



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

News Release

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For Immediate Release: March 12, 2012

12-007

**SPIN CONFERENCE OFFERS VALUABLE SUPPORT FOR
PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

HONOLULU – The Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) announces the 26th Annual SPIN Conference, titled “SPIN the Case for Evidence-Based,” to be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa Campus Center.

Since 1986, SPIN has been organizing conferences to give families of children with disabilities an opportunity to gain valuable information and meet and network with other parents and professionals. It’s a time to get reenergized for the sometimes challenging job of parenting and advocating for our children with special needs.

The conference showcases 16 workshops on topics including: universal design for learning, positive behavioral supports, the Individualized Education Program (IEP), transition, autism, sensory integration, social skills, positive behavioral supports and much more. State Department of Education Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi, will give the opening remarks. In addition, there will be table displays showcasing agencies and programs that provide support to children and youth with disabilities and their families.

The registration fee is \$25 per parent (or \$35 for two family members attending together), or \$35 per professional. Registration forms are available at www.spinhawaii.org.

(more)

Limited airfare scholarships for neighbor island parents are available, so attendees are urged to reserve their seats early by contacting SPIN at (808) 586-8126. On neighbor islands, dial one of the following island-specific exchange number and then extension 6-8126: Kaua'i – 274-3141; Hawai'i – 974-4000; Maui – 984-2400; Moloka'i & Lana'i – 1-800-468-4644.

The conference is held in partnership with: Center on Disability Studies; Community Children's Council Office; state Department of Education; Developmental Disabilities Council; Disability & Communication Access Board; Early Intervention Section; Good Beginnings Alliance; Hawai'i Families As Allies; Hilopa'a Family to Family Health Information Center; Learning Disabilities Association of Hawai'i/Hawai'i Parent Training & Information Center; Maternal & Child Health Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities (MCH LEND).

Printed and electronic copies of the registration form may be obtained by contacting Jan Tateishi or Susan Rocco at (808) 586-8126 or via e-mail at spin@doh.hawaii.gov.

The Special Parent Information Network (SPIN) is a project of the state's Disability and Communication Access Board and the Department of Education. Its purpose is to enhance the participation of parents with children with disabilities in the decision making process involving their child's education. SPIN's responsibilities are to: provide parent-to-parent support through the SPIN "warm-line" to assist parents in accessing services for their child with a disability; and promote parent involvement in the education of their child with special needs through information about the special education process, due process options, and parent-professional partnerships.

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