This summer has been an extremely “eventful” period for the Child Welfare Project, staffed by Faye Kimura (’80), Nicole Isa-Iijima (’08) and Sari Sanchez (’10):

**June:** National Reunification Month was celebrated at the Kapolei Family Court and honored a family who successfully reunified through the notable efforts of the family and the teamwork of many child welfare service providers. The Project also staffed and helped organize the semi-annual Teen Day that brought 20+ youth and their supporters to Family Court for a mock permanency hearing and to learn about resources available to foster youth.
July: The staff helped organize and convene the eighth annual `Ohana is Forever Conference at Ko`olau Golf Club for nearly 400 participants that included 150 current and former foster youth. Staff were instrumental in planning for and implementing the first hearing of the Imua Kākou (Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care) specialty court. WSRSL alum, Judge Paul Murakami (83), is the lead judge for the Imua Kākou Court. Child Welfare Project staff also helped draft procedures, court forms, and court processes for Imua Kākou social workers and the Judiciary and participated in training statewide on the new program.
**August:** Staff planned and organized the eighth Annual Child Welfare Law Update at the Ko`olau Golf Club for an audience of 200 consisting of family court judges, attorneys for parents, attorney and volunteer guardians ad litem, social workers, Department of Health and Argosy University psychologists and interns, juvenile probation officers, court staff, and child welfare services providers. Patricia Miles, nationally renowned consultant on wraparound services and on engaging families in their case, was the keynote for the Annual conference and for another all-day conference on advanced skills training the following week.

![Image](image.jpg)

From left to right: Leah Nahale (14), Sari Sanchez (10), Patricia Miles, Faye Kimura (80), and Amphay Champathong (11).

**September:** Staff planned and convened a Hot Topic conference, “Engaging Youth and Young Adults in Court,” for 100 legal advocates, child welfare stakeholders, and juvenile probation officers at Ko`olau Golf Club. The featured presenter was Judge Shawna Schwarz, Supervising Judge for the Santa Clara Dependency Court, who is renowned for her ability to engage youth and young adults during court hearings and making collaborative jurisprudence the norm in her dependency court. Judge Schwarz also presented on the same topics at the Family Court’s Symposium attended by Family Court judges from each circuit. At the Symposium, staff presented the “Hawaii State Judiciary Bench Book: Child Protective Act,” which was the culmination of over two year’s of work. Judge Aley Auna (83) co-chaired the effort. Other WSRSL alumni and students who significantly assisted with the Bench Book include: Faye Kimura (80), Sari Sanchez (10), Nicole Isa-Ijima (08), Leah Nahale(14), Amphay Champathong (12), Edmund Acoba (87), Geronimo Valdriz ( Lloyd Van De Car (77), Jay Goss (84), Malcolm Hong (77), Michelle Moorhead (13), Chantelle Tuitele (11), Lindsay Larkin (13), Courtney Young (11), and Jordan Higa (14).
Pictured here from left to right: Judge Paul Murakami (83), Christine Miwa-Mendoza, Faye Kimura (80), Diana English, Judge Shawna Schwarz, and Judge R. Mark Browning.