



SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

SPECIAL
PARENT
INFORMATION
NETWORK

September 2014
Volume XXXI, No. 1

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

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814



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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



SPIN Turns 30!

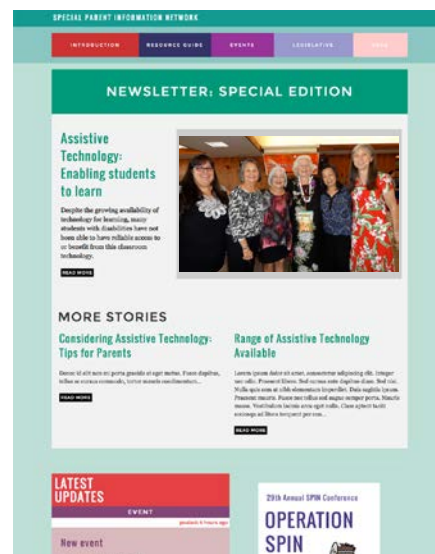


In the fall of 1984, three brave moms approached the Director of Special Education requesting a specialized information and referral program for parents of children with disabilities. They also asked that the program use "veteran parents" --parents who had collected some knowledge of resources and strategies for working with agencies--to offer the support to families.

Their final request was that a home for the program be found outside of the DOE, so families would feel comfortable sharing confidential information about their child's experience at school.

The Disability and Communication Access Board, a state agency within the Department of Health offering information and technical assistance on a wide range of disability issues, accepted the offer to partner with the Department of Education. That partnership--the Special Parent Information Network, or SPIN--has lasted for thirty years, thanks in large part to our loyal parents and helping professionals who read our newsletter, attend our conferences and advocate for systems change to benefit children with disabilities and their families.

Given our elderly age, we decided SPIN needed a face lift, and we are excited to announce that we will be launching a new website in October with a 21st century look, an interactive calendar and lots of family friendly features. Of course, we are still available by phone or email to offer personalized information



SPIN's new website format

and parent-to-parent support.

October is also the month we will welcome a new Program Specialist to join SPIN-ster Susan Rocco. With sixteen wonderful SPIN Advisory members (representing fourteen agencies guiding our activities and, we are looking to have a great birthday and a banner year.

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Special Education Monitoring Shifts to RDA: Results-Driven Accountability

Has federal monitoring always been a part of special education?

Since the passing of the original federal special education law in 1975, which provides a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities (now called the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, IDEA**), Congress has built in a monitoring system to ensure that every state is held accountable for how it educates its students with disabilities. That system identified the **Office of Special Education Programs** as the key body to check how states were carrying out their responsibilities.



What activities are included in the monitoring?

✓ Review of State Data and Reports

Since 2004 these reports have included:

- A **State Improvement Plan (SPP)** - a six year plan for improving student achievement by gathering data on key indicators of student success--graduation rates, least restrictive environment, timely access to due process for students and families, for example. Targets are set for improving results and the state describes activities to achieve these goals.
- An **Annual Performance Report (APR)** - a yearly report to OSEP on the progress it has made that year in meeting its SPP targets.

✓ Verification Visits - periodic visits to a state by a federal monitoring team to double-check data that has been submitted and provide some technical assistance on how the state might improve results.

✓ Annual State Determinations - once OSEP receives the SPP and APR, it decides if the state:

- 1) *meets all requirements*
- 2) *needs assistance* in implementing requirements
- 3) *needs intervention* in implementing IDEA or
- 4) *needs substantial intervention* in implementing IDEA.

These state determinations can be found at: www2.ed.gov/fund/data/report/idea/partbspap/allyears.html.

✓ Enforcement / Sanctions - specific actions for states who have not met all requirements to take and penalties (like taking away federal special education dollars to the state), if the state fails to take corrective action.



What is Results-Driven Accountability?

Results Driven Accountability, or RDA, is a new monitoring focus on student outcomes. From 2004 to 2013 the determination of whether a state was meeting the requirements of IDEA was made primarily on how well it met the “letter of the law”--for example, whether timelines were met and data was collected properly. OSEP began to notice two things: 1) states were getting better and better at these compliance requirements, **but** 2) students with disabilities were continuing to lag behind their non-disabled peers in student achievement.

Over the last two years OSEP has invited special education stakeholders (teachers, administrators and parents) to help shift its accountability system to meet the “spirit of the law”--helping students with disabilities achieve academically and in their lives after high school. That’s why the last Annual Performance Report for SY 12-13 (submitted in February 2014) was “graded” by OSEP on both compliance with the law and how well students were performing on key indicators-- like student performance on statewide assessments.

What was Hawaii’s determination for school year 12-13?

OSEP’s feedback to Hawaii was that we did not perform well on student outcomes. If Hawaii does not show improvements in student achievement for SY 13-14, we will be determined to **need assistance** in implementing IDEA requirements.



As in past years, Hawaii did well in meeting timelines.



Student performance on assessments was significantly lower than same age peers.

State Systemic Improvement Plans: A New Requirement under RDA

OSEP has added a new indicator to the list of reporting requirements in the Annual Performance Report for SY 13-14 (due in April of 2015)--Indicator 17 or the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). This indicator was added as a process to help states create a multi-year, achievable plan to achieve two main goals:

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- ☞ Improving results for students with disabilities and their families, and
- ☞ Help schools deliver and maintain evidence-based practices that have been shown to work.

In developing the SSIP, OSEP wants states to concentrate on three indicators that have been shown to have a huge impact on how well students with disabilities benefit from their education:



Graduation Rates



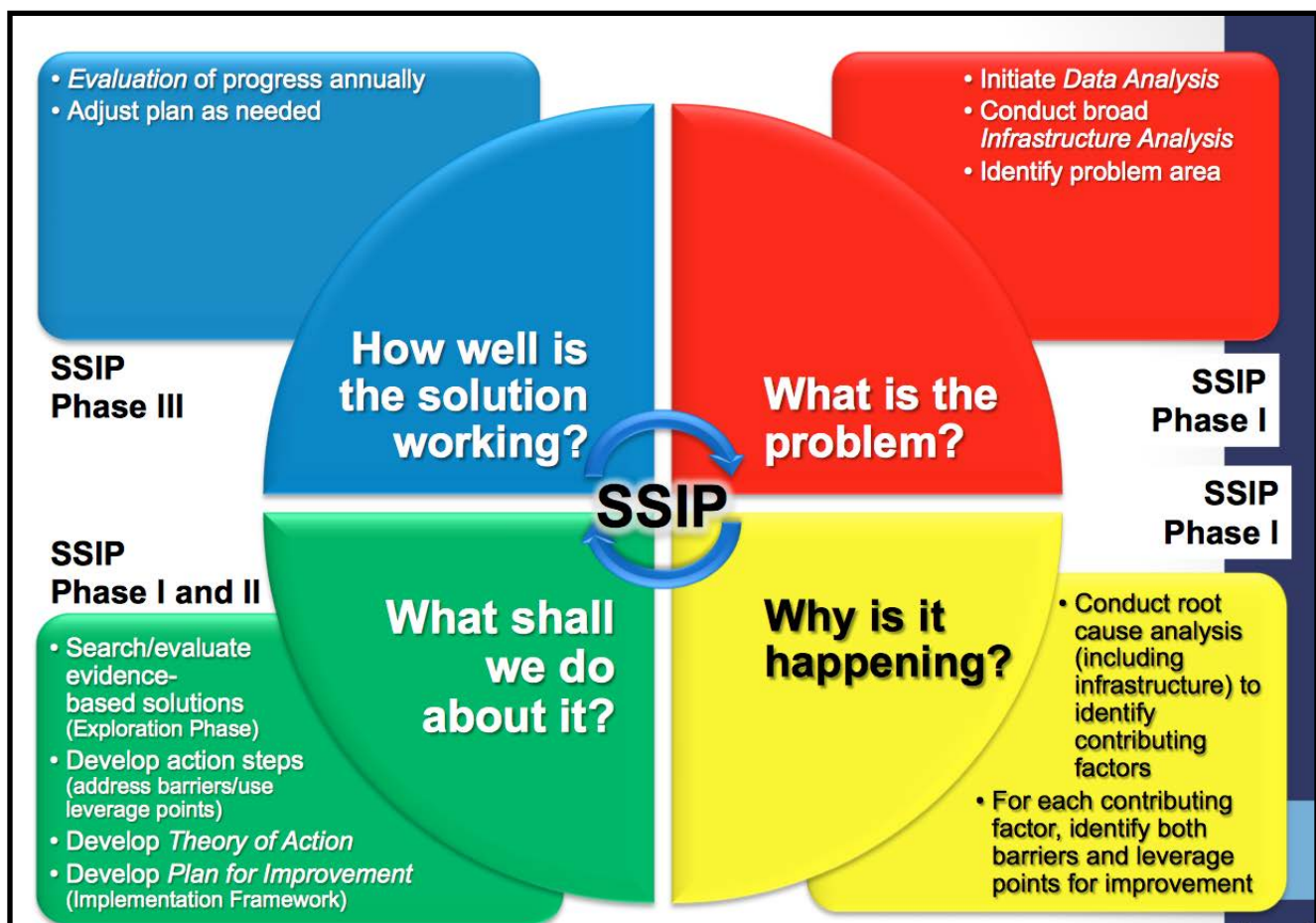
Performance on Statewide Assessments



Post-high School Outcomes

As you can see by the diagram below, the SSIP process is so big and broad that it is meant to be completed in three phases. Phase I is happening now and will last until April 2015 when the APR, including an identified target(s) and examination of factors contributing to poor outcomes, is submitted to OSEP. Phase II results are due in early 2016, and Phase III in early 2017.

ALL PHASES OF THE STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE BROAD STAKEHOLDER INPUT. Check out page 4 to see how you might offer your expert advice.



Adding Your Voice to the SSIP



Principle #1 of Results Driven Accountability is partnership with stakeholders. This is important for lots of reasons including:

- ◆ adding a wide range of ideas, experience and expertise to help make informed decisions;
- ◆ making the process more transparent;
- ◆ building trust between the Department of Education and stakeholders, and
- ◆ reducing the likelihood of conflict in the future.

Not every parent or helping professional is interested or available to do systems change work. But most of us like to be informed of our options and what new programs or initiatives may help our child or students with disabilities succeed. Here are a couple of suggestions for both receiving information and offering your input:



The **Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)** is required to be part of the SSIP process and holds monthly meetings on Oahu that are open to the public. Check out their agenda and minutes at www.spinhawaii.org/SAP/sap.html.



The **Community Children's Councils** hold monthly meetings in seventeen communities across the state to discuss a variety of issues affecting special education, including the SSIP. To find information on the CCC nearest you, call the Community Children's Council Office at 586-5363 or visit <http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/SupportForParents/Pages/CCC.aspx>.



Once our new **SPIN** website is up and running in October, we plan to post updates on how the SSIP is progressing. You are invited to call (586-8126) or email us (spin@doh.hawaii.org) with your questions or comments. We'll make sure they are shared with other stakeholders.



"It's Child's Play!" is a fun and informative workshop aimed at helping families of young deaf or hard of hearing children build positive relationships through play. Inga Park Okuna, a play therapist and counselor, will touch on the purpose of play, therapeutic play, creating a *Special Time* (with a purpose and rules), and other interesting topics.

The date for the workshop is October 18th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at HSDB, 3340 Leahi Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815. The workshop is **FREE** and childcare will be provided for children ages 3-8 if you RSVP by October 14th.

For questions about the workshop, contact HSDB's Parent & Community Liaison, Rosalind Kia at (808) 733-4999 or email her at: roz_kia@notes.k12.hi.us.

*September is a month of awareness
for childhood cancer & suicide prevention.*



TAKE THE PARENT SURVEY

The Hawaii Department of Education, as a part of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Program's monitoring requirements, is conducting a parent survey.

Parents will be given the survey at their child's annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

The survey will give parents the opportunity to voice their opinion on the school's efforts to partner with parents and improve educational services for their children. All parents are encouraged to complete the survey.

For more information, contact Karen Sato at 305-9806.



STEER ON OVER TO THESE...



The Down Syndrome Ohana of Hawaii
(DSOH)
invites you to

Hawai'i Buddy Walk 2014

Saturday, October 11, 2014
Kaka'ako Makai Park

Come on down and get some
exercise with your family!

The Buddy Walk® was created by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995 to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. The Buddy Walk has grown from 17 walks in 1995 to nearly 275 walks planned for 2014 worldwide.

In 2013, more than \$12.1 million was raised nationwide to benefit local programs and services, as well as the national advocacy initiatives of NDSS that benefit all individuals with Down Syndrome.

To find out how you can participate, contact the DSOH at 366-6706.

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM AND HAWAII EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE

The Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC) will be hosting the 2014 Leadership Symposium and Early Childhood Conference, "2014: Equity for Every Child", on October 10-11, 2014 at the Hawaii Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Connect with other early childhood and pre-K to grade-3 educators from across the State to network and discuss cutting-edge research and teaching strategies and renew your professional commitment to early childhood education. Choose from a range of workshops and seminars including Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, Child Development, Authentic Child Assessment, Fall 5's and much more. You'll also be able to explore the many vendor and nonprofit exhibits.

The 2014 Conference has a tremendous variety of subjects to offer both seasoned professionals and future educators.

For a fee schedule and additional information, call 808-942-4708 or email to haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org.

GROUP ART 2014



The Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii is sponsoring Group Art 2014, activities for youth impacted by epilepsy, ages 4 and older. Enjoy a monthly activity focusing on self-expression and fostering a better understanding of epilepsy through art.

The sessions will be held on the following Saturdays:

September 27	October 25
November 22	December 20

They will be from 10:00 a.m. - noon at 1050 Ala Moana Boulevard, Ward Warehouse, Suite 2550. RSVP to 528-3058 or email to efh@epilepsyhawaii.org. Bring out the artist in your child!

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD... PLEASE VOTE!

The **Office of Elections** is available for voter education presentations. A presentation includes an overview of the mechanics of voting in Hawaii and Election Accessibility for People with Disabilities.

If you are interested in having a presentation for your organization which serves people with disabilities, would like election information displayed at an upcoming event, or would like to receive voter information, please contact Anthony Akamine at the Office of Election at anthony.akamine@hawaii.gov or 453-VOTE / 453-8683.



Problems with voting this upcoming election?

Contact the Hawaii Disability Rights
Center (HRDC)

1-800-882-1057 or
94902922 (v/tty)

Email us at info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org

- Remember, should you
- experience difficulty in the voting process, such as:
- Inaccessible polling place or parking spaces
- Untrained poll workers
- Inability to use an electronic voting machine at your
- polling place, or
- Other accessibility issues.

Call HDRC and file a complaint. There should be no obstacle preventing you from casting a ballot in the 2014 election. Go vote! Make a difference.

Submitted by the Hawaii Disability Rights Center:

Our General Election is November 4th:

Are you registered to vote? The Help America Vote Act, enacted in 2002 was instrumental in ensuring full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities. It required states to make polling places accessible “in a manner that provides the same opportunity to people with disabilities for access and participation as is provided to non-disabled voters - including:

- voter registration assistance, if needed
- accessibility of polling places, including accessible parking and walkways
- training on the use of electronic voting machines
- the right to have someone assist you in casting your vote if you choose and
- the right to cast an independent vote in privacy



Hawaii permits early voting before the General Election, when any qualified voter may cast a ballot in person during a designated period prior to Election Day. No explanation is required - just be registered to vote before the 2014 October 6th registration deadline

Beginning in 2018, Hawaii residents will be able to both register and vote on Election Day - no waiting! This is awesome!

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center believes that if you are a person with a disability, or have a close relationship with one that does, you understand better than most the issues and challenges that people with disabilities face. If every eligible person with a disability voted, along with their friends and family, just imagine the power they would have to influence the results on Election Day. There is power in numbers - make no mistake.

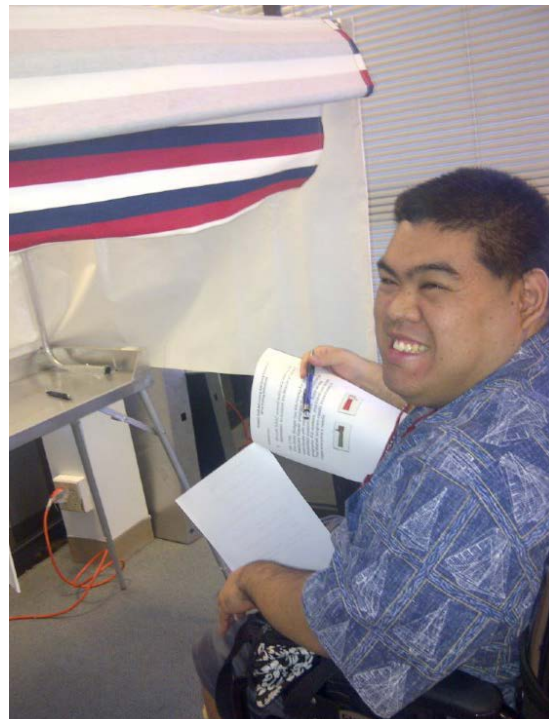
FRIENDS IN FOCUS



Friends congratulate Ivalee Sinclair for receiving the 2014 Arc in Hawaii's Distinguished Service Award! (l-r) Leolinda Parlin, Project Director, Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center; Patricia Hamamoto, former DOE Superintendent; Jan Tateishi, SPIN, Ivalee; Waynette Cabral, Executive Administrator, Developmental Disabilities Council; Francine Wai, Executive Director, Disability & Communication Access Board.



SPIN Program Specialist, Jan Tateishi at her farewell retirement party with her beaming husband, Allen.



Democracy in action! Evan Murakami fulfilling his citizen duty and votes during the Hawaii Primary Election.



Special Parent Information Network
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
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TREAT YOUR FAMILY TO THESE EVENTS...



Y.E.S Social Groups: Halloween

Dance! as part of Youth

Enrichment Services at Easter

Seals Hawaii - 710 Green Street

\$15 per activity / Monthly 2 hour

social groups / To enroll, please

contact Jen Norton at 529-1725.

No Tricks, Just a Treat with Dr.

Tony Atwood: "Understanding

and Expressing Emotions, the

Learning Profile of ASD, and

High School Years and Beyond" by

Future Horizons Inc. / 7:00a.m. -

4:30 p.m. - Waikeiki Beach Marriott

Visit thautism.com to register or

call (800)-489-0727 for more info.

10/24



dsoshaan808@gmail.com for more information.

Hawaii Buddy Walk 2014 sponsored by

the Down Syndrome 'Ohana of Hawaii

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Kaka'ako Park

Register at dsosahawaii.com or e-mail

Hawaii School for the Deaf &

Blind presents It's Child's Play!

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Workshop on WHY is it so important to play

with our children and learn HOW to in a more

supportive way. Contact Rosalind Kia at

733-4999 or roz_kia@notes.k12.hi.us.

Footsteps to Transition Fair 2014

Hosted by the DOE Central District

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Mililani High

For special needs students and their

families in making successful transitions

to independence and adult life.

Call SPIN at 586-8126 to register or go to

<http://tinyurl.com/footsteps-to-transition-2014>

10/11

10/18

10/18