



SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

SPECIAL
PARENT
INFORMATION
NETWORK

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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

2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN HINDSIGHT

Each January through May SPIN follows the progress of the Hawaii State Legislature to report important legislation and funding to benefit children with disabilities. In doing so we hope to encourage families to get involved in the process. Sometimes a few heart felt testimonies make a difference in whether a bill is passed or put to rest.

Here's a quick wrap-up on funding and laws passed. Of course, we have up until early June to see if the Governor plans to veto bills passed.

Funded Requests

There were some groups and causes that received big funding this session included the following:



► a whopping \$100 million to the Department of Education to cool or air condition up to 1000 classrooms across the state.

► \$16,537,791 in additional Weighted Student Formula monies to help public schools address needed supports.

► Almost \$7 million in additional funding for public school transportation, including bus contracts for students with disabilities.

► \$10 million in preschool subsidies through the Open Doors program to enable almost 2,000 at risk preschoolers to attend private preschools.

► \$460,000 for the Department of Education to provide training and prepare for the implementation of the Restraints and Seclusion bill (page 3).

► \$12,000,000 to help find housing for homeless families.

Unfunded Requests

A number of state departments and agencies are wondering how to pay for needed services for the coming year:



► For the DOE, a \$10 million shortfall for services for students whose second language is English and a \$3 million shortfall for skilled nursing services.

► For the Developmental Disabilities Division, \$2.8 million in matching monies for the DD/ID Waiver.

► In Department of Human Services budget for Medicaid, \$6 million+ for early diagnosis and treatment of autism in keiki through age 6.

Turn to page 2 for information on important bills.

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New Legislation Passed by the 2016 Legislature



TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM ABA LICENSING



SB 1311 acknowledges the need to have “direct support workers” who are providing autism treatment services to students with disabilities as part of an IEP to meet the licensing requirements established last year in Act 199. However, given that the current workforce is inadequate to meet these needs, legislators gave the Department of Education until January 1, 2019 to ensure its teachers or paraprofessionals who directly implement autism intervention or assessment plans under supervision have time to become credentialed as a Registered Behavioral Technician.

LANGUAGE MILESTONES FOR DEAF STUDENTS



The purpose of **SB 2476** is to address the very real problem that many deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind children between the ages of 0-5 have received very little or no language instruction. This bill will enhance language development for these keiki and prepare them to be ready for kindergarten. The Executive Office of Early Learning, the Department of Health, and the Department of Education will form a working group with parents, teachers and individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind to discuss issues and make recommendations to the Legislature.

DEFINITION OF DEVELOP- MENTAL DISABILITIES



This law (**Act 032**) extends eligibility for services from the Developmental Disabilities Division (case management, waiver services, etc.) to children from birth to age nine who have a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition, and who are likely to meet the strict criteria for developmental disabilities (for example, substantial delays in 3 or more life activities) later in life. The result is that infants and young children can receive early intervention and supports that may help lessen the extent of their disability.

PHYSICAL EXAMS FOR SEVENTH GRADERS



Currently, physical exams are only required when students start school, usually in kindergarten. Starting with the 2017-18 school year, **SB 2387** will require that students entering seventh grade at a public school also show proof of a recent physical examination. If students are not able to complete the exam before December 31st of their 7th grade year, the Department of Health will step in to provide information to their parents and guardians about healthy lifestyles and how to obtain health insurance. The bill also aims to prevent or address childhood obesity by ensuring students see a health care provider.

Champion for Keiki Bids Aloha to the Senate

Senator Suzanne “Susie” Chun Oakland surprised family-serving agencies by announcing that she will not run for reelection in the Fall.



Senator Chun Oakland has been the Chair of the Senate Committee on Human Services, and also serves on the Education and Ways and Means Committees. She began her career in the House of Representatives in 1990 where she helped found the Keiki Caucus along with Representative Dennis Arakaki. It has since grown to 27 House and Senate members who partner with dedicated community groups to sponsor legislation that affects the health, education and safety of Hawaii youth. Students are also a big part of the Keiki Caucus, and their ideas are showcased every year in October in a Children and Youth Summit.

If you, like SPIN, are going to miss Susie’s leadership, her dedication to the needs of children and families, her wisdom and her warm smile, drop her an email at senchunoakland@capitol.hawaii.gov to say mahalo and aloha.

Restraints and Seclusion Bill to Take Effect August 1, 2016

In 2014 advocacy organizations representing Hawaii families of children with disabilities worked with legislators and the Department of Education to pass **Act 206**, known commonly as the **Restraints and Seclusion Bill**. It was patterned after federal legislation that was drafted to end the emotional and physical harm to students caused by restraining them (through medication, harnesses or by physically holding them) and by locking them in rooms or closets against their will. A large portion of the students harmed were students with disabilities who had behavioral outbursts or who failed to follow the teacher's instructions.

In passing Act 206 the Legislature gave the Department of Education until August 1, 2016 to have the following in place:



A complete ban on the use of seclusion, chemical restraints and mechanical restraints.



Limits of physical restraint to danger of harm to the student or others or to property.



Policies and procedures regarding the use of restraints in schools.



At least annual review of data on restraint.



Training and annual recertification for teachers and staff who use restraints.



Verbal notification to parents as soon as restraint occurs and in writing within 24 hours.

"There is no evidence that physically restraining or putting children in unsupervised seclusion in the K-12 school system provides any educational or therapeutic benefit to a child. In fact, use of either seclusion or restraints in non-emergency situations poses significant physical and psychological danger to students."

--U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, 2014



Use and Scope of Restraints

Act 206 reduces the circumstances where physical restraints can be applied to only those instances where a student's behavior poses a present threat of property damage or physical injury to the student or others. The restraint can only be used for as long as the danger exists. Restraints **cannot** be used for discipline or convenience.

Focus on Prevention

This law is not only about reducing the incidence of restraints. It's also about preventing the need for emergency interventions by teaching educators how to use positive behavior supports to promote a positive school culture and climate where all students feel safe.

For a copy of Act 206:

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2014/bills/HB1796_CD1_.PDF

Definitions in Act 206

Chemical restraint means a drug or medication used on a student to control behavior or restrict freedom of movement; provided that the term does not include a drug or medication that is:

(1) Prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under state law, for the standard treatment of a student's medical or psychiatric condition; and

(2) Administered as prescribed by a licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under state law.

Mechanical restraint means the use of devices as a means of restricting a student's freedom of movement or the ability to communicate in the student's primary language or mode of communication.

Physical restraint means a personal restriction, other than a chemical or mechanical restraint, that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the student's arms, legs, or head freely.

Seclusion means the confinement of a student alone in a room or structure from which the student is physically denied voluntary egress (the freedom to leave).



Social media apps have evolved and are not your mother's Facebook anymore. They are popping up with alarming speed, targeting our tweens and teens and encouraging them to post and share anonymously. That has many parents, teachers and safety officers worried. According to SafeSmartSocial.com, where you can watch videos to learn which apps can support or harm your child's online profile, when students use apps in anonymous mode, they tend to behave badly and are more prone to bullying and predators. Apps that are considered not safe for students under 17 are: Afterschool, Ask.fm, Burnbook, Calculator Private Photo, Kik Messenger, Ogle, OoVoo, Slingshot, Tumblr, Whisper, Wishbone, Yik Yak and YouNow. The National Crime Prevention Council recommends these three simple steps to increase internet safety:

1. Don't give optional information when creating a profile, just your name and email.
2. Choose "friends only" as your privacy setting.
3. Accept only people you know as friends.

Social apps can be used to develop a positive profile that colleges and potential employers can learn about your child. Here are a few tips to keep your teen on the right path:

- Be "friends" with your child on their social media apps and have access to their passwords.
- Keep the lines of communication open.
- Talk to them about their future and give them a chance to prove they can be responsible.

Spotlight on Support



HelpYourKeiki.com is a website designed to support parents and caregivers with a child or young adult who may have emotional or behavioral difficulties. It is updated and maintained by the Evidence-Based Services Committee and has 4 major sections for parents to navigate the site and easily find information.

1. **Common Problems:** If you think your child may suffer from attentional issues, depression, trauma, anxiety, eating disorders, autism or disruptive behaviors, you can click on a symptom to learn more about the behavior, common signs and symptoms and find ways for parents, keiki and professionals to help your keiki.
2. **What Works:** Not all treatments for emotional and behavioral problems are proven to work, so Help Your Keiki has compiled research supported or "evidence-based" practices. Here you will find "Keiki Skills" that your child can develop and use to help themselves, "Parent Tools" are activities that you can use at home and "Treatments that Work" showcase the best, proven, evidence-based treatments that you can discuss with your child's mental health professional.
3. **Find Help:** guides you on who to call for help depending on your child's insurance.
4. **Resources:** covers topics from educational needs to where to find family support to what to expect and questions to ask during therapy.

Funding Cuts Will Affect SPIN Newsletter

Though SPIN has been around for over 30 years, most people don't realize that we are funded by the Department of Education on a year-to-year contract. The contracted funds support two full time staff, support to SEAC, trainings such as the SPIN Conference, the SPIN line and the SPIN News. The newsletter is printed 4 times a year and distributed to families, principals, teachers and other service providers around the state. Funding for our upcoming contract, beginning July 1st, will be significantly reduced and one of the ways to make our budget work will be to stop printing the quarterly newsletter. We will still be able to offer it electronically, so if you have received this edition as a "hard copy" via "snail mail", or if you received this newsletter from one of our community partners, please call us at 808-586-8126 or send us an email to spin@doh.hawaii.gov so we can add you to the email distribution list for the newsletter.



2016 Parent of the Year Awards



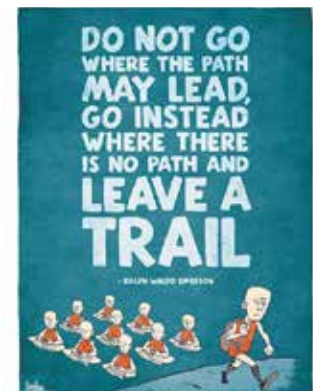
Debbie Kobyakawa

Debbie has been a life-long advocate for her son, Ian, who is 26 and living a successful life in the community. She has worked as a special education teacher, and is currently employed as a parent consultant and personal assistant to a young lady who is attending community college. She serves on the Special Education Advisory Council and is active in Special Olympics and the Windward Children's Community Council. Despite her busy schedule, Debbie is working to establish a network of parent support through mentoring and technical assistance.



Rosie Rowe

Over the last 10 years, Rosie has empowered thousands of families while working at the Learning Disability Association of Hawaii. She works tirelessly to equip parents with the tools, training and information they need to be the best advocates for their children, while advocating for legislation and policies to benefit children and families. Rosie wears many hats - she's a leader, a teacher, a champion, a parent and a role model. Most importantly, she never gives up, and works to improve special education systems, for her own family and our island community.



2016 Family Choice Awards



Tammy Evrard

Tammy is the Program Specialist for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She is a great role model for self-advocates in empowering and supporting them to be the best they can be with three easy steps: Think - Plan - Do. Through her genuine care and mentoring, the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council has flourished and grown and members serve on several task forces, committees and work groups around the state. Tammy also works with the Best Buddies program, promoting friendships between students with and without disabilities.



Susan Okamura

Susan is a mom to two special children and a gifted Speech Language Pathologist with over 20 years of experience. She has worked with little keiki in early intervention, Central district school kids and as a professor and clinical supervisor at UH Speech Pathology Program and now has her own practice providing speech services and academic tutoring. Susan's dedication to serving children and families led her to start a parent support group called Side By Side and she is also a coach for Team Inspire with Hawaii's Special Olympics.

2016 Professionals of the Year

Representative Roy Takumi

Representative Takumi has been a Hawaii legislator for over 20 years and has served as the Chair of the House Education Committee since 2002. He is a believer in and strong advocate for universal preschools and giving schools the autonomy, flexibility and resources to serve thier students. He co-sponsored the Restraints and Seclusion bill and was key in this year's legislative session, in carving out funding to train teachers in the use of positive behavioral supports so that restraints are less likely to be used. Special education advocates and families appreciate that Representative Takumi has come to understand the needs of special education students and is always ready to act on thier behalf.

Ability

is what you're capable of doing.

Motivation

determines what you do.

Attitude

determines how well you do it.

Mahalo 

Bill Arakaki

Kauai Complex Area Superintendent Arakaki has served public education students for 36 years. He developed a heart for kids he called the "underdogs" while teaching in an alternative learning center and is a champion for special education students and issues. CAS Arakaki has been an active member of the Kauai Children's Community Council for over 10 years and worked with the DD Council and other community groups to create the Mauka to Makai Bully-Free Kauai initiative which includes all school, County Parks and Recreation programs on Kauai.





Summer Events & Workshops



- 6/4** **Easter Seals Hawaii Girls Group 2016** offers classes for girls ages 12-20 years old. **6/4** will be a community work day at Kanewai Lo'i and **6/11** will be a cooking class at Down to Earth. email: youthenrollment@eastersealshawaii.org.
- 6/6** **Hawaii Assn. for Infant Mental Health** workshop "Using Play to Promote Healthy Relationships, Language and Development in the First Year." 1505 Dillingham Blvd. Suite 214 Visit www.spinhawaii.org/events and click on the link to register.
- 6/7** **Youth Mental Health First Aide** is offering a **FREE** workshop at the Ma'ili Community Learning Center. Visit www.spinhawaii.org/events and click on the link to register.
- 6/11** **Access Surf** will be hosting a **Day at the Beach at White Plains** from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Free surfing event, for all ages and abilities. Sign up @ www.accesssurf.org.
- 6/18** **Building the "Lego's" of Autism** sponsored by the **Autism Society of Hawaii** is a **FREE** event at the Liliha Library meeting room. 2:00 - 3:00 pm. RSVP austimhi@gmail.com
- 6/24** **Easter Seals Boys Night 2016** is for boys ages 12-20. **6/24** will meet at Ward Theaters for "Finding Dory" and **7/29** will meet at Dave and Busters. 6:30 - 8:30 pm. email: youthenrollment@eastersealshawaii.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.



Special Parent Information Network
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Providing a world of support to parents of children with special needs