



FEB 2024

Congratulations to Hawaii's newest National Board Certified Teachers!



CELEBRATING OUR TEACHERS!

Hawaii's Newest National Board Certified Teachers

In February, the Hawaii Department of Education celebrated 21 teachers across the state who earned the highest standards for teaching and have earned their National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certificate. In addition, 83 other educators renewed their NBCT certifications, making Hawaii 12th in the nation for the percentage of teachers earning this recognition.

Read the [full article](#)

SPECIAL EDITION: MEET HAWAII NBCT SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS!

Of the recognized NBCT educators, 4 of the 21 newest are special education teachers, with an additional 5 special education teachers who successfully renewed. **Meet 4 of these exceptional educators in our profile section!**

February!

Student Showcase

Kit Glaner

UHM STUDENT + SPEAKING ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH TOURETTE SYNDROME

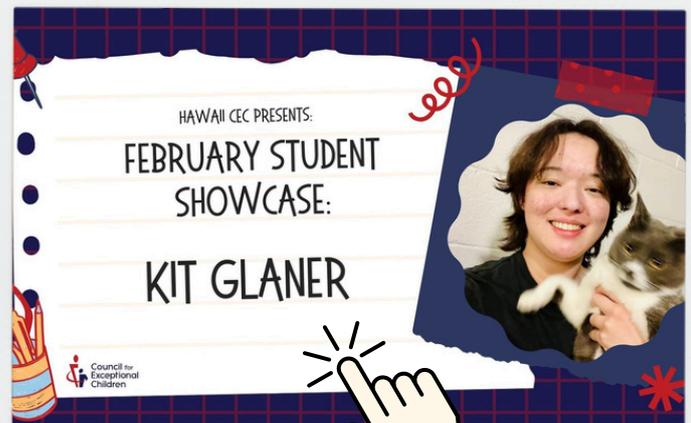
For the February Student Showcase, Hawaii CEC decided to interview Kit Glaner! Kit is attending the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in Secondary Special Education!

Kit opened up about being diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome and how it can affect them. Although Kit had tics throughout their entire life, they were diagnosed with Tourettes at the age of 17 because they thought it would go away with age. However, when they would get more stressed out they realized their tics would come back and affect their performance in school. They would experience various tics such as jolting their head (which later causes neck pain) and making a popping noise. Since their tics would affect them in school, Kit was able to get accommodations such as being in a private test room and having extra time on exams.

Now in their college years, Kit decided to join the UH Manoa College of Education Student Association (CESA) to give support to future educators by giving them opportunities to talk with peers and local communities. At first, Kit thought they couldn't be a special education teacher because they have Tourette's Syndrome and believed their tics would hinder their job. Kit then realized that their disability is what can make them an amazing teacher because they can relate and empathize with the students.

Advice
"REACH OUT TO THE SCHOOL FOR ACCOMMODATIONS!"

UH Manoa College of Education
Student Association Instagram



want to Learn More about Tourette's?

You've had 9 tics without a mishap.



Common Tics Children with Tourette's Have:

Physical

- Eye Blinking
- Shrugging their Shoulder
- Head Jerking
- Touching Objects Consistently

Vocal:

- Throat Clearing
- Sniffing
- Humming

HOW TO ACCOMMODATE FOR STUDENTS WITH TOURETTE'S IN THE CLASSROOM

- Larger personal space
- Waive time limits on tests to reduce stress
- Separate testing location
- Allow the student to work ahead
- Chunk the assignments
- Educate other students about Tourette's to provide a safe environment for everyone!

DO YOU HAVE A STUDENT YOU WANT TO NOMINATE? FILL OUT THIS GOOGLE FORM!

Natalia Sandoval

WAIKIKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION



NBCT since 2018 – Exceptional Needs Specialist – Early Childhood through Young Adulthood- Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Ages 5 - 21+)



Why did you become a special education teacher?

I'm one of those people who always knew they wanted to be a Special Education teacher. I can recall volunteering in the special education classroom, as a young student at Mānana Elementary School, with Mrs. Higa. Being around students with exceptional needs has always been fulfilling for me, and I am proud to do the work I do, every single day.

Why did you pursue becoming a NBCT?

I decided to pursue my National Board Certification for a few reasons. One reason is because my former principal and greatest mentor, Mrs. Bonnie Tabor encouraged me to do it. She had a dream that every teacher in our school would become a NBCT, which leads into my second reason. Mrs. Tabor was able to secure loans from our school's PTO for any teacher who wanted to pursue becoming a NBCT. I was fortunate enough to receive one of these loans, and was able to repay it once I passed my certification. The last reason I chose to pursue becoming a NBCT was because of what it represented. Being a NBCT is something to be proud of. It means that I value my students and my craft as a special educator, and that I am willing to work hard, reflect, and grow in my practices for the betterment of the field.

How has the NBCT process supported you and your impact on students?

The NBCT process is one of the hardest things I have ever done in my teaching career. It really pushed me to reflect on my pedagogy, and made me realize that I want to have a bigger impact on special education in Hawaii. It has taught me to be a reflective practitioner, and to take the time to make the best decisions for my students.

What advice would you give to other special education teachers who are considering pursuing NBCT?

Go for it! The process isn't easy but it's so worth it. Find someone to partner with so you feel supported throughout the process. Don't wait until the last minute to complete all your components; the more you can spread them out, the better off you will be. Make sure to take lots of pictures for evidence, even if you may not need it. And reach out to other special educators who have been successful in becoming a NBCT. We're here to help!

Jade Pham

**KAWANAKOA MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR**



NBCT since 2023 – Exceptional Needs Specialist – Early Childhood through Young Adulthood- Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Ages 5 - 21+)

Why did you become a special education teacher?

I chose to become a special education teacher because I believe that every student deserves an equal opportunity to succeed. My personal experiences attending Hawaii public schools inspired me to pursue a career where I am able to advocate for children with diverse needs. I continue this work because of the mutual impact and love I share with my students.

Why did you pursue becoming a NBCT?

I first heard about National Board Certification during my first year in the classroom back in 2017. I was pursuing my Master of Education degree while serving as an emergency-hire special education teacher at Kaimuki High School. I wanted to challenge myself professionally and learn how to become an effective teacher for my students, but I was not yet eligible to pursue the NBCT process. Alternatively, I engaged in other professional development opportunities to craft my skills in differentiating instruction and building a culture for learning. I officially started my National Board journey in February 2023 and completed my components in three months.

How has the NBCT process supported you and your impact on students?

The NBCT process has supported me in becoming a more reflective and collaborative practitioner who is intentional about tailoring instruction to students' individual strengths, needs, and interests. Through the structured process of analyzing my teaching methods and acquiring feedback from my students and other educational stakeholders, I fine-tuned my pedagogical approaches and improved my ability to facilitate learning.

What advice would you give to other special education teachers who are considering pursuing NBCT?

My advice is to definitely join a support network and give yourself time to work through the NBCT process. These are two things that I did not do, but wish I did looking back. If you need help, identify other NBCTs or NBCT candidates in your school who you can bounce ideas off of. If you don't know anyone, you now know me! Feel free to shoot me an email. The National Board process was more rigorous than I thought, but it was worth it. The financial incentive is also important to consider. We teach because we love, but we also have to make a living. Do it!

Melissa Lee

KANEOHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION

NBCT since Dec. 2023



Why did you become a special education teacher?

I was always meant to work with kids, that was never really a question. My dad was a kung fu instructor when I was growing up. He pretty much had a special education class at some point and worked with those kids from elementary all the way through their adulthood. I guess his passion for his kids and relationships he built with those families really inspired me.

Why did you pursue becoming a NBCT?

I was encouraged by a coworker/ friend to go through the process together. If it wasn't for her encouragement, I would have never considered it!

How has the NBCT process supported you and your impact on students?

We all know self reflection is an important piece of being a good teacher. The NBCT process really encouraged me to be more thoughtful and intentional about the big and small choices I make throughout each lesson and assessment and to reflect on those choices.

What advice would you give to other special education teachers who are considering pursuing NBCT?

Just start (with a friend)! Once you get going, the deadlines will keep you on a timeline and having a friend will keep you accountable.



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Lauren Collier - Treasurer

Lauren Collier

KANEOHE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GRADES 2-4 SPECIAL EDUCATION

NBCT since Dec. 2023



LEARN MORE

National Board Certification

If you, or someone you know is interested in pursuing National Board Certification, please visit this website to learn more:



nbpts.org

Why did you become a special education teacher?

It's what I am good at...some days I wish I was better at something else but most days I love it. I am a sped kid turned sped teacher and the sped world just makes sense to me. I love seeing my students increase independence and generalize skills beyond our classroom.

Why did you pursue becoming a NBCT?

Honestly, the financial incentive. Teaching is a lot of work and we are already doing so many of these things in our classroom so just filling out the paperwork to demonstrate and reflect on practices already happening is worth the financial incentive.

What advice would you give to other special education teachers who are considering pursuing NBCT?

Just start! The process seemed so overwhelming but once I started it was just writing up things I already did in the classroom. I also would recommend doing it with another teacher because having someone to bounce ideas off of was extremely helpful and motivating.



CEC LEARNING LIBRARY FEATURE

★ ——— ★ ——— ★
FREE RESOURCES WITH MEMBERSHIP

What is the CEC Learning Library?

The CEC Learning Library provides access to an on-demand professional library of webinars, courses, collections, and more for members. Check out the Learning Library to register for courses, watch webinars, manage your learning history and access your Continuing Education Unit (CEU) certificates. There are over 75 topics to choose from!



TOPIC:
INCLUSION

Free Webinars:

- Providing Support to Special Education Staff: “This is How You Do It”!
- Let’s Get Inclusive!

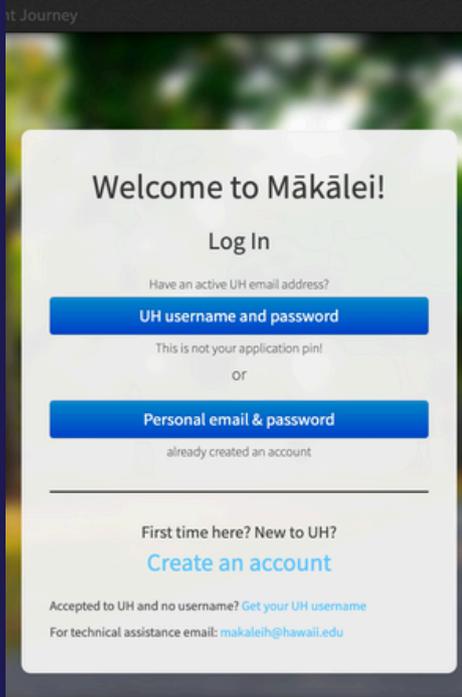
Free Materials:

- Toolkit: Cultivating Inclusion through Collaboration
- Specially Designed Instruction in Co-Teaching: Three Mistakes We’re Making and How to Correct Them

[Visit the Website](#)



BEd, Early Childhood + Early Childhood Special Education, 2020-2022 Cohort



FINAL DAYS TO APPLY!
DEADLINE: MARCH 1

The Department of Special Education is currently accepting applications for Fall 2024 admissions.

Deadline Program

- Mar 1: BEd in Special Education
- Mar 1: BEd in Exceptional Students & Elementary Education
- Mar 1: BEd in Early Childhood & Early Childhood SpEd

Have Questions or Need Help?

Virtual appointment: bit.ly/coeinfoappointment
Email: coeinfo@hawaii.edu

ATTEND A VIRTUAL INFO SESSION

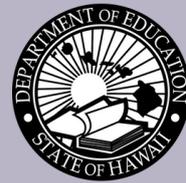
TODAY - FEB. 28, 4PM

Information sessions are available each month. Learn about our undergraduate and graduate teacher licensure programs, as well as, funding opportunities, and get tips on how to apply.



 coe.hawaii.edu/info-sessions

EMPLOYMENT



Interested in working in our Hawaii public schools? Search for teaching or classified positions!



Welcome to the Hawaii State Department of Education's online application. Teacher positions will be posted on a continuous basis and will remain posted until filled. New educational officer and classified job positions are available every 1st and 16th of the month. Scroll down to view a listing of ALL Career Opportunities, or click on any of the following links to view a listing of specific job positions.

schooljobs.com/careers/hawaiipublicschools



Examples of HIDEOE positions available (As of 2/28/24):

Tips for finding positions:

- Click the “Search by Map” to see all positions on a specific island or area
- Search by content area (e.g., English, Special Education)

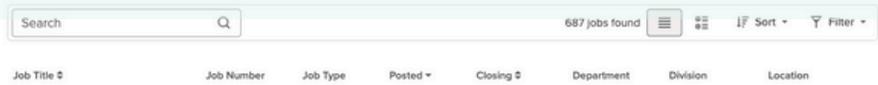
- Educational Assistant - Hawaii District-East (Hilo)
- Educational Assistant - Mokapu Elementary (Kailua)
- Educational Assistant - Honouliuli Middle (Ewa Beach)
- Educational Assistant - Lokelani Intermediate (Kihei)
- Behavioral Health Specialist - Kauai District

Note: Teaching positions for SY 2024-2025 will begin opening later this semester.

Interested in teaching in higher education? Search for positions across all UH campuses!



schooljobs.com/careers/hawaiiedu



Examples of Education-related positions available at UH Mānoa

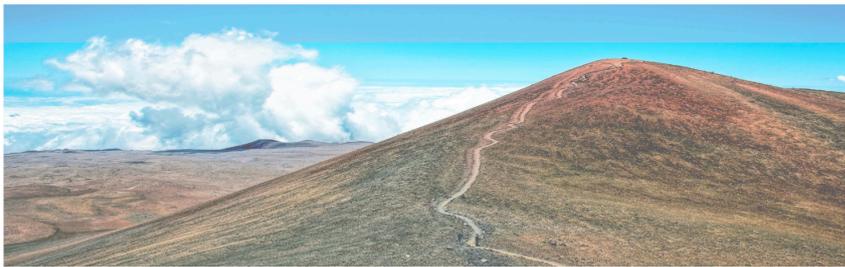


- Assistant Professor (Hawaiian Immersion), Position #: 0082575
- Junior Specialist (Culture-based Education Lead), Position #: 0082950T
- Academic Support, Outreach College, Position #: 0096636T
- Graduate Assistant (Assessment, Accreditation, and Accountability), Position #: 0000GA11

Upcoming Events

Feb. 29

Building on the momentum of Hawai'i's Employment First efforts to increase and improve employment among people with disabilities, the 2nd Annual Summit on Employment First will bring together self-advocates and those who support their full participation in work and careers. The post-conference summit will feature a full day of training, inspiration, and collaboration to expand competitive integrated employment and community inclusion.



2024 Hawaii Summit on Employment First

"Employment First, Employment For ALL!"

Thursday, February 29th 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Hawaii Convention Center 1801 Kalākaua Ave Honolulu, HI 96815	\$35 Registration (Lunch & T-Shirt Included) https://PacRim.coe.hawaii.edu/hsef-2024	
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Advocates and Self Advocates Track

Come and Hear about Success Stories at Work:

- Pathways to Employment
- Overcoming Obstacles
- Problem Solving
- Building Work Profiles

Practitioners, Case Managers, and VR Counselors Track

Come for Workshop Discussions and Training:

- Foundations of Employment
- Customized Employment
- Building Partnerships
- Employer Engagement

Keynote Speakers

Derrick Tennant

Motivational Speaker & Comedian

Julie Tennant

Motivational Speaker & Business Owner

Watch a Promo Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArYz7_RAaYU

The Love Chromosome

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBTK7K5qo4A>



The Employment First movement seeks to help ensure that people with disabilities can enter the workforce with the same aspirations and opportunities as others without disabilities. The summit will feature speakers, workshop style training sessions, and a panel of subject matter experts working to help us build capacity in our state. Hawai'i Employment First seeks to improve education, training, and employment opportunities and outcomes for adults with disabilities in Hawai'i.

Also, check out the promotional video! The video will make you SMILE 😊

Register:

https://epay.hawaii.edu/C24372_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1183



Upcoming Events

Mar. 1

Evidence-Informed Practices for Early Childhood Professionals and Families with Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (birth-5)

PRESENTED BY: DR. AMY SZARKOWSKI

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION

Dr. Szarkowski will introduce newly developed global guidelines for supporting families of young children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Join us to learn about important aspects of child development and effective family-centered practices.

REGISTER HERE

Some funding is available for families and professionals traveling from outer island. See registration link for more information.

DATE & TIME

Friday, March 1, 2024 8:30am-3:00pm

LOCATION

In the 'Glass Ballroom' at:
Ko'Olau Ballrooms and Conference Center
45-550 Kionaole Rd. Kaneohe, 96744
Free on site parking

QUESTIONS OR ACCOMODATIONS

Jennifer Clark: jenniferclark@csc-hawaii.org 679-1370 (call/text)
ASL interpreters will be provided



Amy Szarkowski is a psychologist who specializes in working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Dr. Szarkowski is the Director of The Institute at the Children's Center for Communication/Beverly School for the Deaf, which aims to bridge research-and-practice in support of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. She is a Researcher at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston and Training Director for the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (LEND) at Boston Children's Hospital.



Upcoming Events

Mar. 3

Mar. 9

PERFORMANCE DATES

Sunday, March 3:

• 10:00am and 11:00am

Saturday, March 9:

• 10:00am and 11:00am



Capitol Modern (formerly the Hawaii State Art Museum) has a FREE immersive multi-sensory theater performance for children with developmental disabilities and their families. Forest Flutters is a FREE, multi sensory immersive performance designed for young people with developmental differences and disabilities.

Imagine entering an ordinary room—except it's not at all ordinary. The room is filled with the lights, sounds and textures of the forest. You may be sprinkled with light rain, smell the lush flowers that grow and meet some of the endemic birds found only in Hawaii's forests.

Because this performance is specifically designed for young people with developmental differences and disabilities, attendance for each performance is limited to 10 children and their caregivers.

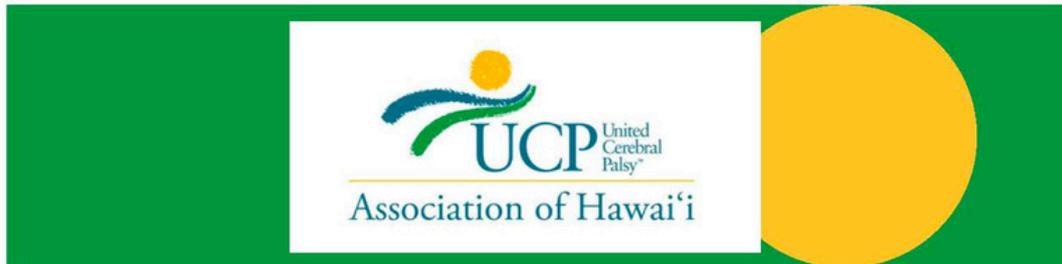
Estimated running time 35 minutes.

Location: Capitol Modern (formerly the Hawaii State Art Museum)

To learn more please visit: <https://membership.htyweb.org/forest-flutters/>

Upcoming Events

Mar. 14



Aloha, from your friends at United Cerebral Palsy Association of Hawai'i.

We are launching a **new series of activities and adventures** for children and adult participants - as well as resource sessions for parents - and we need your help.

- Take a look at our upcoming **Parent Resource Pau Hanas** for caregivers of participants with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and **RSVP** to my **email address below**.

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 5:00 - 7:00 PM (in-person and Zoom)

Topic: ABLE Accounts - Savings Accounts for dependents with disabilities presented by the Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Thursday, June 13, 2024, 5:00 - 7:00 PM (in-person and Zoom)

Topic: Valuable Resources for Early Intervention through High School presented by the Special Parent Information Network (SPIN)

- Please let us know what kinds of activities you and your keiki, 'ōpio and adult offspring **with IDD** want to see for their age group(s) by emailing me at Karen.Glasser@unitedcerebralpalsyhawaii.org with your ideas.
- If your child participates in **Early Intervention** sessions and **does NOT have an IDD**, what kinds of resources would you like to see? Please send me an email at Karen.Glasser@unitedcerebralpalsyhawaii.org with your ideas.

Did you know that UCPAH serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who don't have cerebral palsy, as well as those with CP? If you or your child has CP and/or another disability and you are interested in our programs, please contact me at Karen.Glasser@unitedcerebralpalsyhawaii.org

We look forward to working with you to revitalize our programming so we can continue to serve our community and champion inclusion for everyone!

With aloha,

Karen Glasser
Education and Community Outreach Program Manager

UCPAH | 420 Waiakamilo Road | Suite 105 | Honolulu, HI | 96817 | 808.532.6744

Upcoming Events

Apr. 6

- **Virtual Option** also available!
- Apply for the **Neighbor Island Ohana Airfare Scholarships** to attend in person!

<https://spinconference.org/2024-conference/>

If you have any questions, contact us at spin@doh.hawaii.gov or call us at 808-586-8126.

Aloha, be safe and keep healthy,

Susan & Amanda
www.spinhawaii.org
808-586-8126
spin@doh.hawaii.gov



38th Annual
SPIN Conference
"SPIN's Ocean of Possibilities"
Saturday, April 6, 2024

8:30 am - 3:30 pm
UH Manoa Campus Center

For more info:
www.SPINconference.org
email:
SPIN@doh.hawaii.gov
808-586-8126

Registration opens
November 1, 2023
Parent airfare
scholarships
available!

Join us for a full day of:

- In-person workshops about special education, advocacy, disabilities, transition and more
- Virtual access to all workshops
- In-person Resource Fair
- SPIN Awards Luncheon
- Laughs, learning and skill building

The poster features a vibrant ocean scene with a sandy beach, blue waves, and various sea creatures including a green turtle, a red crab, a yellow fish, a pink starfish, and a green pufferfish. There are also several seashells scattered around. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner of the poster.

Don't forget to [nominate someone for the SPIN Awards!](#) We're looking for outstanding parents and professionals who have made a big impact in the lives of children with disabilities. You can nominate someone for one of the three categories: **Parent of the Year, Professional of the Year and Parent Choice Award.**

Upcoming Events

Apr. 10

SH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

February 26, 2024

Training for Unrepresented Parents (Pro Se) under IDEA

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department), Monitoring and Compliance Branch is hosting a one-day training for Unrepresented Parents (Pro Se) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). A virtual option via Zoom is available.

The training will be facilitated by *Special Education Solutions, LLC*, the nation's leading expert in IDEA compliance, training, and dispute resolution. The training will provide an overview of special education law, the hearing process, and pro se parents. The training is only open to parents, non-attorney advocates, and parent training information centers.

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Location:** Ala Moana Hotel by Mantra, 410 Atkinson Dr., Honolulu, HI 96814, Hibiscus Ballroom II, 2nd Floor
- **Breakfast:** Continental breakfast will be provided
- **Lunch:** On your own

Registration for Training

Register at bit.ly/prosetraining

Registration will close on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Inter-Island Participants (Airfare and Ground Transportation Reimbursement)

The Monitoring and Compliance Branch will reimburse you up to \$300 for the following:

- Airfare
- Ground Transportation

You must attend the whole training day from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to be eligible for reimbursement.

Reimbursement Request

To request reimbursement from the Monitoring and Compliance Branch, please complete the Supplier Information section on the [Reimbursement Form](#) with a copy of your Driver's License, boarding passes, and transportation receipt(s) and submit it to Angela Wong at angela.wong@k12.hi.us and Mel Dela Rama at mel.dela_rama@k12.hi.us. The School/Office Information and Administrator's Authorization sections have been completed by the Monitoring and Compliance Branch. Please do not change these sections. The deadline to submit your reimbursement request is **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**.

Should you have any questions, please contact Angela Wong and Mel Dela Rama at (808) 307-3600.

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Monthly Luck Circle



March 20
@10-11 am
(Spring Break)

LUCK CIRCLE ACTIVITY

- Join your HawaiiCEC members on Zoom each month - open to everyone and includes one special topic (e.g. inclusion)
- Break into small groups and meet some of your fellow HawaiiCEC members! Then each share something you could use help with or resources you are looking for, whether you are brand new to the topic or if it's your own area of expertise/experience.
- Go around the circle again and share something that can support someone else's need in the group so everyone walks away with some good "luck" at the end!
- These luck circles are the perfect way to network with others in this community! Please join us!

MONTHLY VIRTUAL LUCK CIRCLES

What is a luck circle?

This activity was developed by The Transformative Action Institute and is based upon the scientific research of Stanford professor Mark Granovetter. He discovered that while people get most good things through people they know, their "lucky breaks" came from casual acquaintances and the people they didn't know very well.

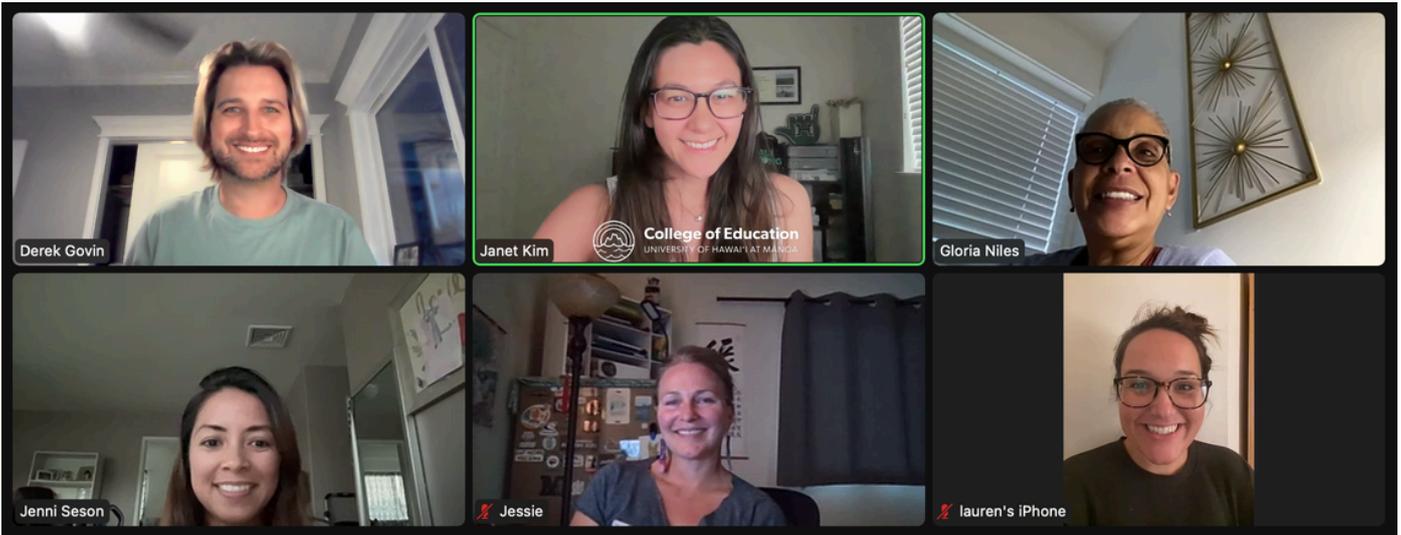
[RSVP to receive link and share ideas for future topics!](#)



**Highlighted
Topic:
Inclusion**



HAWAII-CEC CHAPTER LEADERSHIP TEAM



HAWAII-CEC BOARD MEMBERS



Dr. Gloria Niles
Past President



Derek Govin
President
dgovin@hawaii.edu



Lauren Collier
Treasurer
lc20@hawaii.edu



Jessica Ford
Bylaws Chair
jessica.ford@k12.hi.us



Dr. Janet Kim
Communications Chair
janetmc@hawaii.edu



Jenni Beth Seson
Web Chair
jennibethseson@gmail.com

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with Hawaii CEC, please complete the Volunteer Interest Form.

[Volunteer with Hawaii-CEC](#)

VACANT BOARD, CHAIR, & COMMITTEE ROLES

Help us rebuild our Hawaii-CEC Chapter! We have the following positions available:

- President Elect
- Secretary
- CAN Coordinator
- PD Chair
- Membership Chair
- Awards Chair
- Committee Members in multiple areas

COMMUNICATIONS & NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE



Dr. Janet Kim
Communications
Committee Chair



Kim Pottorff
Committee Member



Nicole Dolor-Bala
Committee Member

CONNECT WITH US

Website: hawaii.exceptionalchildren.org

Instagram: [@HawaiiCEC](https://www.instagram.com/HawaiiCEC)

Facebook: [facebook.com/hawaiicec](https://www.facebook.com/hawaiicec)

Twitter: [@HawaiiCEC](https://twitter.com/HawaiiCEC)