



SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Disabilities

**SPECIAL
PARENT
INFORMATION
NETWORK**

March 2024 Volume XL, 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


1010 Richards Street #118
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

 **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

 **Like us on Facebook**

Hawaii Legislature Nears the Midway Point

For any of our readers who have participated in Hawaii's legislative process, you know that it is both fast-paced and full of back-to-back hearings on an amazing variety of proposed legislation. It is exciting and awe-inspiring to witness the creation of laws to improve upon and regulate our society. It is also sometimes disappointing when a piece of legislation that you had hopes for dies in a committee hearing.

It is important for us to remember that all of the laws that have benefited our children with disabilities were enacted by Congress or our State Legislature because there was strong advocacy by families and other stakeholders. So if you have the passion for a particular issue and a little bit of time, it is possible to make your voice heard from your living room.

Two important supports are needed: 1) information on which bills are being heard and what they propose to do, and 2) a working understanding of how to submit testimony.

One resource SPIN finds helpful is the **State Council on Developmental Disabilities**. They are very active each legislative session in following bills affecting our children and adults with disabilities and sending out notices to folks who sign up on their listserv. Contact Che Silvert for more information: che.silvert@doh.hawaii.gov.

For a wonderful resource for understanding the legislative process and how to be part of it, click on the **Public Access Room** link below that guides you through the process of accessing the Capitol website, creating an account for submitting testimony and finding both current bills and hearing notices. SPIN has listed 5 bills that may interest you on page 2, as they all impact students with disabilities.

.....
[Public Access Room \(PAR\)](#)
[Hawaii State Legislature Website Guide](#)

For assistance call or email PAR:
(808) 587-0478
par@capitol.hawaii.gov



WHAT'S INSIDE

Current Bills of Interest	2
HCWIP Program	2
Parent <i>Pro Se</i> Training	3
SPIN Conference Flyer	4
SPIN Conference Schedule	5
SPIN Conf. Workshops	6-8
SPIN Conference Awards	8
Autism Drowning Prevention	9
5 Layers of Protection	10
Calendar of Events	11

5 Bills Moving through the 2024 Legislature that Impact Children with Disabilities

HB
2712



Increases funding for the reimbursement of applied behavioral analysis services through Med-QUEST.

HB
2556



Provides funding and resources to grow the use of ABA Savings accounts for children and adults with disabilities.

HB
1657



Requires schools to screen K-3 students to identify and support students who are at risk of dyslexia and other learning disabilities.

HB
1904



Supports the children of military personnel transferring to Hawaii by creating a process for expedited school enrollment.

HB
1903



Expands the option of early learning programs to access space in state properties besides public school campuses.

HAWAII CHILD WELLNESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM (HCWIP)

March 11, 2024 through June 30, 2027

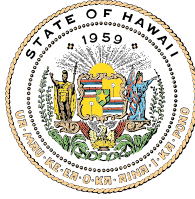


Are you a parent who has Medicaid/QUEST for your health insurance? You'll want to know about this brand new incentive program. It encourages parents to bring their children under 18 years of age in to see the doctor for their well-care examinations.

Parents can receive a \$50 Visa/Mastercard for each child who successfully completes an annual well-child examination.

To apply for this incentive, click on the DHA 1193 HCWIP application form, print out a copy, and take it to your child's doctor when they have their wellness exam.

For more information call the **HCWIP Customer Service Line - (833) 909-3631** or email DHS/Med-QUEST at **HCWIP@dhs.hawaii.gov**.



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804**

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

February 26, 2024

Training for Unrepresented Parents (Pro Se) under IDEA

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department), Monitoring and Compliance Branch is hosting a one-day training for Unrepresented Parents (Pro Se) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). A virtual option via Zoom is available.

The training will be facilitated by *Special Education Solutions, LLC*, the nation's leading expert in IDEA compliance, training, and dispute resolution. The training will provide an overview of special education law, the hearing process, and pro se parents. The training is only open to **parents, non-attorney advocates, and parent training information centers**.

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Ala Moana Hotel by Mantra, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu, HI 96814, Hibiscus Ballroom II, 2nd Floor
- **Breakfast:** Continental breakfast will be provided
- **Lunch:** On your own

Registration for Training

Register at bit.ly/prosetraining

Registration will close on **Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.**

Inter-Island Participants (Airfare and Ground Transportation Reimbursement)

The Monitoring and Compliance Branch will reimburse you up to \$300 for the following:

- Airfare
- Ground Transportation


You must attend the whole training day from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to be eligible for reimbursement.

Reimbursement Request

To request reimbursement from the Monitoring and Compliance Branch, please complete the Supplier Information section on the Reimbursement Form with a copy of your Driver's License, boarding passes, and transportation receipt(s) and submit it to Angela Wong at angela.wong@k12.hi.us and Mel Dela Rama at mel.dela_rama@k12.hi.us. The School/Office Information and Administrator's Authorization sections have been completed by the Monitoring and Compliance Branch. Please do not change these sections.

The deadline to submit your reimbursement request is **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**.

Should you have any questions, please contact Angela Wong and Mel Dela Rama at (808) 307-3600.



38th Annual SPIN Conference "SPIN's Ocean of Possibilities" Saturday, April 6, 2024

8:30 am - 3:30 pm
UH Manoa Campus Center

For more info:
www.SPINconference.org
email:
SPIN@doh.hawaii.gov
808-586-8126

Registration opens
November 1, 2023
Parent airfare
scholarships
available!

Join us for a full day of:

- In-person workshops about special education, advocacy, disabilities, transition and more
- Virtual access to all workshops
- In-person Resource Fair
- SPIN Awards Luncheon
- Laughs, learning and skill building





38th Annual SPIN Conference

April 6, 2024 8:00 am – 3:30 pm

UH Manoa Campus Center

In-person with virtual access to live workshops

8:00 – 9:00 am Registration / Resource Room Visitation

9:00 – 10:15 am Welcome / Keynote

10:15 – 10:45 am Resource Room Visitation/Networking

WAVE #1 10:45 – 11:45 am

<i>"Commotion in the Ocean"</i>	<i>"ABC 123 Little Fishy in the Sea"</i>	<i>"Navigating the Seas of Change"</i>	<i>"When in Doubt, Don't Go Out"</i>	<i>"Everyone Belongs at the Beach"</i>	<i>SPIN Resource Fair</i>
Bullying & Cyberbullying	Executive Functions for Young Children	Transition to Adult Health Care	Water Safety	Inclusion Practices	The Resource Fair is Open for Visiting

12:00 – 1:15 pm Lunch & SPIN Awards

WAVE #2 1:20 – 2:20 pm

<i>"Who's in My School of Fish"</i>	<i>"Keeping Your Boat Afloat"</i>	<i>"Building Better Sandcastles"</i>	<i>"Planning for Rough Seas"</i>	<i>"Calming the Stormy Seas"</i>	<i>SPIN Resource Fair</i>
Understanding the IEP Process	Self-Care for Everyone	Building Resilience & Empathy	Emergency/ Disaster Prep	Conflict Resolution Strategies	Resource Fair is Open until 2:00 pm

WAVE #3 2:30 – 3:30 pm

<i>"Social Seas"</i>	<i>"Don't Worry, Beach Happy"</i>	<i>"Let Your Compass Guide You"</i>	<i>"Fish are Friends AND Food"</i>
Autism & Social Stories	Anxiety	Executive Functions for Middle/High school	Picky Eaters

Workshops & times are subject to change

SPIN 2024 Registration Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Child's Disability: _____ child's Age: _____

Program or School: _____

☐ \$25 Parent/Family Member ☐ \$45 2 Family Members ☐ \$25 Student ☐ \$50 Professional

Amount Enclosed (payable to SPIN): \$_____ Check # / PO#: _____

☐ Airfare Scholarship request (for Neighbor Island parents & caregivers of kids with disabilities 0-21)

☐ Please send me application by ☐ email or ☐ street address

☐ I need an accommodation due to a disability, please specify: _____

Send completed form with payment to SPIN via mail or email:

1010 Richards St, Room 118, Honolulu, HI 96813 * spin@doh.hawaii.gov

SPIN'S Ocean of Possibilities

For the last 38 years the annual SPIN conference has given parents and family members the opportunity to meet and network with other families and professionals while learning about resources and strategies that can improve the lives of their children with disabilities and family. This year's conference is using the theme of **Hawaii's beaches and ocean** for fun and decoration and to highlight the **amazing sea of resources and knowledge** that families can use to work together with helping professionals to achieve a better education and life for all our children of Hawaii.

Guide to Workshops

As you can see from the conference schedule on page 5, our **2024 SPIN Conference** will include **14 workshops** organized into three sessions called **WAVES**. The first two **WAVES** offer 5 workshops on varying topics, while the last **WAVE** has 4 workshops (including workshops about specific disabilities). As you check out the workshop choices below, also check the **Program Key** to see what age group is covered in the presentations.

Program Key

Early Intervention/Preschool -



Elementary School



Middle/High School -



All age groups -



Workshop Descriptions

WAVE 1 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Commotion in the Ocean



Bullying and cyberbullying create a storm of emotions and sometimes even physical harm for kids with disabilities who are singled out. But the ripples of harm extend to bystanders and even the bullies themselves. Join a seasoned pro to uncover the scale of this issue, understand how schools define bullying, and grasp the consequences for students involved. Get ready to ride the waves and spot the warning signs of bullying, plus nab some top tips for coaching safe online habits for your child or student. Hang ten!

ABC 123 Little Fishy in the Sea



If your little fishy seems to be swimming in circles, they might be facing some **executive functioning challenges**. From wriggling away from instructions to getting lost in the current of emotions, fear not! Dive into this workshop for fin-tastic tips to guide your young scholar at home and reel in the right school support. Let's make a splash together!

Navigating the Seas of Change



Helping teenagers prepare for success after high school includes planning for their **health care as adults**. Wade in to this helpful discussion on preparing youth to take on their own care, while setting up the needed supports like insurance, finding the right physician(s) and creating a safety net like a medical Power of Attorney so your young adult will be have smooth sailing ahead.

When in Doubt, Don't Go Out



Making sure our keiki are safe around water--in the bathtub, in the pool, and in the ocean--is one of the most important jobs of a parent or caregiver. That's why you'll want to learn from a master water safety instructor about how to protect your child from drowning and guarantee a lifetime of fun in the water.

SPIN Workshop Descriptions (cont.) - WAVE 1 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Everyone Belongs at the Beach



Let's dive into the sea of inclusion! Picture a world where every child, regardless of ability, splashes and learns together. Where everyone belongs and everyone benefits. Discover awesome tips for **inclusive education** and how families can team up with schools for a shell-abrading inclusive adventure for their child.

WAVE 2 1:20 - 2:20 p.m.

Who's in My School of Fish?



It takes a pod to plan for your little starfish's learning success. Parents are the co-captains in this adventure, and this helpful workshop will share a treasure trove of important tips on how to **prepare for your child's annual Individualized Education Program (IEP)** meeting and where to look for a tidal wave of support.

Keeping Your Boat Afloat



Get ready to hit the sandy shores and soak up some wisdom! Remember, before you can dive into helping others, you've got to secure your own life jacket. Join us for a chill workshop where you'll learn **self-care secrets** to keep you sailing smoothly through any stormy seas that come your way!

Building Better Sandcastles



Helping kids **grow their empathy** skills – like sliding into someone else's rubber slippahs – and **boost their resilience** – bouncing back from life's rip tides – are superpowers for future happy grown-ups. Drop in for tips on developing these protective factors and skills in kids, and watch them turn into sandcastle pros. It's going to be a whale of a time!

Planning for Rough Seas



Families can't always know when the next natural or man-made disaster will challenge their family, but they can learn to ride the wave of readiness and **prepare their family for quick action when disaster strikes**. Seas the day and learn from two fin-tastic medical leaders and a self-advocate about the steps needed to be prepared with adequate supplies, key documents and an evacuation plan to keep your ohana fine and sandy.

Calming the Stormy Seas



In the ocean of special education, disagreements and clashes over a student's progress are like fish in the sea--plentiful! Swim into the world of **special education dispute resolution processes**, where mediation, written complaints, resolution sessions and due process hearing requests are like hidden treasures for parents to navigate stormy waters with their child's educational crew for a smoother voyage!

WAVE 3 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Social Seas



Research has shown **Social Stories** to be effective in improving communication and behavior in **children with autism**. Each story is tailor-made to the individual child and helps them to prepare for a new or complex situation--like going to the beach for the first time--or to process a stressful event from the past--like the Maui wildfires. In this interactive workshop you will learn the basic parts of a social story, so that you can create one for your shrimp-ly amazing child or student. They'll be happy as a clam!

SPIN Workshop Descriptions (cont.) - WAVE 3 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Don't Worry, Beach Happy



Kids ride the worry wave now and then. But if those worries start crashing the beach party of socializing, behavior, or schoolwork, it might be a sign to chat about **anxiety disorders**. Join this chill chat with beach-loving mental health experts for the lowdown on spotting the signs of anxiety in children and teens, guidance on getting a formal assessment, and finding the perfect wave of treatments.

Let Your Compass Guide You



By the time our students splash into **middle and high school, problems with executive functioning**--trouble following directions, managing time and emotions, and staying focused and multitasking--can have a big impact on their academics and self-esteem. Whether you are a parent or an educator, you'll have a whale of a time listening to this expert educator, who will shell out ideas on what parents can do at home to improve these important skills.

Fish are Friends AND Food



Many of our kids with disabilities have **eating problems** that may result from medical, behavioral or sensory issues--things that go beyond the shores of being a picky eater. Most parents will benefit from the guidance of our expert presenters on how to support their minnow in developing healthy eating habits by offering choice and avoiding power struggles.

SPIN Conference Resource Fair



In addition to our wonderful workshops, our conference ohana will have the opportunity to "slip-pah" on down to the 2nd floor of the UH Campus Center to visit over 50 helping agencies and groups. The Fair is open from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Conference Day--April 6, 2024!

2024 SPIN Awards Need Your Nominations!

Every year, SPIN publicly celebrates wonderful 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 candidates for our 2024 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 or parents 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 an award nomination form. Or call us at (808) 586-8126 and we'll accept your nomination over the phone or mail you a form. Deadline to apply is March 12, 2024.



5 Things Parents of Children with Autism Need to Know About

DROWNING PREVENTION



1. Drowning Rate

The drowning rate for children with Autism is 160 times greater than those without. About half (48%) of these children wander from their parents/adults. As a result, 74% of these wandering children end up drowning.

2. Drawn To the Water

Children with Autism are especially drawn to the water. They love the way it looks, feels and even smells. They like the way it shimmers & flows and even how it feels on their skin.



3. Never Leave Your Child Unattended

Keep constant eyes on your child and never leave them alone assuming they won't jump, slip or slide in attended. A moments inattention can have tragic results.

4. Survival Based Swim Lessons

When choosing a swim program for your child, make sure to sign him/her up for a survival based swim lesson program. This will ensure they have the skills necessary if they ever reach the water alone.



5. Dangers Of Using Floatation Devices

Floatation devices are used as a precautionary for moving vessels and open water. They should not be used for swimming. They give a false sense of security and put your child at a higher risk for drowning when used incorrectly.



www.watersafetyhawaii.org

LEARN THE 5 LAYERS OF PROTECTION

Water safety isn't just during swim time. Each layer should be used together when in or around water to help reduce the risk of drowning. You never know which layer will save a life!



BARRIERS & ALARMS:

It's important to use four-sided fencing with self-closing, self-latching gates, pool safety covers, and alarm systems to help prevent children and unauthorized adults from accessing water unsupervised.



SUPERVISION:

Stay vigilant and aware of your surroundings with close, constant, and capable adult supervision from a designated water watcher or lifeguard anytime children are in or around water.



WATER COMPETENCY:

Every child and adult should be equipped with the skills to protect themselves in water by learning and enhancing their basic water safety skills to reduce the risk of drowning and aquatic-related injuries.



LIFE JACKETS:

When used appropriately, life jackets protect you when you are not expecting to be in the water, especially around natural water. Ensure your life jackets are tested & approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.



EMERGENCY PREPARATION:

Being prepared for an emergency with CPR with rescue breaths and basic water rescue skills can make the difference between life and death. Know the address and be ready to call 911.



To learn more, visit www.NDPA.org



Calendar of Events



3/4 Hoomana Parent Support FREE
 4/5 6:00 - 7:30 pm Virtual on zoom
 Join parents online for a talk story to share resources and connect with other parents. Open to all parents across the state, with a child any age, any disability. Email for more info and a link to join. hoomanagroup@gmail.com

3/7 Day at the Capitol FREE
 8:00 am - 2:00 pm in person
 Join the DD Council to learn about the the Public Access Room, meet your legislators and join the House and Senate floor session from the public viewing area. For more info, call 808-586-8100.

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

SEAC - Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting FREE
 3/8 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Virtual on Zoom
 4/12 All meetings are open to the public.
 For more info, call 586-8126 or visit the SEAC website at www.seac-hawaii.org

3/14 ABLE Accounts Information Session FREE
 5:00 - 7:00 pm
 In person and virtual on Zoom.
 The United Cerebral Palsy Association of Hawaii is hosting a workshop to learn more about ABLE Accounts and how to set one up. To register, or for more information, email karen.glasser@unitedcerebralpalseyhawaii.org

3/29 Kawaii Kon Honolulu \$20+
 3/30 At the Hawaii Convention Center.
 3/31 Never Quit Dreaming is helping families register for a fun day of Japanese Anime and comics. For more info on how to register, visit www.NQDhawaii.org/kawaiikon2024



4/6 SPIN Conference \$25+
 8:30 am - 3:30 pm In person & Virtual
 Join us for a day of fun, learning and connections at the UH Manoa Campus Center. Airfare scholarships available for neighbor island families. Download a registration form at www.spinconference.org or call us at 808-586-8126 for more info.

4/10 Pro Se Training for Parents FREE
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm In Person
 The Hawaii Department of Education is hosting a free training to parents and non-attorney advocates to learn about due process without having an attorney. Reimbursement is available to neighbor island families. For more info, visit the SPIN events page for links to register. www.spinhawaii.org/events.

4/11 Maui Footsteps to Transition Fair FREE
 6:00 - 7:30 pm In person
 Maui High School Cafeteria.
 Come learn about transitioning your youth from high school to adult life with a resource fair, talk story, food and door prizes. Registration link is available at www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com/maui-footsteps.

