vision disabilities	Magnification (using an assistive technology device)	Braille
Students with vision disabilities who are not Braille users	Text-to-speech technology Read aloud by a trained adult	Read aloud by a trained adult
Students with attention difficulties or distractability	Turning off universal tools Color contrast Color overlays Masking	
Students who are Deaf or hard of hearing and use American Sign Language		American Sign Language (ASL) Closed captioning
RESPONSE: Different ways for the student to show knowledge		
Who Can Benefit	Designated Supports	Accommodations
Students with vision disabilities		Abacus Braille or talking calculator
Students who have significant motor or processing difficulties	Scribe (a trained adult who writes down what a student dictates) - for non-writing items and math items	Alternate Response Options (like adapted keyboards) Scribe - for writing items Speech-to-text (using the student's voice to give responses for writing items)
Students with a calculation disability (like dyscalcula)		Multiplication table
Students with a recent injury that makes it difficult to type	Scribe (a trained adult who writes down what a student dictates) - for non-writing items and math items	Scribe - for writing items Speech-to-text
SETTING: Changing the location or conditions of the testing setting		
Who Can Benefit	Designated Supports	Accommodations
Students who are easily distracted (or may distract others)	Separate setting	
TIMING: Changing the length or organization of the time for testing		
Who Can Benefit	Designated Supports	Accommodations
Students who require designated supports or accommodations that add to the time needed to complete the test	NOTE: There is no need for a specific designated support or accommodation under timing, as the Smarter Balanced Assessment is not timed.	

SEAC Vision of Inclusive Education

On February 10th the **Special Education Advisory Council** adopted the following vision of inclusive education for ALL students including those with disabilities that embraces the six components of the **Nā Hopena A‘o** as incorporated into the Hawai‘i DOE/BOE Strategic Plan.

Strengthened Sense of Belonging:

- Inclusive education embraces and educates ALL students in relevant and meaningful general education classes in their neighborhood schools that strengthen student connection to knowing who they are, where they are from, and what they belong to.
- Every student feels welcome and their unique needs and learning styles are attended to and valued.

Strengthened Sense of Responsibility:

- All educators can effectively facilitate learning for all students.
- Students with disabilities are fully participating members of the school community and have opportunities to identify and use their learning within their school community.
- Providers of teacher education (preservice and inservice) embrace preparation for diverse learners as a core component of their mission.
- Students in the school community embrace their learning to support one another on their learning journeys and to make school a safe and welcoming space for all – education is a kākou thing and belongs to all of us.

Strengthened Sense of Excellence:

- Teachers value the strengths of their students with disabilities and are prepared to treat all students, including students with disabilities, as capable learners who are entitled to high-quality instruction and access to challenging content that fully prepares them for an active role in community, careers and postsecondary education.
- Students with disabilities are able to define success for themselves and have opportunities to apply their unique gifts and abilities to support their school community and advance their personal goals.

Strengthened Sense of Aloha:

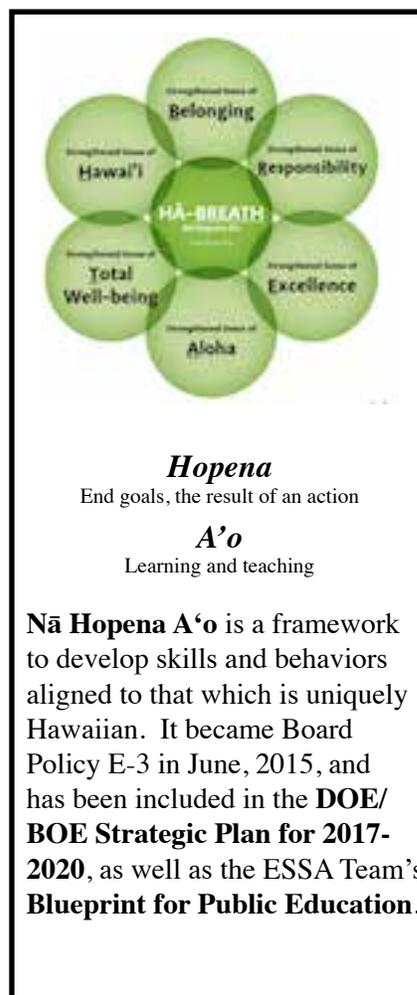
- All schools are inclusive and as such have a collaborative and respectful school culture where students with disabilities are presumed to be competent, have opportunities to develop positive social relationships with peers, and are fully participating members of the school community.

Strengthened Sense of Total Well-Being:

- Inclusive education creates and sustains an inclusive educational community where each student is empowered to learn, achieve and realize his or her potential. They are encouraged and supported to contribute and participate in all areas of education; extracurricular activities: sports, school government, clubs, etc.

Strengthened Sense of Hawai‘i:

- Students with disabilities have access to content learning experiences that enriches their sense of place and culture. All students have opportunities that enhance their ability to be contributing members of their community, State and Nation.



The **Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)** is Hawaii’s State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Among other duties, SEAC is tasked with advising the Department of Education on the unmet needs of students with disabilities.

If you have questions or comments regarding SEAC’s **Vision of Inclusive Education**, you can contact them at seac.hawaii@gmail.com or visit their website at www.seac-hawaii.org.

2017 SPIN Awards Needs Your Nominations!

Every year, SPIN publicly celebrates key parents and professionals whose efforts make a positive difference in the lives of our keiki with disabilities and their families. The SPIN Advisory Committee is looking for superhero candidates for our 2017 SPIN Awards and we need your help in nominating someone who models the qualities and actions that families appreciate and rely on. There are three award categories:

- The **Parent of the Year Award** is given to a parent of a child or young adult with a disability whose actions and advocacy have benefited other families.
- The **Professional of the Year Award** is given to a professional who has had a significant impact in improving services for children and or youth with a disability and their families.
- The **Family Choice Award** is given to a professional who has been particularly helpful to families as they sort out services for their child with a disability. This individual may not have an impact on the larger system, but is recognized in his or her community as an extraordinary professional.

We encourage you to share your aloha and nominate one or more very special people for any or all of the awards. You can go to our website at www.spinhawaii.org, click on the conference tab and download a nomination form. Or call us at 586-8126 and we'll mail you a form. Deadline to apply is March 15th.



State of Hawaii
Board of Education

SUPERINTENDENT CHARACTERISTICS SURVEY

The Board of Education (BOE) is in the process of searching for a new Superintendent of Hawaii's public schools. A professional search firm has been hired to help ensure that a number of highly qualified candidates are encouraged to apply for the position that current Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi will vacate on June 30th.

While Board members will have the responsibility to vote in the new Superintendent, they are actively seeking input through a variety of sources, including an Advisory Group, student representatives, employee unions and lawmakers. They also want to hear from the general public through an on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HISuptSearch>. The survey asks folks to identify the nine most important characteristics they would like to see in a new school leader out of a total list of twenty-seven.

The survey is due to close at 8:00 a.m. on February 27, 2017, so let your voice be heard. If you'd like to keep current on the search process go to: <http://boe.hawaii.gov/About/Pages/Superintendent-Search-2017.aspx>.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE
CENTERS OF HAWAII (ATRC)
presents

~ CAMP COOL 2017 ~ JUNGLE ADVENTURE

For children ages 8-15

APRIL 1 & 8, 2017

Two consecutive Saturdays

Place: ASSETS SCHOOL, 1 Ohana Nui Way
Honolulu, HI 96818

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cost: \$20 suggested donation
Free T-shirt and lunch included

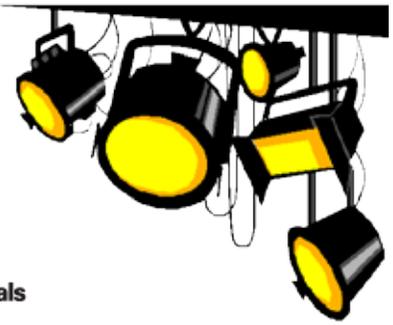
For more information and registration,
Call **Lynne Rackmil** at (808) 532-7116 or
Email her at lynne@atrc.org.

Join us for this Interactive jungle experience.





Spotlight on Support



Mindfulness can help us pay attention to what is happening inside ourselves and our surroundings with an open mind. It engages both active thinking, where we create positive thoughts and feelings as well as resting the mind, where we can let the stresses of the day go and calm our busy minds.



The “Stop, Breathe & Think” app is a free mindfulness, meditation and compassion-building tool that is easy and fun to use. It encourages you to stop what your doing, check in with what your thinking and feeling and then practice mindful breathing and meditation to deepen your awareness. You can set timers, use guided meditations and track your feelings with a mood tracker. Great for all ages and can be used daily for just minutes a day. You can download the app for free for iOS, Android and your computer at www.stopbreathe.think.org.

Shriners Hospital for Children Honolulu has been providing the highest quality care for children aged birth to 18, in Hawaii since 1923. They provide several clinics featuring expert doctors, skilled nurses and caring staff:

- Dental Clinics & Dental Under Sedation Clinic
- Orthopedics Injury Clinic (Mon-Fri, 8:00 - 12:00 pm)
- Orthotic & Prosthetic Services
- Rehabilitation Services (OT, PT, SLP)
- Scoliosis & Spine Care
- Neurodevelopmental Clinic



They also provide satellite clinics in

- Hilo, Hawaii
- Kona/Waimea, Hawaii
- Kahului, Maui
- Lihue, Kauai
- Kaunakakai, Molokai



For more information, visit them on their website: <http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/en/locations/honolulu#> or call **808-941-4466**.

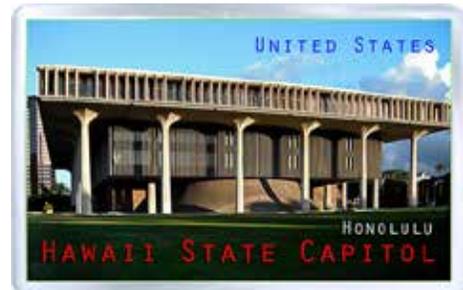
A Day at the Capitol

Thursday March 16, 2017, State Capitol Auditorium, Chamber Level 9:00 - 3:00 pm

March is Developmental Disabilities Month and one of the many activities happening this month is the Day at the Capitol. It is an annual event that celebrates and encourages individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to take the opportunity to discuss disability-related issues and concerns with legislators and network with other concerned citizens.

Activities for the Day:

- Continental breakfast
- Welcome & orientation
- Meet with Legislators
- House & Senate floor sessions
- Lunch
- Legislative hearings
- Meet with Legislators
- Tour of State Capital



For more information and registration forms, call the DD Council office at 808-586-8100. **Deadline to register is Friday February 24, 2017.** Forms received after the deadline may not assure requests for lunch or accommodations will be met.





"Superheroes of SPIN"

31st Annual SPIN Conference

Saturday April 22, 2017 * UH Manoa Campus Center Ballroom



8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration * Networking * Displays (AKA: The Hall of Resources)
9:00 am – 9:45 am Keynote Presentation in the Ballroom (AKA: Headquarters)
9:45 am – 10:15 am View Displays in the Hall of Resources * Networking

Episode 1: 10:20 am – 11:20 am

"To Infinity and Beyond"	"The Hall of Records"	"Transformers"	"Super Sibs"	"Tiny Superheroes"	Super Gadgets and Tools"
Transition to Adulthood	Record Keeping Make-n-Take	Modifications & Accommodations	Sibling Supports	Early Intervention Transitions	Getting Assistive Tech in the IEP

11:30 am – 1:00 pm View Displays in the Hall of Resources
12:00 pm – 1:15 pm Buffet Lunch in the Ballroom * Awards Presentation

Episode 2: 1:20 pm – 2:20 pm

"Superhero Behavioral Tips"	"Dynamic Duos"	"Rated Teen to Mature"	"Awaken the Force"	"Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters"	"The Justice League"
Positive Behavioral Supports	Making Friends	Sex and Relationships	Getting Kids to Join in Their Healthcare	Employment: Training and Preparation	Handling Disagreements

Episode 3: 2:30 pm- 3:30 pm

"I Have Autism; What's Your Superpower?"	"Code Breakers"	"Unleash Your Inner Superpowers"	"Get S.M.A.R.T."
Positive Strategies for Autism	Building Speech and Language	Overcoming Anxiety and Depression	Writing S.M.A.R.T. IEP Goals

Workshops subject to change



Registration Form



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____ Island _____
Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____
Email _____
Child's Disability _____ Child's Age _____

___ \$25 per Parent ___ \$45 for two Family Members ___ \$25 per College Students ___ \$40 per Professional
make checks payable to SPIN (Special Parent Information Network)

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Received by _____ Date rec'd _____

Airfare Scholarships are limited and based on availability ~ apply early!

Download scholarship forms from our website at www.spinhawaii.org

___ I am a neighbor island parent/grandparent of a child with special needs and would like to apply for a SPIN scholarship.
___ Please send me my application via ___ email ___ postal mail
___ My airfare scholarship application is enclosed



___ I need an accommodation due to a disability
___ Materials in an alternate format (Braille, tape, etc.) Type: _____
___ Sign language interpreter or CART Type: _____
___ Other: _____

A map of the conference center and map of parking, including accessible parking stalls for persons with disabilities, will be sent out a few weeks before the conference, via email. If you prefer this information to be sent via mail, check here ____.

Send completed forms with registration fees as soon as possible to:

SPIN, 919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101, Honolulu, HI 96814

Fax: (808) 586-8129 Email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov Call us: (808) 586-8126 Web: www.spinhawaii.org



Spring Calendar of Events



2/19 Autism Eats @ Old Spaghetti Factory
 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, \$14 kids, \$23 adults
 Register and pre-pay at www.autismeats.org
 For more info call Autism Society 368-1191

2/28 Side by Side Parent Support Group
 6:30 - 8:30 pm FREE Theme: "Understanding Your Child's Evaluations."
 Inspire Church in Waialeale.
 Email sidebyside@inspirechurch.tv

3/2-30 Beginning Sign Language Classes
 Thursday nights from 6:00 - 7:30 pm FREE
 91-1250 Renton Rd., Ewa Beach
 RSVP: Roz_Kia@hsdb.k12.hi.us



3/4 Access Surf Day at the Beach
4/1 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, FREE surfing event for all ages and abilities. White Plains, Ewa Beach
5/6 Sign up online at www.accessurf.org

3/10 SEAC - Special Education Advisory
4/7 Committee Meeting 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
5/12 Call for meeting location 586-8126.
www.seac-hawaii.org

3/11 Youth Mental Health 1st Aid
 8:00 am - 4:30 pm FREE Kalihi Elementary School, 626 McNeil St., Honolulu
 RSVP: www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-mental-health-first-aid-tickets-31912233349



3/15 Honolulu District Families Embracing
4/19 Autism 6:00 - 7:00 pm FREE
 Different topics each month. 3rd Wednesday every month, Free parking and childcare with
 RSVP 536-9684.

3/16 Day at the Capital with Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities
 8:00 am - 12:00 pm FREE
 Meet with legislators and celebrate diversity.
 RSVP 586-8100.

3/18 Planning for the Future
 10:00 am - 11:30 pm FREE
 Scott Suzuki, Attorney at Law, discusses guardianship, power of attorney, wills and new laws. Shriners Hospital for Children 1310 Punahou St., Honolulu. RSVP www.eventbrite.com/e/planning-for-the-future-tickets-31904438033



4/7-8 Wrights Law Bootcamp
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm \$230 for parents
 Pete & Pam Wright will discuss IEP's, ESSA and how to be an effective advocate for your child. Pagoda Ballroom, 1525 Rycroft St., Honolulu. www.wrightslawbootcamp.ldcenterofhawaii.com

4/12 Epilepsy Talk Story
 5:30 - 6:30 pm FREE Every other month will have a presentation from community organizations and talk story after. 1050 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 2550, Honolulu
 RSVP: naomi@epilepsyhawaii.org

SAVE THE DATE!

4/22 31st Annual SPIN Conference "Superheroes of SPIN"
 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at UH Campus Center
 Registration forms and airfare scholarships available www.spinhawaii.org, call us at 586-8126 or email spin@doh.hawaii.gov



For more events and happenings around the state, be sure to visit our website events calendar at www.spinhawaii.org/ events and like us on Facebook!



SPIN - Special Parent Information Network

