



Nā Leo 'Ohana

June 2022

A Dad's Healing Journey

By

Wilma Friesema, EPIC 'Ohana

"When you put your walls up a lot of bad things happen. You think you're protecting yourself, but you're not." –Kyle Masuda

It took Kyle Masuda, a father of six boys, many years to realize that his self-protection was often hurting him. His journey to acquire that valuable wisdom was a difficult one, but it's a journey that gave him certainty and clarity. Today, after a lot of hard twists and turns, Kyle knows what truly matters to him.

From a young age, Kyle put up walls and knew how to be tough. Born on Kaua'i, he grew up with very little direction and support. He was only 12 when he first entered the juvenile justice system after he and his friends were convicted of armed robbery. He returned to the facility, again, at age 16, because he had seriously injured another youth. He stayed there until his 19th birthday.

Kyle was hard-edged, but his bad-boy exterior was only hiding a very deep wound. At home he was the child who didn't matter. Kyle could disappear for three days and there would be no reaction, no consequences, when he returned home. His sister, on the other hand, would get grounded if she was a minute late after curfew. Kyle often felt invisible and adrift.

Feeling so disregarded, it was hard for him to believe in his own worth. His identity became tied up with being defiant, and he soon turned to using and dealing drugs. Eventually he was arrested and sent to a mainland prison. Kyle continued to act like a tough troublemaker, but in prison he also got sober.

To his credit, Kyle created a different life for himself when he returned to Kaua'i. He landed a job as an appliance mechanic, met his wife, and soon they had children. Kyle was 34 when his first son was born. Within a few years the birth of two more sons followed. Life was good. Work kept his mind busy, his wife and boys were doing well, and their future looked bright. For the first time, Kyle felt like he could lower his walls and have some trust in life.

Tragically, that all got upended when he suffered a severe accident while riding his



Kyle Masuda and his boys

street bike. His hip was completely severed and, though reparative surgery was performed, he was told he'd never fully recover. For nearly a year he was confined to a wheelchair. Depressed and disheartened Kyle returned to drugs, but he also kept pushing himself to regain his mobility. After many painful months in the chair, followed by more painful and determined months on crutches, he was able to walk without assistance.

Because of his injury, work was limited so Kyle turned to drug dealing to make ends meet. Three more sons were born, making providing for his family a top priority. It wasn't long after his youngest son was born, however, that he was arrested again and sent to prison. This time to a facility in Colorado.

Things were looking very bleak. His wife wasn't doing well, and he was missing his boys terribly. He felt guilty that he wasn't there with them, caring for them. His children didn't deserve his absence, he realized; they didn't choose to be born. He was failing them as much, if not more, than his parents had failed him.

When he heard that his boys had been taken into foster care, Kyle hit bottom. A CWS social worker called him and told him that there was nothing he could do to help the situation because he was in prison. Kyle felt powerless and angry. To vent, he turned to what he had always done: make trouble.

One day his cellmate, Donald, who was also Hawaiian, was listening to Kyle lament about missing his boys. Finally, Donald said, "Man, what you doin' over here making trouble and stuff? You should be doin' things to get your kids back." He then went on to say that he prayed to God about Kyle, and that God told him Kyle needed to get into programs because when he left prison he would be reunified with his boys.

Kyle didn't take Donald seriously at first, but good things started to happen when he tentatively followed Donald's advice. It took Kyle six weeks to get into a parenting class, but when he attended his first session he felt great. It was such a relief to

finally be doing something proactive for his kids. Through the class he began to understand, more deeply, how to be a good dad and care for and nurture his children. That further fueled his determination to fight for his boys.

From then on, and with Donald's encouragement, Kyle took every class possible, even ones that weren't related to CWS concerns. Finally, after much hard work and the completion of a nine month/500-hour drug rehabilitation program, he was told that a year had been shaved off of his sentence. He was ecstatic! That reduction meant he could return to Hawaii in time to fight against the termination of his parental rights. He might be able get his boys back after all.

As soon as his plane landed on Kaua'i, Kyle went to the CWS office. He handed the social worker the certificates of completion from the many classes and programs he had taken. She was impressed. Within two days, she set up a visit between Kyle and the boys.

For Kyle, it was jarring to see how much his boys had grown during his time away. It made him realize how precious their time together was, which brought up painful feelings too. When visits were over, for example, returning the boys to their resource caregivers was wrenching. As tough as he had been in prison, after dropping the boys off Kyle would cry all the way home.

Kyle had tried to bury his pain by having a bad-boy/tough-guy exterior, but every time he put on that mask it kept him from what he really wanted the most: family. Today, Kyle and the boys are together and living a full family life. Kyle works as a security guard, is engaged to a woman who is great with his kids, and he loves being a dad. His greatest reward, he says, is happiness; the happiness he feels seeing his boys enjoying themselves and watching them thrive. Kyle is now a hugger. He wants each of his boys to know how important they are, that they are his highest priority. He never tires of telling them how much he loves them. He's adamant that don't go through what he went through.

Tears often fill Kyle's eyes when he tells his story. He's no longer afraid of his emotions and showing his tender side. He's also open to asking for help, and being encouraged and encouraging in return. From the child

who felt so disconnected and adrift, to the adult who now knows that family and relationships are what truly matter, Kyle's journey has been a difficult but worthwhile one. Asked what he'd say if he could be some other dad's "Donald," Kyle replied, "I'd tell them love your kids. Fight for them. If you fight the system, then it's going to be hard, but if you let the system work on your behalf it's better. Do what you got to do. The rewards are so great. I can't even find words for how great it is."

*A short film about the reunification process which features Kyle can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eet2uUWZGGA>



Prudent Parenting

What you Need To Know

What is it?

The reasonable and prudent parent standard is characterized by care and sensible parental decisions that maintain a child/young person's health, safety, and best interests while at the same time encouraging the child/young person's emotional and developmental growth. It's a standard that a caregiver shall use when determining whether a child in their care can participate in extracurricular, enrichment and social activities. For more information, refer to the "Don't Say No Until You Know Guide."

Why is it important?

- Resource caregivers can make sensible decisions for youth
- Provides access to youth in care to be involved in extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities is vital for a child's development
- Empowers youth to develop skills, talents, healthy relationships with peers and supportive adults

Things to consider:

- Is activity appropriate for youth's age and development?
- What is the youth's strengths and skills?
- Is the youth open to trying something new? Do they have an interest in the activity?

To learn more visit the Resource Caregiver Website: rcg.hawaii.gov/foster



How can we best contact you?
Please click on the link below or scan the QR Code from any mobile device or tablet.

Here is the link:

<https://forms.office.com/g/mKRJXpKhBQ>



HAWAII
**FOSTER CARE
CONNECTIONS**



RHEA LANA EVENT and MAHALO

Free Foster Family shop

Monday
June 27
430pm-530pm



Rhea Lana's of Honolulu
June 19-25

**Open to all licensed
Resource Caregivers,
Adoptive, and
Legal Guardianship
Families**

RSVP at:

<https://fb.me/e/1RwpOABkG>

- ◆ Bring a printed copy of this flyer or show this event flyer on your mobile device
- ◆ Bring your issued DHS foster care license
- ◆ No guests, please

Location

**Pearl Ridge Center
former Toys R Us
98-211 Pali Momi St. #B
Aiea, HI 96701**

For more event information,
visit Rhea Lana's website at:
www.honolulu.rhealana.com

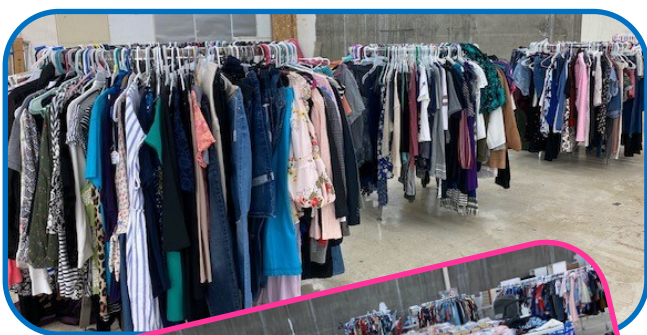


www.rcg.hawaii.gov



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
HAWAII

Mahalo to Rhea Lana for putting on a free shopping event for foster families on March 7, 2022.



SIBLING CONNECTIONS CORNER

Hui Pilina: Honoring and Prioritizing Sibling Relationships

Focusing on the lifelong impact of strong sibling connections is at the core of the Hui Pilina, a working group comprised of community partners and young leaders with lived experience in foster care. The Hui Pilina is one of several working groups that are a part of the overall Nā Kama a Hāloa network, an effort to address the well-being of Native Hawaiian families and children impacted by foster care. The vision or “future state” of the Hui Pilina is, *“Sibling relationships are honored and prioritized as critical, lifelong relationships.”*

The Hui Pilina meets monthly and has designed a training for resource caregivers and all adults who serve young people in foster care. This training is available virtually and can be found on EPIC 'Ohana's YouTube channel. It is entitled: **“Pilina: Keeping Siblings Connected in Foster Care Training.”** While you're visiting EPIC's YouTube channel, please also check out **“Brothers and Sisters: Keeping Siblings in Foster Care Connected”**, a powerful video that highlights the personal stories of several young people who experienced being separated from their siblings in care and their thoughts on maintaining connections. One young man, Filipe, who is interviewed in the video says, “My siblings were everything to me, they were my world.”


Some key points from the video include the following:

- Separated siblings are more likely to have issues with foster care placements, behavioral challenges and running away.
- Remaining with siblings lessens anxiety, fear and constant concern about family.

Recommendations include:

- Place siblings together in the same home when possible.
- Place siblings nearby if they are separated, preferably in the same neighborhood and school district.
- Arrange for regular visits and other forms of contact.
- Never use (taking away) sibling visitation as a form of discipline.

The Hui Pilina will be working on a helpful handout for social workers, judges, resource caregivers and other team members, highlighting policy, tips, and recommendations on how to prioritize sibling connections for the well-being of children and youth involved in the foster care system. They are grateful for partnerships with Child Welfare Services and community stakeholders who are committed to this goal. For more information about the Hui Pilina, please contact Delia Ulima at dulima@epicohana.org. To learn more about the Nā Kama a Hāloa network, please go to www.epicohana.org/nakama.



Sibling Connections Corner is dedicated to uplifting stories and information that highlights and promotes policy, practice and supports which ensure brothers and sisters maintain consistent, quality relationships while in foster care and beyond.

TRAININGS

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

The H.A.N.A.I pre-service curriculum was revised based on feedback received from resource caregiver surveys and the need to provide the most current information about the Child Welfare Services (CWS) practice model. That practice model incorporate a trauma informed and healing foundation, and Native Hawaiian and other cultural perspectives to address the unique needs and experiences of resource caregivers.

The H.A.N.A.I. pre-service training has been revised to include a Trauma and Healing Informed Care (THIC) lens as the foundation of the curriculum. This also includes shared parenting as the mindset and practice of resource caregivers to further help them support parents and children involved in foster care. This will assist participants to develop a deeper understanding of the experience of children and families involved in foster care. The curriculum is also designed to develop participants' skills to provide children and parents support from a trauma informed perspective.

Effective April 1, 2022, the new pre-service training hour requirements were increased from 18 hours to a total of 27 hours (over a two-year period).

In year one (14-hours), resource caregivers receive training that provides a strong foundation on key topics to serve and care for children and families involved with Child Welfare Services.

Year two (13-hours) provides opportunities to connect and apply principles and concepts in practice through their experience as a resource caregiver.

CWS has translated the curriculum (PowerPoint and Resource Caregiver Training Manual) into four languages (Ilocano, Tagalog, Chuukese, and Marshallese) to support resource caregivers in understanding the desired outcomes and strategies to meet the needs of children and families involved with Child Welfare Services. These materials are available for download on the Hawaii Resource Caregiver website (<http://rcg.hawaii.gov/trainings>).

Year 1 TOPICS

- Introduction & Licensing Process, Role of a Resource Caregiver, Rights of Youth in Care, Child Welfare Team & Court Process
- Child Welfare Service, Child Abuse, Neglect, and Human Trafficking, Discipline Guidelines, Safety, What is Trauma & ACES
- Impact of Trauma on the Brain, Separation/Loss/Grief, Culture, Prudent Parenting, Special Considerations, Consultation, & Support, and Bill of Rights
- 'Ōhana Time
- Sexual Health, Childhood Development, & LGBTQA+

Year 2 TOPICS

- Ola Ka 'Ōhana
- Trauma & Developmental Stages, Being Trauma Responsive, Attachment, Resource Caregiver Toolkit
- Sibling Connections, Social Capital, Normalcy for Youth in Foster Care, Promoting Resiliency
- Transitions, Mandated Reporting, and Becoming an Advocate, Community Resources available to support you

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ONGOING PRE-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Effective January 1, 2023 Child Welfare Services (CWS) will begin requiring each licensed resource caregiver to complete a minimum of 13-hours of ongoing training. This is an increase from current requirement of 6-hours per resource family to 13-hours per licensed resource caregiver.

Resource caregivers who have license renewals due in 2022 can do EITHER option:

- The current requirement of 6-hours per resource family or
- 13-hour training requirement for each licensed resource caregiver.

Beginning in 2023, all resource caregivers will need to meet all renewal requirements which will include the 13-hour training requirements per licensed resource caregiver.

[Visit https://rcg.hawaii.gov](https://rcg.hawaii.gov)

- Register for On-going Trainings
 - Register for Support Groups
 - Find resources on many topics
(childhood development, safe sleep, licensing requirements and other foster care topics)

PARENT LINE



The Parent Line

Funded by the Hawai'i State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Branch

IS OFFERING VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE ON

SELF-CARE WITH YOUR KEIKI

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 @ 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Learn about the importance of self-care and how to self-care with the whole family.

SAFE SLEEP

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 @ 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

When babies sleep safe, parents rest easier. Learn some tips on how to ensure safe sleep for your baby.

NURTURING PARENTING ROUTINES

Thursday, June 16, 2022 @ 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Learn ways to incorporate nurturing parenting techniques into your everyday routines and why they are so important to establish.

AGES AND STAGES: INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Tuesday, June 21, 2022 @ 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The goal of this workshop is to increase parent's awareness of appropriate expectations of children.

CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?

Thursday, June 30, 2022 @ 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

The goal of this workshop is to discuss when to act if you are concerned about your child's development.



FOR MORE QUESTIONS, WORKSHOPS, OR TO RSVP,
CALL THE PARENT LINE AT (808) 526-1222



RSVP NO LATER THAN 7:00PM THE DAY PRIOR TO WORKSHOP

*The virtual workshops are voluntary and intended for enrichment purposes.
 Certifications and/or credits are not offered.*

STATEWIDE RECRUITMENT

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH



www.pidf.org |

STATEWIDE RECRUITMENT




April & May were filled with so many fun and exciting events!

To stay up to date with future Recruitment Events visit rcg.hawaii.gov/events

East Hawai'i Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect (EHCAN) invites Hawai'i Island 'ohana and community members to the virtual

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

JOIN US IN OUR MISSION TO END CHILD ABUSE



April is Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month

Join us as the Hawai'i County Mayor's Office presents the proclamation on Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention month, followed by a discussion on Benevolent Childhood Experiences (BCEs) by Dawn Rego-Yee, MSW.

April 7, 2022 | 9AM-10:30AM | Zoom
Register at EHCAN.org

EASTER EGG VILLAGE

Project Pilina

APRIL 17th, 2022
2PM-4PM
THE BARN @ SALT
AT OUR KAKA'AKO
691 Auahi Street | Honolulu, HI 96813



Help the Easter Bunny Design a Special Egg to Celebrate Easter!

Project Pilina PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

FOSTER CARE INFORMATION NIGHT

AT GYPSEA GELATO

FOSTER CARE INFO SESSION & CRAFTS FOR THE KEIKI

First 35 attendees receive a FREE small size Gelato!



In Honor Of Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month.

FRIDAY APRIL 29th, 2022
5PM-6:30PM
LOCATION: GYPSEA GELATO
79-7491 HAWAII BELT RD., KEALAKEUA, HI. 96750

For More Information Call Chelsea! (808)996-3829

GYPSEA GELATO PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

Project Pilina PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

www.pidf.org

E Komo Mai! Join Us to Support Project Pilina and Hawai'i Food Basket

Saturday, April 2, 2022
KTA Puainako, 8a-11a

Items Needed:

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Hair Brush
- Slippers
- Deodorant (teens)
- Underwear
- Non-Perishable Food

Hilo Crescent City Lions & Leos
Waiakea Hawaiian Volcanic Water

2022 'ŌHANA FUN FEST

10:30AM-9PM

MAY 28, 2022
10:30AM-9PM

WED-NIHA Hawaii

Project Pilina PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

BE A HERO IN A CHILD'S LIFE. BECOME A FOSTER HOME!

"the way it should be"

BOOK READING

with author, Christina Suzann Nelson

FIRST 50 RSVP'S RECEIVE A FREE SIGNED COPY OF CHRISTINA'S BOOK!

RSVP HERE

SUNDAY MAY 22, 2022
2PM-3PM

Zoom

*Zoom link provided at time of RSVP.

2021 Award Winner General Fiction

"the way it should be"

After years of estrangement, the lives of Zara, Malaya and her twin sister, Eve, are suddenly and completely intertwined again. Eve's troubled lifestyle causes the state to take custody of her two children and contact Zara and her husband, asking them to consider foster care.

Project Pilina PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

2 NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!

FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY MAY 7TH, 2022
11 AM - 4 PM

MAHALO FOSTER FAMILIES!

Includes Lawn, Broom Fee & Lunch

Project Pilina PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

2 NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

"I Belong" Sign Waving FOR FOSTER CARE

SUNDAY MAY 1 1PM-2PM

HOGAARD PARK 9675 WAIMEA RD. 96754

All Are Welcome! *water & snacks provided.

MAHALO FOSTER FAMILIES! Thank you for all you do.

Project Pilina PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT

2 NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

I BELONG BOWLING BONANZA!

Celebrating West Hawai'i Foster Families!

SATURDAY MAY 14, 2022
11AM-4PM

6 BOWLERS PER LANE - 1 HOUR

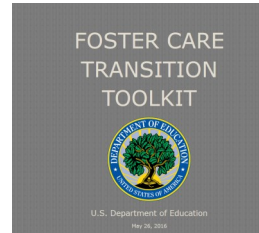
INCLUDES LANE & SHOE FEE.

NO ODO & FRIES FROM CHIBBY'S!

RSVP REQUIRED TO RESERVE LANE & TIME!

RESOURCES

Resources for graduates continuing to Higher Education or transitioning to Adulthood



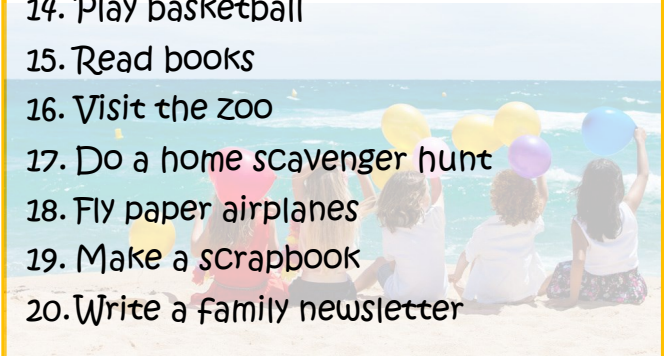
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/foster-care/youth-transition-toolkit.pdf>

Mahalo to the following Service Providers & Community Partners in participating in the Statewide Virtual Resource Fair in honor of May is Foster Care Month



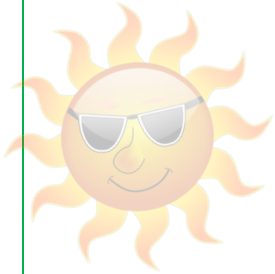
Summer Fun Activities

1. Play hopscotch
2. Play board games
3. Make popsicles
4. Go on a picnic
5. Write & send a letter to family or friends
6. Make s'mores
7. Fly a kite
8. Plant flowers
9. Make water balloons
10. Play in the sprinklers
11. Help the neighbors clean their yard
12. Draw with sidewalk chalk
13. Make an art craft
14. Play basketball
15. Read books
16. Visit the zoo
17. Do a home scavenger hunt
18. Fly paper airplanes
19. Make a scrapbook
20. Write a family newsletter



UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us for any of our upcoming events.



To register, visit the
Hawaii Resource Caregiver Licensing Website/Portal at
<https://rcg.hawaii.gov> or
via the mobile app for resource caregivers
“Hawaii Foster Care Connections”
(download for FREE in the Google Play or Apple App store).

JUNE 2022

National Reunification Month & Graduation

Statewide Support Group	June 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Support Group
Info Session (Statewide)	June 14, 2022 at 9:00 am - 10:00 am	Recruitment
Pono Process: Self Advocacy	June 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Training
Grandparents Support Group	June 15, 2022 at 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Support Group
Antecedent Behavior Consequences	June 16, 2022 at 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Training
Rhea Lana Free Shopping Event	June 27, 2022 at 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Event

JULY 2022

Statewide Support Group	July 13, 2022 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Support Group
Info Session (Statewide)	July 14, 2022 at 9:00 am - 10:00 am	Recruitment
Sexual Health Training	July 14, 2022 at 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Training
Grandparent Support Group	July 20, 2022 at 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Support Group
Normalcy, Social Capital & Prudent Parenting	July 26, 2022 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Training
Kinship Support Group	July 28, 2022 at 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Support Group
Summer Drive Thru	TBA	Event

AUGUST 2022

Info Session (Statewide)	August 2, 2022 at 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Recruitment
Statewide Support Group	August 10, 2022 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Support Group
Tips on Working with CWS Team	August 17, 2022 at 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	Training
Grandparents Support Group	August 24, 2022 at 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Support Group
Kinship Support Group	August 25, 2022 at 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Support Group

SEPTEMBER 2022

Info Session (Statewide)	September 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Recruitment
Pono Process: Self Advocacy	September 8, 2022 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Training
Statewide Support Group	September 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm	Support Group
Grandparents Support Group	September 21, 2022 at 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Support Group
Social Capital, Normalcy & Prudent Parenting	September 24, 2022 at 9:00 am - 10:30 am	Training
Kinship Support Group	September 29, 2022 at 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Support Group

Please contact the Resource Caregiver Warm Line
at (808) 545-1130 for any questions

COMMUNITY CORNER



In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, the Girl Scouts of Hawaii Troops 835, 239 and 617 joined our CCH team for a "Pinwheels for Prevention" project. The girls scouts created a beautiful pinwheel garden at CCH's Ching Campus to help raise awareness about the importance of communities working together to protect children and strengthen families.



Mahalo!

We were fortunate to have Hamakua Baptist Church provide Easter Baskets to our youth in care in East Hawaii.



The Nā Leo 'Ohana Newsletter
is published quarterly by
Catholic Charities Hawai'i
1822 Keeaumoku Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Contact information:
WarmLine:(808) 545-1130
E-mail: RCGSupportServices@CatholicCharitiesHawaii.org

This newsletter may be viewed
on the following:
Website: <https://rcg.hawaii.gov>
Facebook: [Resource Caregiver Support Services](#)



GO GREEN!

Contact us today and request an electronic copy!

The Nā Leo 'Ohana Newsletter
Contributing Writers
State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Child Welfare
Services ~ Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Partners In Development Foundation ~ EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.
Resource Caregivers ~ Adoptive Parents ~
Former Youth in Foster Care