



# SPIN NEWS

The Newsletter for Parents of Children with Special Needs

SPECIAL  
PARENT  
INFORMATION  
NETWORK

September 2013

Volume XXX, No. 1

SPIN is co-sponsored by the Disability & Communication Access Board and the Department of Education. Services include a phone line for information referral and support, a quarterly newsletter, an annual conference and community workshops. SPIN is guided by an Advisory Committee made up of parents, teachers and people with disabilities.

## SPIN

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## RTI: A Safety Net for Students

If your child is receiving special education services, you have probably had to learn a lot of acronyms (words formed from the first letters of a name--like **IEP** for **Individualized Education Program**). Here's one you may not have heard yet--**RTI**. It stands for **Response to Intervention**, a scientifically proven method to track student progress and provide help to struggling learners.

RTI is understood by many as a system that is used by general education teachers to catch students who are starting to fall behind grade-wise. It's broader than that. RTI is a system for improving both academic *and* behavior outcomes for ALL students in all grades. It is also used as part of the identification process for determining whether a student might have a learning disability.

When Congress reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 2004, it offered states an alternative way to identify children with specific learning disabilities. Instead of requiring students to show a "severe discrepancy"--a large gap between what they were capable of doing and their actual performance--

IDEA 2004 allowed the eligibility team to consider data from "a process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention" (meaning RTI). RTI alone is generally not sufficient to identify a learning disability, but it rules out that a student's learning difficulties are due to a lack of proper instruction, and opens the door to a comprehensive evaluation under IDEA.

Once a student has been made eligible for special education and related services, nothing in IDEA prevents a student from receiving instruction using RTI strategies unless they don't match up with the IEP.

For more information and resources on RTI go to page two.



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# The Basic Parts of RTI

While RTI may look slightly different from school to school, all RTI programs have the following four components or parts:

## Universal Screening

Universal Screening means that all students are given a quick assessment at the beginning of the school year to see how their skills or behaviors compare to grade level standards. More screening may take place in the middle or toward the end of the year.

Screening helps teachers to identify those students in their class who may be at risk for poor learning outcomes or behavior problems.

## Progress Monitoring

If a student scores low on a screening, the teacher will watch the student's progress to see if he or she is really at risk for failure. The steps for monitoring include:

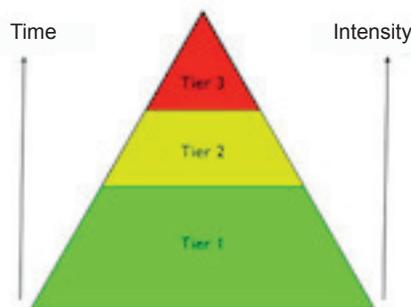
1. Determine the student's current level of performance.
2. Set goals for learning over a period of time.
3. Measure how much progress the student is making toward these goals.
4. Adjust how the student is taught, if s/he is not making the progress that was expected.

When a student is not making enough progress to be able to "catch up" to the goal that was set, the student's academic team will consider providing additional support to the student in small groups or through one-on-one instruction.

## Tiers of Support

In order to make sure that every student gets the right amount and intensity of instruction, RTI offers three levels or tiers of support.

Tier 1 is generally in the general education classroom with the regular classroom teacher who will try to adjust her teaching for an



at risk student. If the student doesn't make adequate progress, he or she may be moved to Tier 2 where the intensity or the nature of instruction is changed. Usually students will be learning in small groups, with additional minutes per session and new or intensified instructional strategies. Sometimes instruction is by another educator.

When a student is not making progress in Tier 2, the teacher will meet with the parents and other school staff to decide the next step. If a decision is made to move to Tier 3, instruction will be more intense and given in longer or more frequent sessions. The more intense the level of instruction, the more specific the program will be to the student's unique needs.

General education students who don't make enough progress in Tier 3 may be referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education.

## Data-Based Decisions

In RTI, student data is collected frequently and used to make decisions about instruction and when to move a student from one tier to another. Research has shown that attention to data can make a huge difference in a student's success at school, because it signals when the student needs extra help.

As key partners in a child's education, parents must be given access to their child's data and included in major decisions. Parents also need to know the process that is used to determine what evidence-based instructional strategy is provided to their child.

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## Additional Resources



National Center on  
Response to Intervention

<http://www.rti4success.org/>  
Go to "Resources", then "Briefs" and check out their parent guides.



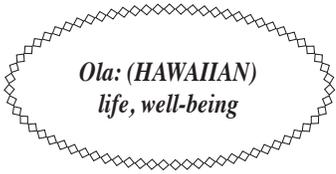
<http://www.ncld.org/learning-disability-resources>  
Look under "E-Books" to find a Parent Guide on RTI.



<http://www.rtinetwork.org/parents-a-families>  
Here are a number of articles about RTI and family-school partnership.



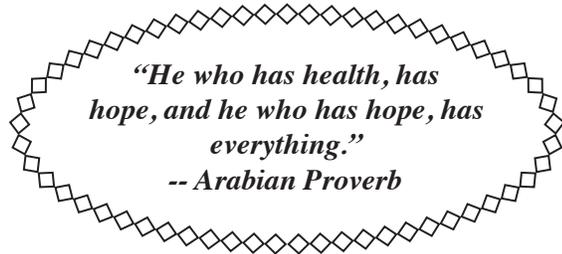
# Health is Everything



There is a wonderful new film by Matthew Nagato called *Ola: Health is Everything*. Matthew is the Communications Director for the Hawaii Primary Care Association, the organization that sponsored the movie along with the Hawaii Department of Health.

It's message: the path to a healthy future for Hawaii will come from the power of communities to heal themselves.

Giving people the chance to live a healthy life is not just about access to the medical care system. In Hawaii alone, we spend **\$9 BILLION** dollars a year on doctors and hospitals and medicines. Yet it seems that more and more of our family members and neighbors are suffering from chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease.



*Ola* starts out by convincing us that good health care includes more than having access to the medical system. Our medical problems are often associated with our lifestyle. Our lifestyle, in turn, is influenced by social factors like:

- level of education
- access to healthy foods
- where we live
- income and opportunity, and
- stress levels.

Then the film gives us some beautiful and moving examples of how ordinary people have done extraordinary things to help their own community address

housing needs, create a safe place to be active, and learn how to grow healthy foods.

One amazing story is about Keaau Elementary's efforts to keep students physically fit and, in doing so, improve their learning and self-esteem. In this neighborhood on the Big Island where there are few sidewalks or safe places to exercise, there is now a running track laid out on the school campus for the **Mighty Milers**--a national running program for children that's sponsored by the New York Road Runners.

With the support of Principal Keone Farias, the Mighty Milers club grew in a couple of years from teacher Maile Billosi's fifth-grade class to the whole student body, including students with special needs and even preschoolers. Together they have run tens of thousands of miles together.

One day, a father of one of the students approached Principal Farias and asked him, "Eh, how come you making them run?" He replied, "Oh, because I love them."

The power within *Ola: Health is Everything* is that it makes us aware that we ALL need to play a part, not only in our family's health, but also in our community's health. At a recent showing of *Ola*, Dr. Kimo Alameda, the Administrator of the Department of Health's Office of Health Equity, told the audience that it is vital to spread the message of this film. Often, it takes the 'we' to make the 'me' healthy.

What can you do? Plant a vegetable garden and share with your neighbors? Exercise with your children? Vote for folks who will promote health equity? Make a commitment to see *Ola* for yourself? When you do, we guarantee you will be inspired!



To watch a trailer of the *Ola* documentary go to [www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpau\\_m3QTa0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpau_m3QTa0)



To find out where *Ola* will be shown next, or how you can arrange for a showing of *Ola* in your community, go to <http://olamovie.com/screenings>

# POINT YOURSELF TO THESE...



## “INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE”

The Hawaii Association  
for the Education of  
Young Children (HAEYC)

will be hosting the 2013 Leadership Symposium and Early Childhood Conference, “Investing in Our Future”, on October 11-12, 2013 at the Hawaii Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Holly Elisa Bruno, author, attorney and on-line radio host of *Heart to Heart Conversations on Leadership: Your Guide to Making a Difference*, is the featured keynote speaker.

Connect with other early childhood and pre-K to grade-3 educators from across the State to network and discuss cutting-edge research and teaching strategies and renew your professional commitment to early childhood education. Choose from a range of workshops and seminars including health/safety/nutrition, families, early literacy, special education, family child interaction, assessment of child progress, transition and much more. You’ll also be able to explore the many vendor and nonprofit exhibits.

The 2013 Conference has a tremendous variety of subjects to offer both seasoned professionals and future educators.

For a fee schedule and additional information, call Kathy at 808-942-4708, or email to [haeyc@hawaiiayec.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiiayec.org). Don’t miss out on this exciting event!

## CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMIT

Attention! Parents - students- professionals -advocates - policy makers and community members...Are you interested in improving the well being for Hawaii’s children and youth?



Then let your voice be heard at the 20th Annual Children and Youth Summit on Friday, October 11, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the State Capitol Auditorium.

The Summit is being sponsored by the Hawaii State Legislature’s Keiki Caucus to assist the Legislature in identifying key issues around children and youth that need to be addressed in the 2014 Legislative session. It’s an opportunity for the community to come together to identify viable solutions and strategies to support our keiki and families to be successful.

There will be a wide variety of breakout sessions, networking opportunities and engaging panel discussions on topics that include financial literacy, early learning, wellness and healthy lifestyles and much more. The Summit is free and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

To sign up to attend the Summit or to learn more, contact Senator Chun-Oakland’s office at 586-6130 or email to [t.maae@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:t.maae@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Here’s your chance to make a difference!



## ~CAMP COOL 2013~ Ocean Adventure



An interactive computer exploration

**November 9th & 16th, 2013**  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.(both days)  
UH Manoa Wist Hall



For more information, contact Jodi  
at 532-7111 or email to [jodi@atrc.org](mailto:jodi@atrc.org)

Sponsored by  
Assistive Technology  
Resource Centers of Hawaii





Come celebrate the day with your keiki!



Hawaii's Children and Youth Day on October 6, 2013 is the first major event celebrating Children and Youth Month in October. This annual event is from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and will be held on the grounds of the State Capitol Building and extends to the adjacent government buildings in the surrounding area. Parking is free at all neighboring state and county public parking lots and Central Middle School.

Enjoy a fun-filled day of free interactive, educational, and fun activities for the entire family. There will be non-stop entertainment, games, rides, guided tours, food and drink vendors, demonstrations and much more.

For more information about this exciting kick-off event and to learn about other activities in October celebrating Children and Youth Month, email Tyrell at tmaae@thepaf.org or call Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland's office at 586-6130.

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### HAUPOA SERVICES



The PACT Family Peace Center, in partnership with the University of Hawaii, has a new project called Haupoa. This ground breaking national project for families provides best practice services for children (ages 3-17 years) and their moms who



### FAMILY FOCUS GROUPS

Are you a family member or caregiver of a child/youth with mental health needs and a developmental disability? Would you like to help improve the services that your family member receives? Then make sure to sign up with Project Laulima to attend a family focus group in your area so your voice can be heard.

Project Laulima is focused on providing coordinated and comprehensive services for children and youth with co-occurring mental health needs and developmental disabilities.

The focus groups will be coordinated with interested families to accommodate the best date and time for the group sessions and interviews. Refreshments and a Longs gift card will be given to participants.

If you are interested in participating, contact Kamuela at (808) 733-9815 or email to damian.kaapana@doh.hawaii.gov.



have been affected by bullying, and community or family violence.

Their *free* services include 2-6 months of weekly group with one-on-one counseling for both moms and their children, and skill building topics (i.e., parenting, safety, and communication and coping skills).

One care giver from each family can take part with their children and all children and care givers must be willing to be active members of the service team.

For questions, referrals or requests for presentations about the program, call 808-832-0855, or email fpcsatta@pacthawaii.org or go to www.pacthawaii.org.

## FUTURE HORIZONS

*presents*

### HAWAII AUTISM CONFERENCE

November 14-15, 2013  
Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa  
featuring  
**Dr. Tony Atwood**

Topics include:  
Teenage Issues, Cognitive Therapy,  
DSMV Diagnosis, Making the IEP  
Work for the Parent and the School  
and more.

For a fee schedule and more details,  
call 1-800-489-0727 or go to  
[www.fhautism.com](http://www.fhautism.com)



### Share Your Thoughts...

### PLEASE TAKE THE PARENT SURVEY

The Hawaii Department of Education, as a part of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Program's monitoring requirements, is conducting a parent survey. Parents will be given the survey at their child's annual Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

The survey will give parents the opportunity to voice their opinion on the school's efforts to partner with parents and improve educational services for their children. All parents are encouraged to complete the survey.

For more information, contact Karen Sato at 808-203-5560.

## FOOTSTEPS TO TRANSITION FAIR 2013

Parents \* Teachers \* Case Managers  
\* Service Providers \* Community Partners

*Come and learn how to plan for life after high school for a child with a disability...*



Learn about the steps in forming a good transition plan, meet with service agencies who can provide supports to your family, network with other families and make new friends, hear success stories from students who have been through the transition process, win door prizes and much more.

Admission is *free* and registration is highly recommended by going to [www.wufoo.com](http://www.wufoo.com). For access accommodations, call Hilopa'a at 791-3467 by October 11, 2013.

*Brought to you by:  
The Arc in Hawaii  
Community Children's Council Office  
Department of Education  
Developmental Disabilities Division  
Family Health Services Division  
Developmental Disabilities Council  
Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center  
Special Parent Information Network.*

# FRIENDS IN FOCUS



(l) Gabriel Motonaga, Hawaii representative, with Anthony Kennedy Shriver, founder of Best Buddies at the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference



(l) Robin Brandt, Director, Pacific Basin Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (PBRRTC), is congratulated by Annette Tashiro at the PBRRTC Rededication on August 9, 2013.



Hawaii Self-Advocacy Council (SAAC) Annual Leadership Retreat on August 15, 2013 at Hilo Hattie with 48 members

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



**10/6 Children and Youth Day**

State Capitol  
(page 5)

**10/6 The Buddy Walk**

**Kaka'ako Waterfront Park**

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
For info, call 594-9662 or email the  
Down Syndrome Ohana:  
dsohana@gmail.com.

**10/11- 2013 Hawaii Early Childhood Conference**

**12 "Investing in Our Future"**

(page 4)

**10/26 Footsteps to Transition 2013**

King Intermediate School Cafeteria  
(page 6)

**11/9 Living Well with Epilepsy**

Queen's Conference Room  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Call 528-3058 or email to  
EFH@HawaiiEpilepsy.com

**11/14- Future Horizons Autism Conference**

**15 Waikiki Beach Resort & Spa**

(page 6)

**2014**

**4/5 28th Annual SPIN**

**Conference  
"HIT A HOME RUN  
WITH SPIN"**

Limited parent airfare  
scholarships available.  
Call SPIN for more info.



*You are invited*

To be a part of the 30th Annual  
**Pacific Rim International Conference on  
Disability and Diversity (Pac Rim)**



**May 19 & 20, 2014  
Hawaii Convention  
Center  
Honolulu, Hawaii**

For more information  
visit [www.pacrim.hawaii.edu](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu), email  
[prinfo@hawaii.edu](mailto:prinfo@hawaii.edu), or call  
808.956.7539

This year's topics include: *Caregiving, Youth and Social Justice, Work Matters, Living In(ter)dependently, Resiliency, Disability and Development, Advocacy, Developmental Disabilities, Human Rights, Focus on the Future, Inclusive Education, Early Intervention and more...*

**Snapshot Conference Activities**

- 200 Presentations, workshops and Seminars
- Fabulous Poster Party
- Pre and Post Conference Institutes including ICF training, All About Babies, International Forum
- Over ten keynotes
- Self-Advocacy Leadership Institute
- Indigenous Education Institute
- Technology and Inclusive Design

**SEEKING PROPOSALS**

*The Conference Team is seeking proposals in 18 topic areas for our 2014 program. Any good ideas, best practices, research and projects are welcomed. We value creativity, innovation and engagement. For more information, please check our website or email [cccrocke@hawaii.edu](mailto:cccrocke@hawaii.edu).*