

SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Disabilities

SPECIAL
PARENT
INFORMATION
NETWORK

March/April 2025
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, 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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Two Promising Bills Advance in the 2025 Legislature

This session, the **Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities** and its **Self-Advocacy Advisory Council** have helped to gain widespread support for two important bills that have the potential to improve the quality of life for many of Hawaii's youth and adults with disabilities.

The first is **SB 479** which will promote financial independence for eligible youth with disabilities by providing incentive payments to public school students with disabilities who open an **ABLE Savings Account**.

The Hawaii ABLÉ Savings Program was started in 2021 but has been underutilized up to now. The original ABLÉ (Achieving a Better Life Experience) legislation was written by a father of a daughter with Down Syndrome to allow her to save money for life's necessities and pleasures without risking important government benefits like Medicaid and Social Security.

The second important bill that has cleared all Committees is **HB 320** which will allow adults with a disability, along with other eligible groups, to enter into **supported decision-making agreements** with one or more members of a supportive community.

The importance of HB 320 is that it offers an alternative



Hawaii ABLÉ
Savings Program

to guardianship or conservatorship for the individual who may need help in making or communicating decisions but wants to retain his or her autonomy, dignity, and ability to be self-determined. The bill also offers protections to ensure the individual is not taken advantage of by others.

If you would like more information about these bills and similar legislation email Che.Silvert@doh.hawaii.gov. SPIN is also offering a workshop on **alternatives to guardianship** at the May 10th **SPIN Conference**. For more information see page 5.



Don't miss the **SPIN Conference**, rescheduled to **Saturday May 10th**.

Ko'olau Ballrooms,
Kaneohe. See pgs. 2-5.

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“The Magical World of SPIN”
The 39th Annual SPIN Conference
Saturday May 10, 2025 ● 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Koolau Ballrooms and Conference Center
45-550 Kionaole Road,
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

For the last 39 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 their families. This year’s conference is using the theme of **MAGIC** for fun and decoration and to put a focus on the **extraordinary things that can happen** while raising a child with a disability or chronic health condition. You may still be discovering these magical gifts--things like:

- **finding and nurturing your child’s unique talents and contributions,**
- **meeting amazing helping professionals and families whom you might otherwise have never met,**
- **learning to advocate passionately for your child and family, and**
- **finding joy and a way to celebrate small victories.**

On May 10th you can look forward to the winning recipe of every SPIN Conference: First there’s the **Enchanted Hall of Resources** where dozens of agencies and support groups will be waiting to share information, services and opportunities to build your network of support. An energetic **Dance Performance** by the SPIN Advisors and moving **Keynote Presentations** will get you ready for a day of fun and learning. At lunchtime you’ll be treated to a **Delicious Buffet** while celebrating the amazing contributions of our **SPIN Award Winners**. Check out our **Guide to our 16 Wand-erful Workshops** and a sampling of organizations in our **Enchanted Hall of Resources** on the following pages.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration / Visit the Enchanted Hall of Resources

9:00 – 10:15 am Welcome / Keynote Presentations

10:15 – 2:00 pm Visit the Enchanted Hall of Resources

10: 45 – 11:45 am Wand-erful 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-erful 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

The Magical World of SPIN

Guide to Workshops

As you can see from the conference schedule on page 2, our 2025 SPIN Conference will include 16 workshops organized into three Wand-erful Workshop sessions. The first two sessions offer 6 workshops on varying topics, while the last session has 4 workshops (including workshops about specific disabilities). As you check out the workshop choices below, check the Program Key to see what age groups are covered in the presentations.

Program Key



Preschool/Early intervention



Elementary



Middle/High School



All Age Groups

Workshop Descriptions

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

“Twinkling with Possibilities”



Parents of young keiki moving from early intervention services to preschool have lots of questions. Learn more from three wise mentors--an early intervention specialist who will walk young families through **the process of transitioning from early intervention services to preschool services**, an early learning specialist from the Department of Education who will describe DOE’s evaluation process and options for preschool services, and a wise mom who will share with other parents how to prepare and partner in the planning process.

“Mind Over Magic”



Self-regulation skills help children and teens manage information and emotions, make decisions and plan ahead. We are not born with these skills, but we all have the potential to learn them at all stages of our lives. Join this master teacher to learn more about emotional regulation, cognitive regulation, and behavioral regulation and pick up strategies to help your child develop and polish these skills at home and in the classroom.

“Crafting S.M.A.R.T. IEP Goals”



Be SMART when helping to develop your child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals. Are your child’s goals **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant and **T**ime-sensitive? Learn how to recognize if your child’s IEP goals meet the SMART criteria and provide input with your school team.

“Bippity-Bobbety-Boo: Self Care for YOU”



“Take care of yourself.” That’s common advice for parents who have children with disabilities, but how do you find the time, energy and resources to do it? Come learn from this wonderfully insightful mom what self-care looks like for you and how to create and implement a self-care plan that helps you feel supported, stronger, refreshed and joy-filled. You’ll also learn ways to access and connect with a supportive community.

“Presto Chango: Understanding Puberty”



Puberty--that stage where children experience rapid changes in their physical body and emotions as they mature into sexual adults--can be confusing, exciting, and sometimes alarming to both youth with disabilities and their parents. You won’t want to miss the facts and advice this master teacher offers about hygiene, handling emotions and the importance of socialiation. You’ll also benefit from tips about how to share information and help your blossoming teen communicate with medical providers.

Session 1 - 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. (continued)

“Magic Keys to Unlock Benefits”



Most parents and teachers have some knowledge about **government benefits for children and adults with disabilities and medical conditions**. Here’s a chance to enter a Wizard’s Academy on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Childhood Disability Benefits (CDB). You’ll also learn about eligibility for Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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



“Potions of Positivity”

Transforming the behavior of your child or teen from challenging to positive takes hard work and a spark of inspiration. That inspiration comes from understanding the functions and triggers of behavior, and how consequences can be selected that reinforce desired behaviors. In this helpful workshop you will learn how to access behavioral support at school and strategies that can help improve behavior at home and in the community.

“Spell Book of Sensory Success”



Children with autism and other developmental disabilities may have sensitivity to certain sights, smells, touch, sounds, and tastes. While some children are hyper- (highly) sensitive to this input to the senses, others are hypo- (under) stimulated. **Sensory integration therapy** is designed to help children and teens better manage their daily tasks, activities and emotions. Learn from a physician and a veteran mom how you can put together a sensory toolkit for your child or student.

“Your Time to Sparkle”



Becoming a better parent advocate when you have a child with a disability involves mastering key strategies, and who better to share them than two masterful mommas who will plant the seeds for your magical powers to grow. They will share lots of tips around growing your knowledge of special education laws and your child’s unique needs, communicating effectively, learning how to negotiate, finding support networks and nurturing your own self-care needs.

“Mystical Tools”



This workshop will highlight three critical aspects of **technology in education**. Due to technology’s rapid improvements, two amazing Assistive Technology Specialists will be discussing 1) the digital divide of online/tech skills between parents and students, 2) the use of artificial intelligence in educational settings, and 3) showcasing effective learning tools (apps and software) for students with learning differences that are essential for promoting an effective learning environment.

“Spellbinding Social Networks”



Helping students with disabilities build their own social networks creates a sense of community by connecting them to peers, mentors, and resources fitted to their unique needs and interests. Come to this workshop to hear examples of how the creation of a social network with key mentors or peer groups can enhance a student’s sense of belonging that leads to developing new skills and opportunities.

Session 2 - 1:20 - 2:20 p.m. (continued)

“Enchanting Paths”



Just as a magician uncovers hidden wonders, **transition planning** unlocks each student’s potential by identifying personalized goals in education, employment, and independent living. By focusing on the unique talents and passions of each student, transition planning reveals the magical possibilities that lie ahead. Learn from two transition magicians the steps in the process and how parents are key partners in preparing their child for success as an adult.

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

“Behind the Curtain: Autism and OCD”



Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) are two distinct neurodevelopmental conditions that can intersect in school-age children. Our wise team of psychologist and parent will share the statistics on co-occurrence here in Hawaii, explain how the diagnoses are alike and how they are different, and share how families can identify OCD symptoms and find treatment options for their children.

“The Wizard’s Guide to Dyslexia”



Dyslexia affects up to 20 percent of the population and represents 80–90 percent of all those with learning disabilities, yet many parents are in the dark about the best evidence-based interventions to support their child’s learning. This workshop will shine light on these helpful strategies and give parents and teachers considerations for ensuring appropriate goals, supports and services in the IEP.

“Keep Calm and Conjure On”



We live in stressful times, and more and more of our children and youth with magical abilities are experiencing **anxiety**. This helpful workshop led by two Wizards of Worry will walk parents through the signs and symptoms of anxiety that affect a child’s learning and daily activities to help determine if professional help is needed. You will learn where to reach out for help and gain some valuable tips on how to help your child stay calm in stressful situations.

“Wizards of Independence”



In the enchanting realm of supporting youth with disabilities, there are several magical **alternatives to guardianship** that empower young wizards to thrive with autonomy and confidence. Learn from this dynamic trio about supported decision-making, power of attorney, representative payee, and options for parents of students who remain in school after 18 and need help with educational decision-making.

A Sampling from our Enchanted Hall of Resources



Division of Vocational Rehab
Mental Health America of Hawaii
Special Needs Hawaii
Hoomana Parent Support
Center on Disability Studies
Goodwill Hawaii
Emergent Learning Hawaii Center
Community Children’s Councils
Exceptional Support Branch

Hawaii International Dyslexia Assoc.
Positive Behavior Supports, Corp.
Autism Moms of Kona
Developmental Disabilities Division
Yim & Yempuku, AAL
Access to Independence
Comprehensive Services Center
Early Intervention Section
Hawaii Disability Rights Center

Heartfelt Legacy Foundation
Special Needs Hawaii
Work Now Hawaii
Bayada Habilitation
LDAH
Hawaii Families as Allies
Malama Pono Autism Center
Balanced Brain

Date received: _____

39th Annual SPIN Conference
“Magical World of SPIN”
May 10, 2025 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Ko’olau Ballroom, Kaneohe, HI

Conference Registration Form

Please print clearly

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Island _____

Phone (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____

E-mail _____

Child’s Disability _____ Child’s Age _____

Please register me for the SPIN Conference: I need a Parent Registration Scholarship

\$25 Parent, \$45 2 Family Member, \$25 College Student, \$50 Professional, \$0 Virtual
In person includes workshops, resource fair and lunch. Virtual includes Zoom access to live workshops

Amount enclosed \$ _____ check # _____ Rcvd on _____

Make checks payable to Hawaii Department of Health

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

- I am a Neighbor Island Parent/Grandparent/Caregiver of a child with a disability, aged birth to 22, and would like to apply for a SPIN Airfare Scholarship. (max. 2 scholarships per child)
 - Please send me an application via email postal mail
 - My application is enclosed I have been awarded an Airfare Scholarship

*** Requests for accommodations ***

- I need an accommodation due to a disability
 - Materials in an alternate format (Braille, large print, etc.) Type: _____
 - Sign Language interpreter or CART Type: _____
 - Other: _____

- Sign me up for SPIN E-Newsletter**
- Sign me up for E-Blasts of trainings and events**

A map of the conference center and a map of parking, including accessible parking stalls for persons with disabilities, will be sent out a week before the conference to your provided email.

Please check here if you prefer this information be sent via postal mail.

Send completed form(s) with payment as soon as possible to:

SPIN, 1010 Richards Street, Room 118, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Fax: (808) 586-8129 E-mail: spin@doh.hawaii.gov
Questions? Call us (808) 586-8126 or visit the conference website: www.spinconference.org

Limited Conference day registration: In-person: space and lunch are limited and registration may close early.

Virtual: Registration closes May 5, 2025. Sorry, no same day registration/payments can be made. A link will be sent to you.

Database entered: _____ Email entered: _____ Email confirmation sent: _____

Special Education Words to Know: *What is the **PLAAFP** in my child's IEP?*

The Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (formerly known as the PLEP - Present Levels of Educational Performance) describes your child's current abilities, skills, needs and strengths, and is the foundation of the Individualized Education Program

What is the PLAAFP?

It is a collection of data and observations with a statement of how a child's disability affects their involvement and progress in the general education curriculum. It includes their academic ability and daily living or functional skills, and is found at the beginning of the IEP.



Why is the PLAAFP important?

The PLAAFP describes your child's current abilities and areas of need - academically, socially, behaviorally and physically. This valuable information is used by the IEP team to develop your child's IEP, including goals, objectives, services and supports.



What is Academic Achievement?

It is a description of your child's current performance and skills in academic areas like reading, writing and math. The school will use a variety of test scores, data and student work, along with teacher and parent observations, to determine their academic achievement every year.



What is Functional Performance?

This refers to your child's ability to perform daily living skills and activities, such as:

- dressing, eating, toileting,
- social skills and communication,
- the ability to self-regulate
- the ability to navigate the school campus and in the community



Parent input is important

You understand your child's routines, homework habits, and daily living skills best. Share your insights and any concerns you have with developing these skills, with your IEP team.



PLAAFP drives the IEP document

The IEP team will determine the goals, objectives, modifications, accommodations, services and placement, based on the data from the PLAAFP. If your child has a need, it should be documented in this section of the IEP.



Sources: <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/present-levels/>
<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/setting-an-iep-baseline-plop-plaafp-and-plp>
<https://www.wrightslaw.com/howey/iep.present.levels.htm>

SPIN News
April 2025





Eligibility Categories for Special Education Under IDEA and Chapter 60

Developmental Delay (DD)

Ages 3 though 5 Years Old

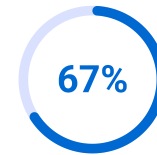
Developmental Delay (DD)

means a child is slow to meet or not reaching milestones in one or more areas of development expected for the child's age.



This optional IDEA category is the only one to specify an age range. Hawaii created different eligibility criteria for 3 through 5 year olds and 6 through 8 year olds. The younger group of children qualify with a delay in one (1) area), while 6 though 8 year olds must show delays in three (3) of five (5) areas.

The majority of preschool children with IEPs in Hawaii for School Year 2023-24 were eligible under the category of DD.



1323/1982 students

Source: Section 618 Child Count Data

Factors that may exclude eligibility under DD:

- a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math,
- limited English proficiency,
- an environmental or economic disadvantage, or
- cultural factors.



Use of the DD category enables young children to access special education and related services without being assigned a specific disability.

Areas of Developmental Delay (DD)

To be found eligible for special education and related services under the category of DD for ages 3 through 5, a child must be delayed in at least one (1) of the following areas:

Area

Examples

Motor Development:

The way children use their body to move.



Difficulty using hands and arms to complete activities for eating, scribbling, handling or playing with toys, using arms and legs to balance, walk and run.

Communication:

The way children use speech, sounds, gestures, or facial expressions to express their needs or share ideas.



Trouble being understood by others, asking and answering questions, talking about feelings or telling stories. Challenges following directions or understanding others.

Academic Development:

Skills that build the foundation for reading, writing and math.



Difficulty handling and looking at books or pictures, following stories, learning letter sounds and names, counting and scribbling.

Adaptive Behavior:

Skills needed to become independent.



Difficulty playing with others, following directions, toileting, adapting to change.

Sources: [Chapter 60 Guidelines](#), [Appendix B - Referral, Evaluation & Eligibility "What Comes Next?: Developmental Delay and the IEP"](#), 2021 SPIN Conference Presentation, [Video](#) and [Slides](#)



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SPIN News



Eligibility Categories for Special Education Under IDEA and Chapter 60

Developmental Delay (DD)

Ages 6 through 8 Years Old

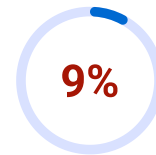
DD means a child is slow to meet or not reaching milestones in one or more areas of development expected for the child's age.



To qualify under the DD criteria for students aged 6 through 8 years old the student must:

- exhibit delays in 3 out of 5 developmental areas,
- experience a negative impact in their education,
- and require special education and related services.

Only about **1 in 10 school age students with IEPs** in Hawaii in School Year 2023-24 were eligible under the category DD.



1,720/18,241 students

Source: Section 618 Child Count Data

Factors that may exclude eligibility under Developmental Delay:

- a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math,
- limited English proficiency,
- an environmental or economic disadvantage, or
- cultural factors.

Areas of Developmental Delay

Eligibility requires delays in at least three (3) of the following five (5) areas of development:

Areas

Examples

Motor Development



Writing, keyboarding, skipping, hopping, copying, moving in the environment, etc.

Communication



Understanding spoken language, speaking clearly, explaining events, etc.

Academic Achievement



Reading, writing, spelling, math, problem solving, reasoning, calculation, etc.

Adaptive Behavior



Following school rules, transitioning to new activities, interacting with others, etc.

Cognition



Thinking, remembering, making decisions, organizing, applying experiences, etc.

Children 6 through 8 determined to be DD eligible require a **reevaluation by age 9** for the team to determine if the child continues to be eligible under a different IDEA category.



Sources: [Chapter 60 Guidelines, Appendix B - Referral, Evaluation & Eligibility "What Comes Next?: Developmental Delay and the IEP", 2021 SPIN Conference Presentation, Video and Slides](#)



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SPIN News



April Calendar



Learning Labs by LDAH - Virtual

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - FREE

The Leadership in Disabilities and Achievement Hawaii (LDAH) is offering family workshops on a variety of topics to help grow advocacy and confidence for parents/caregivers who have a child with an IEP or 504 plan.



4/9 Evaluations

4/23 Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAPF)

5/7 Letter Writing

5/14 Parent Talk Cafe

5/21 Understanding Roles in the HIDEOE

To register, call 808-536-9684.



4/11 SEAC Meeting - Virtual

5/9 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.

4/15 40th Annual Pac Rim Conference - In Person

4/16 8:00 am - 5:00 pm each day - \$\$

Hawaii Convention Center, 3rd Floor
Multiple workshops, film festival, a resource fair and networking at this international conference on disability, hosted by the UH Manoa Center on Disability Studies.

Call SPIN at 808-586-8126 to receive a code for a discounted parent rate at checkout.

More info: www.pacrim.coe.hawaii.edu



4/12 Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt - In Person

11:00 am - 2:00 pm - FREE

Harbor West Oahu Church, 590 Farrington Hwy., Kapolei. Hosted by the Kelii Foundation, for children and youth, there will be start times for each age group, including teens.
<https://form.jotform.com/250758897657177>

4/19 Silent Disco Dance Party - In Person

5:00 pm - 8:00 pm FREE

Join Never Quit Dreaming for a fun dance party with games and puzzles. Put on your headphones and dance to your own beat. Everyone welcome to this inclusive event. Register at: www.nqdhawaii.org/silentdisco

4/29 Suicide Prevention Workshop - In Person

3:00 - 4:00 pm - FREE

Na'alehu Elementary 95-5545 Mamalahoa Hwy. Join the Community Children's Council and Project HI Aware to learn about suicide prevention for kids of all ages.

For more info, email: rachel.greedy@k12.hi.us

4/30 Assistive Technology Awareness Day - In Person

9:00 am - 5:00 pm FREE

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 430, Honolulu
Learn more about assistive technology, try new products with hands-on demo's and talk with AT specialists about how high and low technology products might work for you or your child.
For more info, call 808-532-7110

5/10 39th Annual SPIN Conference - In Person "The Magical World Of SPIN"

8:30 am - 3:30 pm - \$25 parents/students

Koolau Ballroom, 45-550 Kionaole Rd., Kaneohe
Join us for a magical day full of spell-binding workshops, the enchanting Hall of Resources, a wondrous SPIN Awards Luncheon and Supernatural networking with parents and helping professionals.

More info: www.spinconference.org



...gs 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