

"SPIN is 40 and Fabulous"

Evaluation Report

March 28, 2026

UH Manoa Campus Center



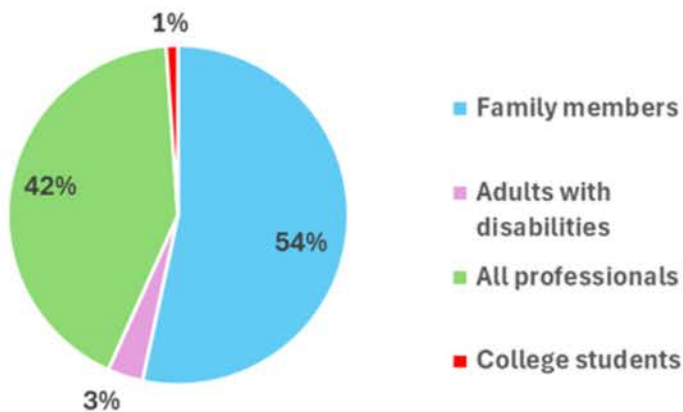
2026 Conference Attendees

Total Attendees	472
Parents	170
Grandparents	3
Family Members	5
Students with IEP/IFSP	12
Adult with Disability	12
DOE Professionals	36
Other Professionals	114
College Students	4
Exhibitors	116

Our 40th SPIN Conference was held at the UH Campus Center. We hosted 356 registered attendees and an additional 116 participants manning 60 exhibitor tables. Our theme this year celebrated 40 years of SPIN Conferences!

Child's Disability	Number
Autism / Autism +	72
ADHD	26
Intellectual Disability	9
Down Syndrome	7
Other Syndromes	9
Developmental Delay	8
Deaf/Hard of Hearing	5
Cerebral Palsy	4
Anxiety	3
Other Disabilities	8

% Attendees by Role Group

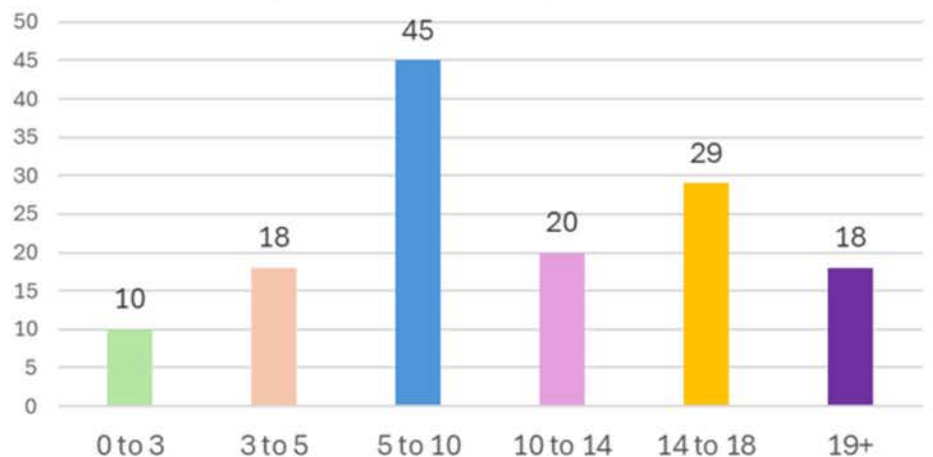


Autism was the largest disability category again this year, with ADHD coming in second. For the second year in a row, we had a majority of parents and family members attending the conference.

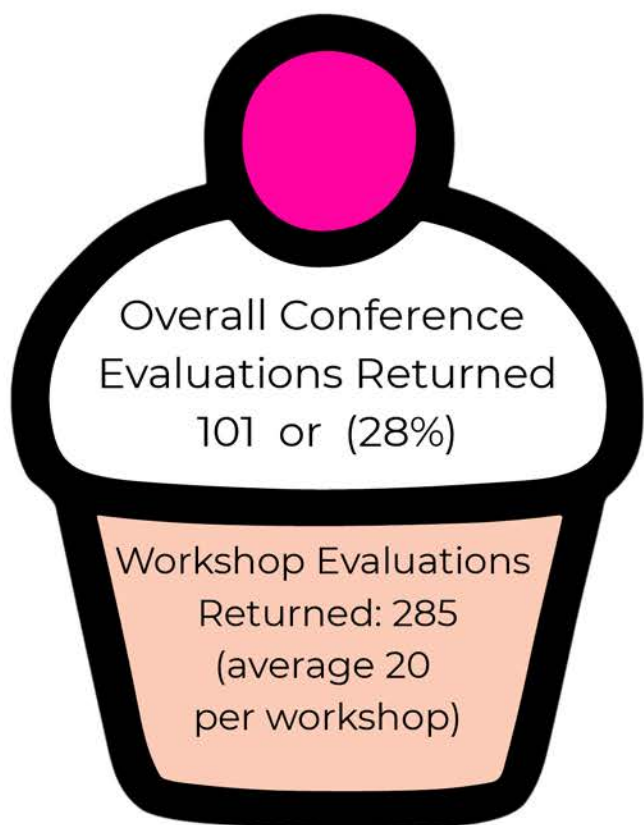
Elementary school-aged children made up the bulk of ages reported by parent attendees. We were happy to see so many Early Intervention and preschool families attend too!



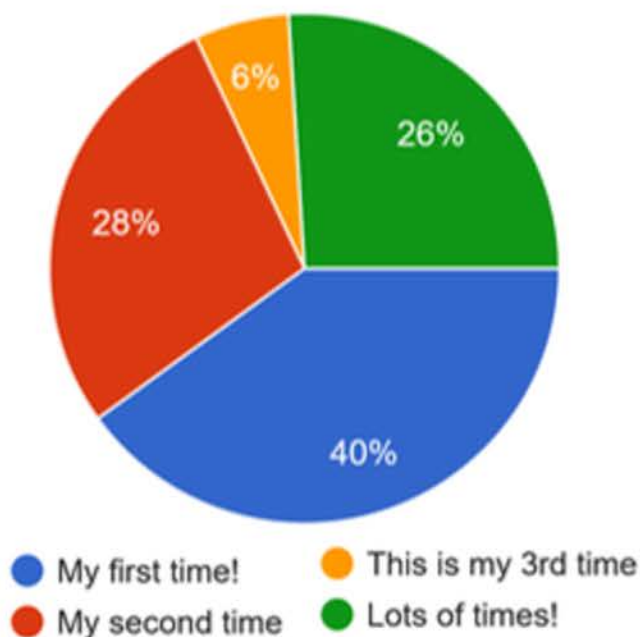
Ages of Children Represented



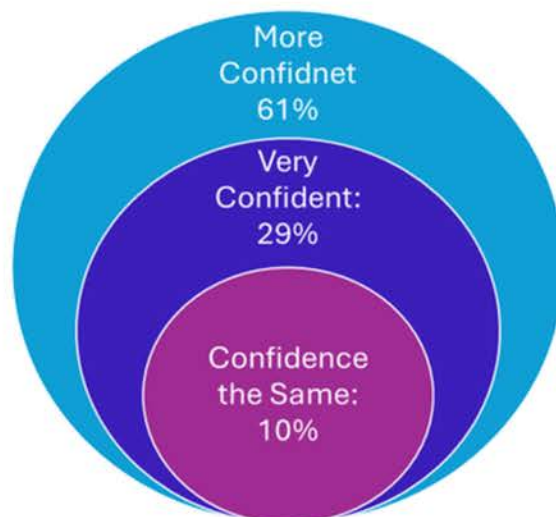
Conference Evaluation Data



I have attended SPIN Conference:



After SPIN Conference, how confident to you feel getting supports and services for your child/student/client?





A big shout out to **Aloha Care** for their sponsorship this year! They helped us cover airfare and lunch costs. We also want to recognize the **UH Center on Disability Studies** for providing our venue and both the **American Academy of Pediatrics Hawaii** and the **Community Children's Council** for providing parent registration scholarships! Mahalo Nui!

Totally Rad Resource Room

We had 65 tables representing 60 organizations!

Evaluation Shout-Outs!

State Agencies: 17
 Family Support: 12
 Autism Services: 7
 General Services: 22
 Transition Support: 2

- DDD
- Easter Seals
- Hawaii Behavior Health
- Hawaii Families as Allies
- Hoomana
- LDAH
- Mango Tree
- SEAC
- Shriners



Recommendations

Workshop Topic Suggestions

- Some teacher-focused or provider-focused workshops
- Workshop on OCD
- More on adult transitions
- How our kids get a job after they leave school
- Educational advocacy
- IEP navigation: what to ask for and expect
- Supports for health care
- Building understanding between teachers & parents
- Teens & young adult social issues (dating, work, etc.)
- Barriers (language, technology, ADA) and their solutions
- Career opportunities for youth with disabilities
- Sibling workshop with younger siblings
- Understanding the IEP process
- Navigating different systems (how to be your child's care coordinator)
- Types of supports for young adults with ASD or ID/DD
- Supporting non-verbal children
- More Interactive & parent-led

Suggestions for Improvements

- Have the conference in Hilo and other islands
- A shorter keynote for more time in the resource room
- Needed rice with lunch
- It was hard to find the Executive Dining Room
- Can you split the resource room into smaller rooms? It was loud!
- Name tag to show if a parent, teacher, doctor, etc.
- Better signs from the parking lot
- Some kind of signal in the resource room that workshops are starting



Conference Theme Ideas

- Around the world
- Cruise around the world
- Country western
- Different cultures



What did you like about the SPIN Conference?

 Informative!

Loved the theme and how well organized everything was. I also liked the fact we can connect with other families and hear stories we can relate to!

So much support

The resources and meeting people in similar situations as me

Connecting with others!

Fun!

SPIN Advisors were very accommodating and very helpful

The dance in the beginning was fabulous!

Expertise of the speakers!

Helpful!

Friendly & welcoming

The workshops

I really liked all the workshop options!

The SPIN Conference provided a safe space and place to ask questions and engage

Everyone was so welcoming, positive, great Keynote speakers, and awesome resources I can use with my students

 I loved the workshops, awards, resource room, lunch and folder with handouts. I also loved the positive space that was shared throughout the SPIN Conference.

Resource Goodies!

Real people with real experiences, not just textbook definitions and a lot of new insights!

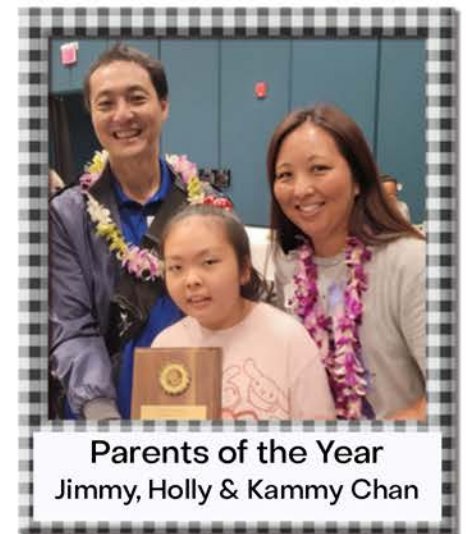
Resource room had neighbor island supports

Great people

2026 SPIN Awards



We are excited to announce our magical SPIN Award winners for 2026! This year, Melanie Lee accepted for Roz Kia and Tina King accepted for Regina Corniel. For a description of each award winners accomplishments, read our May 2026 SPIN Newsletter, found on our website: <https://spinhawaii.org/newsletter-download/>



Conference Photos



Workshop Evaluations

“Every Test You Take“ (Educational Assessments)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 48 Evaluations Received: 26			Parent: 42%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and	96%	4%	Professional: 58%
Speakers were engaging and easy to	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the	96%	4%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		

Comments: As a sped teacher, great to see things from a parent perspective * I like the envelopes with different questions, they were informational * I love the step by step instruction on how you get resources for what I need help with * Mahalo! * The handout was super helpful * The Q&A was helpful * Thank you, see you in Hana! * Thank you for this wonderful workshop * Great parent resource * Excellent presentation * Easy to follow and understand * Amazing presentation! As a sped teacher, I learned so much from your presentation * Mahalo for a great and fabulous training * Great presentation * Mahalo!

“Preschool is Totally Cool“ (Early Intervention Transition)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 14 Evaluations Received: 9			Parent: 56%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 11%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 33%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		

Comments: Very helpful for Care Coordinators in Early Intervention * The family perspective was very meaningful and made the transition information very meaningful * Parent/family testimony is always powerful * Mahalo to the ohana for sharing!

“That’s What Friends are For” (Finding Support Networks)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 48 Evaluations Received: 30			Parent: 80%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family: 10%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	86%	14%	Professional: 7%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		DOE Student: 3%
Handouts were provided.	97%	3%	
Comments: Great message * Useful resources * Loved the activities * Fun! * Loved the interactivity and how open a space it created for families and resources for professionals to share with the families we serve * They had an interactive game that I’m sure everyone loved * Made my daughter in a wheelchair feel welcome and included * Thank you so much! * Loved it! * Great presentation! * Wish we had more time! * Interesting + enlightening + inspiring! * Mahalo for the resources and making space and validating experiences * Kahea, you are the best, thank you for what you do for the families * Fun Fun Fun – what a breather! * Hoomana presenter Jordan was fantastic! * Great resource info from the EFMP * Shyla and Skye were great presenters and speakers * The language of parents brought up all the emotions * Great! * Amazing heart felt talk from Aloha Minds * Mahalo for the great advice * Very positive.			

“Don’t Worry, Be Happy” (De-Stress Techniques for Parents)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 20 Evaluations Received: 12			Parent: 67%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and	100%		Professional: 33%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Thank you! * Excellent * Very informative * Great tools * Thank you fellow mama! * You are awesome! * Find joy, find something to be grateful for – YES!			

“Back to the Future“ (Artificial Intelligence in Schools)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 27 Evaluations Received: 12			Parent: 92%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	92%	8%	Professional: 8%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Good info * Thank you! * Thank you for having 2 speakers from different perspectives, especially the parent perspective * Excellent, very informative! * AI is something the schools need to embrace more to create tailored sped programs and incorporate it into the IEP * Interesting topic * Very informative * Both speakers knowledgeable but more examples of using AI would have been helpful.			

“Stand by Me“ (Bullying Prevention)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 14 Evaluations Received: 11			Parent: 64%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 18%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	91%	9%	Professional: 18%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	91%	9%	Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	91%	9%	College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	91%	9%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Thank you * Awesome workshop * Very informational * Try to use a pause when speaking * Mahalo! * Great info!			

“Tech Me Up Before You Go Go” (Assistive Technology in the IEP)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 13 Evaluations Received: 13			Parent: 62%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 38%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	92%	8%	College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Mahalo! * Thank you * This was a 10 out of 10 workshops * It was helpful learning what different assistive technology are available, whether it will high tech or low tech, and what that might look like for specific individuals * Mahalo!			

“Talking Heads” (Screen Time & Language)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 28 Evaluations Received: 22			Parent: 59%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 5%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	95%	5%	Professional: 36%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		DOE Student:
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Mahalo! * Mahalo for the resources * Excellent and helpful * Please use a mic, hard to hear * I appreciate the examples of print awareness * Today I learned we don’t have to 100% read for children.			

“Come Together“ (Conflict Resolution Strategies)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 25 Evaluations Received: 23			Parent: 52%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 48%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	96%	4%	College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: As a teacher, this was helpful in trying to better communicate with ohana * Good speaker * Good handouts with resources * The handouts will be helpful if and when we need them in the future * It's important to be prepared in the event I have to use mediation by knowing how it works * Provided a clearer understanding where there may be confusion * Mahalo * Noise from resource room was distracting * Maybe add specific examples of how to prep for mediation * Thank you!			

“Handle with Care“ (Medically Fragile Supports in School)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 17 Evaluations Received: 8			Parent: 88%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional:
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		DOE Student: 12%
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: 10 out of 10! * Great job ladies! * Mahalo!			

“Lean on Me“ (Supports for Siblings)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 25 Evaluations Received: 16			Parent: 88%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 6%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 6%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Panelists were great! * The topic was much needed * Great presentation * Provided helpful links and the group was engaged in sharing experiences and resources * I picked up an info packet for our daughter, who is an older sibling * Thank you so much for this workshop and all the resources! * Mahalo – much needed! * The speaker had lots of knowledge and allowed great conversations * I loved this sibling workshop * Understanding what siblings of special needs children go through was helpful * Panelists were so great!			

“True Colors“ (Understanding ADHD)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 58 Evaluations Received: 44			Parent: 64%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 34%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	98%	2%	Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	98%	2%	College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	98%	2%	DOE Student: 2%
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Very knowledgeable and honest about information and topic * Good information * I really enjoyed his honesty and practical advice for parents * Session felt like I had the DSM4 read to me * Such great information for parents and teachers * Super informative on ADHD topic * I loved how he gave examples multiple times for the learners to better understand * I loved it! * I thought he was very knowledgeable and gave a different perspective for parents and all educators * He really broke down and was transparent about how to support children/students * Only had time for 2 questions * This was my favorite workshop * I feel like I have a better understanding of ADHD * Mahalo!			

“Radical Realities for Autism Today“ (Autism & Current Controversies)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 61 Evaluations Received: 46			Parent: 50%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	98%	2%	Family member: 4%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	98%	2%	Professional: 44%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate: 2%
The workshop was helpful to me.	98%	2%	College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	98%	2%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: I appreciate how they shared a variety of evidence and solutions * Expected to hear how DOH is investigating autism, this was not covered * Thank you for promoting evidence-based treatments and teaching how to identify red flags * Thank you * Would love to hear more about how to balance evidence-based practices with culturally responsive practices & considerations * Loved the highlight of “Safety vs Effectiveness” * We need to know about what is evidence-based and what is not * Despite tech issues, it was really informative * I’m grateful to learn what the speakers taught * Addressed questions that were grey areas for me * The info shared was relatable to our family situation and gave me a better understanding of evidence-based options * Great topic * I appreciated how neutral and unbiased the presenters remained while equipping learners with critical tools * Mahalo!			

“Decisions Are My Jam“ (Supported Decision-Making)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 20 Evaluations Received: 13			Parent: 39%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 15%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 38%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		DOE Student: 8%
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: I wondered about the distinctions between guardianship, POA and SDM and now I feel like I understand * Very helpful * Very informative * Sharing this with my mainland family * Mahalo!			