Ka Huli Ao
Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law
Presents Maoli Thursday:

Rethinking Child Welfare: Kānaka Maoli and the Foster Care System

Thursday, March 4, 2010 from 12:45 – 1:55 p.m.
Moot Courtroom • William S. Richardson School of Law • 2515 Dole Street

Oswald “Oz” Stender grew up in Hau‘ula, and is a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools and UH-Mānoa. He is currently a Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and a licensed real estate consultant & broker. He began his real estate career in 1958 at the Estate of James Campbell, where he served in many capacities, including Chief Executive Officer and Senior Advisor to the Trustees. He was also a trustee of the Kamehameha Schools Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate, where he was instrumental in restructuring the Estate’s governance and the selection process for trustees. He serves on a number of boards and has received numerous awards. Growing up hānai himself, Trustee Stender is an advocate for legislation that gives the state Child Protective Services the discretion to recognize hānai relationships.

Mervina Cash-Kaco is the President and Chief Executive Officer for Alu Like, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to social and economic self-sufficiency for Native Hawaiians. She will discuss the importance of Native Hawaiian cultural practices in working with foster children and their ‘ohana. She also serves as the Vice President for the board of directors for EPIC ‘Ohana, Inc. She received her law degree in 1990 from the University of Puget Sound Law School and is a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools. She was the Deputy Director of the Legal Aid Society, a member of the Neighborhood Board in Nānākuli, and the past President and CEO of the Asia Pacific American Women’s Leadership Institute.

Arlynna Livingston is the founder and Executive Director of EPIC ‘Ohana, Inc, a non-profit dedicated to changing the culture of child welfare practice by offering ‘ohana conferencing and youth circles. ‘Ohana conferencing is a service that draws from Hawaiian values, and the Maori example of family group conferencing, to bring families together to collectively decide the future of their children in the foster care system. Ms. Livingston is also an Adjunct Professor for the UH-Mānoa School of Social Work. She is the 2004 recipient of the National Association of Social Workers Social Worker of the Year Award and was recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services with the Commissioner’s Award for “Outstanding Leadership & Service in the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect.”

Iokona Baker is a 2006 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law and a former Ka Huli Ao Post-JD fellow who researched the over-representation of Native Hawaiian Children in the foster care system. Since 2007, he has worked in the State’s Family Court system as a Vitousek-King Law Fellow, focusing on child welfare issues and the improvement of child welfare policy, procedure and practice. Mr. Baker sits on the O‘ahu County Domestic Violence Task Force and volunteers his time doing community outreach on the issue of domestic violence, with special focus on strategies to address domestic violence in Hawaiian families & communities.

Maoli Thursday is a lunchtime forum and speaker series held every first Thursday of the month.

✉ Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 2, 2010
✔ Via email: nhlawctr@hawaii.edu

1 Free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.
2 Event will be live-streamed at www.KaHuliAo.com
3 Requests to film the event must be received by 03/01/10 Email nhlawctr@hawaii.edu for details.