

# SPIN NEWS


The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Disabilities

SPECIAL  
PARENT  
INFORMATION  
NETWORK

## January 2025 Volume XL, No. 2

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, educators, agencies serving children with disabilities and their families and people with disabilities. SPIN also provides staff support to the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC).


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 Like us on **Facebook**

## Come Share the Magic on March 22nd!

The SPIN ohana is thrilled to invite you to an enchanting conference that promises to be as magical as it is informative! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 22nd** from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. That's when "**The Magical World of SPIN**"--our 39th Annual Conference--will inspire and empower you with new tools and strategies to support your child's learning journey. Thanks to the generosity of the Department of Education, we will be gathering for the first time at the beautiful **Hawaii Convention Center**.

Many parents of children with disabilities and medical conditions wish they had a crystal ball to foretell the future. Well, the conference will offer you one better --the ability to think about and plan for your child's future with imagination, wisdom and support. Just imagine this ...



**DOZENS of information tables** filling a ballroom and featuring helpful agencies & support groups.



**An award ceremony** that is veiled in mystery as we recognize the extraordinary folks among us.



**A buffet luncheon** that is so tasty it must be sprinkled with fairy dust.



Don't miss out on this magical experience that could transform the way you think about your child's education. Not only will you gain invaluable insights, but you will also have the chance to connect with other parents, educators,

and helping professionals who share your passion for your child's success. Join us, and together, let's conjure a brighter future for our children!

*For more details about the SPIN Conference, check out pages 2-4.*



**16 engaging workshops** on a wide range of timely topics--each one led by experts in that area.



**Inspiring stories and great advice** from our keynote speakers--parents like you and a talented magician.



**Magic in motion** as the SPIN Advisory Committee performs their popular opening number.

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**“The Magical World of SPIN”**  
**The 39th Annual SPIN Conference**  
**Saturday March 22, 2025 ● 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**  
**The Hawaii Convention Center**

**8:30 – 9:00 am**    **Registration / Resource Room Visitation**  
**9:00 – 10:15 am**    **Welcome / Keynote Presentation**  
**10:15 – 10:45 am**    **Resource Room Visitation / Networking**

**10: 45 – 11:45 am    Wand-derful Workshop Session #1**

<i>Twinkling with Possibilities</i>	<i>Mind Over Magic</i>	<i>Crafting SMART IEP Goals</i>	<i>Bibbity-Bobbity-Boo</i>	<i>Presto Chango</i>	<i>Magic Keys to Unlock Benefits</i>
Transitioning into Preschool	Self-regulating Strategies	Writing SMART IEP Goals	Self-Care for YOU!	Understanding Puberty	Benefits Planning

**12:00 – 1:15 pm    Lunch Buffet and SPIN Awards Presentation**

**1:20 – 2:20 pm    Wand-derful Workshop Session #2**

<i>Potions of Positivity</i>	<i>Spell Book of Sensory Success</i>	<i>Your Time to Sparkle</i>	<i>Mystical Tools</i>	<i>Spellbinding Social Networks</i>	<i>Enchanting Paths</i>
Positive Behavior Supports	Sensory Integration	Better Parent Advocates	Assistive Technology	Building Social Networks	Transition Plans and the IEP

**2:30 – 3:30 p.m.    Wand-erful Workshop Session #3**

<i>Behind the Curtain</i>	<i>The Wizard’s Guide to Dyslexia</i>	<i>Keep Calm and Conjure On</i>	<i>Wizards of Independence</i>
Autism & OCD	Dyslexia Supports	Anxiety Supports	Alternatives to Guardianship

Note: Workshops and times are subject to change.

**2025 SPIN Conference Registration Form**

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Disability: \_\_\_\_\_ Child’s Age \_\_\_\_\_

Program or School: \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 Parent/Family Member/Student     \$45 for 2 family members     \$50 Professional  
 Amount enclosed (Payable to the Dept. of Health): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # or PO # \_\_\_\_\_

I request an Airfare Scholarship (for Neighbor Island parents / caregivers of kids with disabilities 0-22).  
 Please send me an application by:  email     street address.

I need an accommodation due to a disability. Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form with payment to SPIN via email or mail:  
 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu 96813 or spin@doh.hawaii.gov

# 2025 SPIN AWARDS

## Nomination Form

Every year, at our annual in-person conference, **SPIN** publicly acknowledges key parents and professionals whose efforts make a positive difference in the lives of children and young adults with disabilities and their families in Hawaii. We are asking for your help in identifying candidates for SPIN's 3 award categories: Parent of the Year, Professional of the Year, and the Family Choice Award. **If you have more than one nomination per category, feel free to copy this form and submit multiple nominations.**

**Mail, fax, or email your nominations to us by February 24, 2025**

Address: **SPIN**, 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 586-8126

Fax: (808) 586-8129

E-mail: [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov)

### Please choose one category:

#### Family Choice Award

The Family Choice Award is given to a professional who has been particularly helpful to families as they sort out services and supports for their child with a disability. This individual does not have an impact on the larger system, but is recognized in his or her community as an extraordinary professional.

#### Parent of the Year Award

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.

#### Professional of the Year Award

The Professional of the Year Award is given to a professional who has had a significant impact in improving services for children or young adults with a disability and their families.

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Community or Workplace \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\* SPIN Awards are generally kept a secret from the award winner until they hear their name during the program. If your nominee is chosen, we may ask your help in getting them to attend conference. \*



**SPIN is looking for a Magician to be a part of the SPIN Conference to perform a few tricks and feats of magic!**

We'd like to showcase a

- student with a disability,
- young adult with a disability, or a
- parent or family member of a student with a disability



to share their skills in front of a live and supportive audience. Compensation includes free conference registration & small gift, and the adoration of hundreds of fans!

Call or email SPIN to schedule a magical interview.  
808-586-8126 or [spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii.gov).



## CCCOhana Workshop Community Bridging Day



In our day to day lives, sometimes we come across these great big silos without a clear plan to get from one place to another. Our lives are integrated, we don't think of our lives in sections, let alone by funding sources.

For families of children with special needs, we are pretty good at jumping through hoops, but it would really be nice to have a bridge.

Join us with your wisdom, knowledge, and lived experience as we begin to bridge the service systems between state and county programs.


Join us as we build a "strategy bridge" for each county which includes:

- A plan to bring together partners to learn from each other and identify opportunities for collaboration and connection
- Access to centralized information on programs, services, and supports for children with special needs
- An advocacy toolkit to pitch the idea to county decision makers

February 1, 2025 9:00 - 2:00pm

Salvation Army Kroc Center  
91-3257 Kualakaa'i Parkway  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Let's move the power of knowledge to the local communities, where it belongs!  
RSVP: [william.cadena@k12.hi.us](mailto:william.cadena@k12.hi.us).  
See you soon!



# EVENTS SCHEDULE

**FEBRUARY**

**2025**



**FEB WED 12**

**PARENT AS COLLABORATIVE LEADERS**

Learn to be a part of a collaborative leadership partnership with your child's IEP team, through building leadership style to use it to advocate for your child

5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

**MEASURABLE GOALS**

Learn about examples of academic and functional goals on the Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance located in the IEP

**FEB WED 26**

5:00 - 6:00 P.M.

REGISTER TO ATTEND USING THE QR CODE OR CALL 808-536-9684



All workshops are on zoom. Come prepared to learn skills you never thought you had!



# SPED PARENTS NEEDED



SEAC - the Special Education Advisory Council - is looking for parents\* to be a part of the Council and add their experience and input to improve special education in Hawaii.

- ✓ Meet once a month for 10 months
- ✓ Virtual meetings with 2 in-person options a year
- ✓ Child must have a disability, aged birth to 27 years

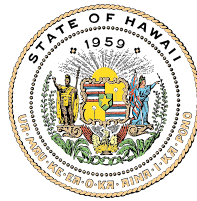
DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION  
[SEAC-HAWAII.ORG/MEMBERS-2](http://SEAC-HAWAII.ORG/MEMBERS-2)

- Priority areas include: Kauai, Molokai/Lanai, Maui, Hawaii & Honolulu areas



QUESTIONS? CALL/EMAIL SPIN

808-586-8126  
[spin@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:spin@doh.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

January 15, 2025

**Parent Training on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department), Monitoring and Compliance Branch is hosting a one-day training for Parents on the IDEA. A virtual option via Zoom is available.

The training will be facilitated by *Deusdedi Merced Esq., Special Education Solutions, LLC*, the nation's leading expert in IDEA compliance, training, and dispute resolution. The training will provide an overview of the trends on due process decisions specific to Hawai'i, notable decisions nationwide, discipline procedures and discuss the legal aspect of timely evaluations and how parents can be engaged in the process. The training is only open to **parents and parent information, advocacy, and training centers**.

- **Date:** Monday, February 10, 2025
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Ballroom, 2454 South Beretania Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Honolulu, HI 9682
- **Virtual** - Zoom link is provided on the registration form
- **Working Lunch:** Lunch is an integral part of this meeting; therefore, lunch will be provided.

**Registration for Training**

Register at: **Parent Training**

Registration will close on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 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 Wendy Smith at [wendy.smith@k12.hi.us](mailto:wendy.smith@k12.hi.us) and Michelle Arakawa at [michelle.arakawa@k12.hi.us](mailto:michelle.arakawa@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 **Friday, February 28, 2025**.

Should you have any questions, please contact Wendy Smith and Michelle Arakawa at (808) 307-3600.

# Footsteps to Transition Fair

Hosted by the Hawaii Department of Education  
Honolulu District Office

Date: Saturday, February 8, 2025  
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Location: Virtually on Zoom  
Open statewide to all families,  
students, school staff and  
community members.



Footsteps to Transition is a FREE event for middle and high school students with disabilities, and their families, to help in making a successful transition from high school to adult life and independence. It is never too early or too late to start planning for transition! We hope you will join us for this awesome annual event!

To register for this FREE event and learn more about statewide transition resources, visit [www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com](http://www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com) or scan the QR code! You can also call 808-586-8126 for more info.



Mahalo to our fabulous sponsors!

# Footsteps to Transition Fair

You are invited to attend the **Footsteps to Transition Fairs**, sponsored by the Hawaii Department of Education. These FREE events are geared towards middle and high school students with disabilities, their families, case managers, therapists, teachers and anyone else in their circle of support. It's never too early to start planning for and preparing for life after high school. As your child transitions to life after high school and into adulthood, it can be challenging to find services, supports and to create a plan for their future. Will they attend college, get a job, or move into their own place? Who do you turn to with questions about school, adult healthcare, self-advocacy and determination? These questions and more can be answered at the **Footsteps to Transition Fairs!**

**Honolulu District** will be hosting their Footsteps Fair on **Saturday, February 8th**, virtually over Zoom, and welcome everyone in Hawaii to attend. There will be Zoom presentations on a variety of topics, including Project Life, DDD, DVR, Benefits Planning and Health Transitions. The event runs from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**Maui District** is hosting a Footsteps Resource Fair **Thursday February 27th**, in person, at UH Maui College at the Pilina Events Center from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Come meet the providers and community agencies that support Maui families in transitioning from DOE to community services.

You can register online for FREE for both events at the statewide Footsteps website: <https://footstepstotransition.weebly.com/> and click on the island tabs. You can also call SPIN at 808-586-8126 to register over the phone.

Save the date for Maui's

## FOOTSTEPS TO TRANSITION FAIR

Thursday, February 27

5:30 - 7:00 PM

UH Maui College

Pilina Events Center

An event for middle and high school students with disabilities and their families to successfully transition from high school to adult life and independence.

Meet with community agencies to gain resources and discuss your child's needs.

Food and door prizes will be provided!



Scan the QR code to RSVP and be entered into prize drawings. Walk-ins are welcome.

# Pacific Rim Conference on Disability & Diversity

The **Pacific Rim Conference** is an annual international conference on disability and diversity studies hosted by the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. The Conference brings together people from all over the world to talk about disability, inclusion, and diversity, and provides speakers and attendees a chance to share their stories, ideas, and solutions for improving the lives of people living with disabilities.

## What to Expect at the Conference

**April 15 & 16, 2025** will be the 40th anniversary of the conference with a theme “By Us and For Us: Legacy and Future of our Movement.” The two-day conference will include:

- ✓ Keynote speeches from amazing leaders in the disability community,
- ✓ Interactive poster sessions where people share their work and ideas,
- ✓ Exhibitors showcasing products and services for people with disabilities,
- ✓ The SUPERFEST Film Festival, featuring films about disability and diversity,
- ✓ Networking opportunities to meet and connect with others, and
- ✓ Presentations on important topics like disability, health, education, and more!

## Featured Topics

The Pac Rim planning committee invited presentations on specific topics or strands. These include:

- ◆ Autism and Behavioral Health
  - ◆ Early Childhood Education & Support
  - ◆ Disability and Race
  - ◆ Supports for children with disabilities
- And many more!

## Attend In-Person or Virtually

You can attend the **conference either in-person or** virtually. Don’t miss out on this amazing event!



**Pacific Rim International Conference**  
**Disability and Diversity**  
**40th Anniversary**  
**April 15 & 16, 2025**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii**  
• In-person with virtual options •  
**By Us and For Us: Legacy and Future of Our Movement**  
**Keynote Speakers**

**Jennifer Kumiya**  
Film, TV & Stage Actor & Activist,  
Citywide Accessibility Coordinator  
for the City of Long Beach

**Villaney Remengesau**  
Disability Inclusion Consultant,  
Palau Ministry of Health & Human Services

**Corbett O'Toole**  
Disability community elder  
Author, *Fading Scars: My Queer Disability History*

**REGISTER NOW**  
[pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu](https://pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu)

The Premier International Gathering on Disability - in our 40th Year!

**pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu** Sponsorship and Exhibitor inquiries?  
Contact [prinfo@hawaii.edu](mailto:prinfo@hawaii.edu)

## Three Incredible Keynote Speakers

**Jennifer Kumiya**, a disability advocate and accessibility expert for the City of Long Beach

**Villaney “Lany” Remengesau**, a disability inclusion consultant from Palau and

**Corbett O’Toole**, an author and disability activist.

## Special Discount for SPIN Families!

If you’re a parent or caregiver who is part of the Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) ohana, you can get a special discount of up to 50% off your conference registration! Just email us at [spin@doh.hawaii](mailto:spin@doh.hawaii) to get the details.

For more information and to register, visit the Pac Rim website: <https://pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu/>.

For information or questions specific to Pac Rim registration, please email [prreg@hawaii.edu](mailto:prreg@hawaii.edu).



# Calendar of Events



**2/1 Community Bridging Day - In Person**  
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm FREE  
 Salvation Army Kroc Center, Kapolei, Oahu  
 The Community Children’s Council is hosting a day to build a “Strategy Bridge” to share info on programs, services and supports that can be accessed by parents who have a child with a disability across state and county programs. For more info, email: [william.cadena@k12.hi.us](mailto:william.cadena@k12.hi.us)

**2/8 Oahu Footsteps to Transition - Virtual**  
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm FREE  
 The Honolulu District on Oahu is hosting a virtual event with workshops to help students and families manage the transition between high school and adult life. Workshop topics will cover DDD, DVR, benefits planning, healthcare transitions and more! This event is open to everyone statewide. Register online: [www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com](http://www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com)

**2/10 Parent Training on IDEA - In Person & Virtual**  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm FREE  
 Japanese Cultural Center, 5th floor, Honolulu  
 The Hawaii State Department of Education, is hosting a free training for parents on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), facilitated by Duesdedi Merced, ESQ. This training will cover, due process trends in Hawaii, discipline procedures, timely evaluations and more. Neighbor island families can receive reimbursement for airfare and ground transportation. For more info and to register, visit [www.spinhawaii.org/events](http://www.spinhawaii.org/events).

**2/14 SEAC Meeting - Virtual**  
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm FREE  
 You are welcome to attend the Special Education Advisory Council for their monthly Zoom meeting. A Zoom link is attached to the agenda, and can be found on the website at [www.seac-hawaii.org](http://www.seac-hawaii.org).



**LDAH Parent Training Workshops - Statewide**  
**2/12 Parents as Collaborative Leaders - Virtual**  
 5:00 - 6:00 pm FREE  
 Learn to be a part of the collaborative leadership partnership with your child’s IEP team, through building a leadership style to use to advocate for your child.

**2/26 Measurable Goals - Virtual**  
 5:00 - 6:00 pm FREE  
 Learn about examples of academic and functional goals on the Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance, located in the IEP. To register for each class, call 808-536-9684.

**2/20 LDAH Small Group Sessions for Parents - Hilo**  
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm In Person  
 Easter Seals Hilo, 49 Kaiulani St., Hilo  
 These sessions are for families who have concerns about their child’s Individualized Education Program or 504 plan and are unsure of what direction to move forward with, and to plan their next steps. For more info or to register, call 808-536-9684.

**2/27 Maui Footsteps to Transition Resource Fair**  
 5:30 - 7:00 pm FREE  
 UH Maui College, Pilina Events Center  
 Maui’s BKKM District is hosting in in-person transition resource fair featuring community agencies and organizations to find resources and discuss your child’s needs to make the transition from high school to adult life. Register online: [www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com](http://www.footstepstotransition.weebly.com) and click on the Maui tab.

**3/22 39th Annual SPIN Conference - In Person**  
 8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
 Hawaii Convention Center, 3rd floor  
 More info: [www.spinconference.org](http://www.spinconference.org)

**4/15 40th Annual Pac Rim Conference - In Person**  
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Hawaii Convention Center, 3rd Floor  
 More info: [www.pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu](http://www.pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu)

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

SPIN - Special Parent Information Network

