Aloha and Welcome to the September issue of the CDS eNewsletter. In this month’s issue, we are excited to feature many of the ongoing activities of the center. Highlights documenting some of our research initiatives and our extended community members include:

- **Jamey Burkett, Make Art, Change Lives Artist**
- **Kal’s Law** featured article by Ronald Deese
- **CDS Community Advisory Council** members
- **Project Hōkūlani** and Team introduction
- **Review of Disability Studies Journal** Pac Rim 2021 Conference Proceedings release
- **Disability Studies Program** Fall 2021 update
- **2022 Pac Rim Conference** strands and Strand Leads

Interested in being included in the next newsletter? Submit a request by the third Friday of each month at [http://go.hawaii.edu/JBJ](http://go.hawaii.edu/JBJ).
Artist Jamey Burkett
Make Art, Change Lives!

"Hi my name is Jamey Burkett I am the Artist, and this is my art that I made by myself. The story behind my art is that the colors represent who we are, and in life always push yourself to be better and never give up and stay positive and stay strong."

Jamey Burkett, Maui, Hawai‘i. Community Dream School at Maui High School student and Special Olympics athlete.

Make Art, Change Lives! Artist of the Month

Once a month, the CDS eNewsletter will feature a local artist from the Make Art, Change Lives! artist program. We look forward to highlighting the program's goal to create and nurture artists with developmental disabilities, promote inclusive participation of disabled artists in public artmaking events.

Since 2018, Make Art, Change Lives! has hosts art making events. Funding is provided by the Hawai‘i State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC), and the Hawai‘i People’s Fund, Kim Coco Iwamoto fund for social justice of the Iwamoto Family Foundation.

Annie Moriyasu is the founder of Make Art, Change Lives!. She is an artist and educational specialist for the Center on Disability Studies. Her focus has been employment for people with disabilities. She can be reached at amoriyas@hawaii.edu.
Editor-in-Chief Introduction

Raphael Raphael, Ph.D.
Review of Disability Studies Journal, Editor-in-Chief

We are delighted to be publishing the inaugural issue of Pacific Rim Conference Proceedings in the upcoming edition of Review of Disability Studies [RDS]. The special issue (the first such issue of RDS) will be an opportunity to showcase some of the many exciting and cutting edge research that was shared in Pac Rim 2021. It also provides CDS a chance to help generate increasing global awareness of Pac Rim 2022 as a premier international summit for exploration of disability and diversity issues.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING

Special DSI Event Announcement -
Reframing Disability: Manga’s Portrayals of Deaf Characters

Disability Studies Initiative (DSI) will be featuring its first speaker later this month with the date to be announced.

Yoshiko Okuyama, a professor of Japanese studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, will discuss Reframing Disability in Manga (University of Hawaii Press 2020), which she wrote after interviewing manga artists, conducting archival research, and visiting events and organizations serving disability communities in Japan as a Japan Foundation fellow. Focusing on the book’s chapter on the deaf community in Japan, she will discuss their representation in manga using comic examples such as A Silent Voice (Koe no katachi) while sharing manga images and anecdotes she did not include in her book. She will conclude with a discussion of emerging issues as the pandemic continues to impact disability communities in Japan.
Communities offer a sense of belonging and are central to the human experience. Communities can provide: knowledge; connections; inspiration, resources; and support. An engaging community allows us to share and relate with one another and to learn and develop new ideas. The Communities strand will offer opportunities for presenters to share knowledge on the following four community areas: Autism & Neurodiversity; Deaf Community; Family Engagement; and Indigenous and Cultural Diversity.

Disability Studies & Diversity Issues

What is disability? How do the ways we as cultures answer this question impact access and equity? This strand invites contributions to the rich, diverse conversations that make up the interdisciplinary dialog of Disability Studies and Diversity Issues. The strand provides an exciting forum to explore some of the central questions animating Disability Studies and inquiries into Diversity Issues. Identified topics this year include: Disasters and Emergency Preparedness; Disability Policy and Advocacy; Creativity, Media & the Arts; and Disability Studies & Intersectionality.
EDUCATION

The Education topic strand focuses on the experiences and outcomes of people with disabilities in education. We seek proposals that address barriers to access and participation as well as innovation and success in reimagining education across early childhood education, elementary education, secondary education, higher education, and informal and alternative education and proposals that examine disability as a core component of diversity.

EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER

The progress of workers with disabilities in finding inclusion and success is represented in the Employment and Career Strand. We must mobilize to combat the challenges and seize the opportunities of a turbulent global economy. Strand topics will include Accessibility and Employment Issues, COVID-19 and Employment, Innovations and Challenges in Workforce Development, and the Transition from Postsecondary Education to Employment.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

In light of recent events in our nation and across the world, health and well-being are more important than ever. Much more intricate than the absence of disease or “dis” ease, well-being includes the presence of positive multifaceted factors including physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health. This strand provides opportunities for presenters to share knowledge in the following three areas: Disability and Health; Mental and Emotional Health & COVID-19; and Well-being and Flourishing. We welcome presentations that build skills, share best practices, encourage innovation, create safe spaces for engaging dialogue, and/or bridge research and practice.
Kal's Law Creates New Opportunities for Working People with Medicaid

Under Kal’s Law a new program will allow working people with a disability in Hawai‘i to earn more without losing their Medicaid health insurance.

In 2021, for a household of one, the Medicaid Income Limit for a person with a disability was $1,235 a month. The average income of an individual in Honolulu is $57,554 or $4,796 a month.¹

Kal Warrington Silvert

This new program was created through the Hawai‘i legislative passage of Act 155 or ‘Kal’s Law’. The law was named in honor of Kal Warrington Silvert, a UH Mānoa student who dreamed of becoming a writer. Due to a physical disability, Kal required 24-hour care provided through Medicaid. Learn more about Kal and the UH Foundation scholarship at http://go.hawaii.edu/KEP.

Hire Abilities Hawai‘i

For more information on Kal’s Law, Medicaid, or requirements to participate, visit www.hireabilitieshawaii.org.

About the Author

Ronald Deese is a key figure in advancing the inclusion of people with disabilities in Hawai‘i’s workforce. He can be reached at rdeese@hawaii.edu; Facebook @HireAbilitiesHawaii; Twitter @HireAbilities; or YouTube @Hireabilities.

Proudly Introducing Project Hōkūlani to the Center on Disability Studies’ ‘Ohana

Project Hōkūlani’s overarching goal is to support Native Hawaiian high school students to enter into postsecondary science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields through a culturally responsive, strength- and work-based enrichment program. The project's 5-component program are:

- **Academic Enrichment in Science** - Introduction to science through hands-on activities.
- **Mentoring** - Explore the connection between science and Native Hawaiian culture and practices, and STEM careers.
- **College Transition Support** - Learn more about college, the application process, where to go to get support and college campus a tour.
- **Internships** - Students will gain first-hand and real-world experience working with a local science, technology or engineering organization or laboratory.
- **‘Ohana Gatherings** - Parents participate in monthly ‘ohana gatherings, culture-based science hands-on activities, strategies to help children learn science at home, and information and resources related to college.

**PROJECT HŌKŪLANI TEAM MEMBERS**

Hye-Jin Park  
Kiriko Takahashi  
Jerrik Feliciano  
Cheryl Corbiell  
Val Crabbe  
Alejandro Guillen  
Dalen Kahiapo  
Yoko Kitami  
Monica Lau  
Mellanie Lee  
Genesis Leong  
Jerica Mānoa  
Kendra Nip  
Hoʻoululahui Erika Perry  
Kathy Sah-Kakiba  
Samantha Wee  
Robert Young
Meet the CDS Community Advisory Council 2021-2022 Members

Martha M. Guinan, MPH, CAC Chair, is an educator, researcher and mother to a young man with Down syndrome. In addition to special education, her interests lay in teaming, leadership, educational technology, literacy and cultural diversity. She has worked for many years with parents, schools and support groups across the Pacific to engage them in the education of children with special needs. She currently serves as Chair of the Special Education Advisory Council of Hawai‘i (SEAC).

Isabella Barrett earned a Bachelor in Philosophy and Theology and a Master of Education both from Point Loma Nazarene University. Her 12 years of teaching includes both private and public schools with teaching credentials in California, Oklahoma, and Hawai‘i. Her teaching experience ranges from elementary to high school aged students, with a specialty in reading and writing.

Kirk Barth graduated from University of California, Berkeley in 1971, with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Kirk has been a financial planner since 1989. He has been working with the special needs community since 2004. Kirk’s hobbies include killing orchids and losing golf balls.

Daintry Bartoldus has served as the executive administrator of Hawai‘i State Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council) since 2018. The DD Council is an agency which provides advocacy, capacity building, and systems change activities on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. Daintry began working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 1989. This includes The Arc in Hawai‘i focused on housing, day programs, and supportive employment; the DD Council as their community and legislative liaison; and at the Intermediate Care Facilities as the community and the Medicaid waiver program director. Daintry is very passionate about educating the community on inclusion of individuals with I/DD.
Raquel Bernholz

Gigi Davidson is the founder of two nonprofit organizations: FASD Communities provides housing for young adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) and advocacy throughout the US to build awareness of this lifelong invisible disability; and ‘Ohana Komputer provides computer literacy skills training to the economically disadvantaged people of Hawai‘i.

Louis Erteschik grew up in New York City. He attended Northwestern University and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is the Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Disability Rights Center. He has served in that capacity for ten years. Prior to that he was a Staff Attorney with the Disability Rights Center and also was a staff attorney at the Hawai‘i State Legislature and a Hearing Officer for the Hawai‘i Department of Health.

Barbara Fischlowitz-Leong is the executive director of ATRC. She oversees and ensures the evaluation and effectiveness of all programs, services, and activities of the agency and works with the Board of Directors to develop and implement short- and long-range goals, policies, and programs. She is an internationally and nationally recognized advocate for persons with disabilities and employs a knowledgeable and assertive leadership style to accomplish the goals and objectives of numerous projects. She is also a consultant to various state departments and legislators on disability and assistive technology issues.

Gayle Fox has been a special educator in the DOE for nearly 15 years. Currently, she is in her fourth year providing special education transition services to students at Farrington High School with disabilities. Gayle’s mission is to be a resource and advocate for students with special needs and their families to help them be successful after high school and maximize their quality of life. “One thing I love about my job is when I can provide a resource that a student and/or parent was not aware of, and that resource brings an opportunity that they otherwise would not have had.”
Karen Glasser is the State Director of Best Buddies in Hawai‘i (BBH), a graduate of the University of Michigan, and New York University in film production. Since February ‘20, she has overseen all programmatic, operations and fundraising initiatives for BBH; and opened Citizens Best Buddies. Karen is a member of Best Buddies International's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, sits on several national pilot initiative committees, an alumna of and contributing author of content for Leadership Best Buddies, and a new hire mentor. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Honolulu and a volunteer with Hawai‘i Help is on the Way.

Meriah Nichols was raised in the Pacific and Asia. Meriah Nichols is a deaf mom to 3 young children, one on the Autism spectrum and one with Down syndrome. She is also a plant nerd, film buff and a professional career counselor who runs the award-winning blog, Unpacking Disability with Meriah Nichols www.meriahnichols.com.

Sandra Oshiro is a veteran journalist who coordinates HYAIT, a family support group that helps young adults on the autism spectrum. She is pursuing a UH certificate in disability studies and serves on the board and as an officer of PHAC, a developer of affordable housing for senior, low-income, and special needs communities.

Kiele Pennington parent of three teen/adult children, two on the Autism Spectrum, and an active member of Hawai‘i’s autism community. As the The Autism Community in Action (TACA) Program Design Coordinator, she supports and facilitates family education through regional/national virtual events and online support. As a volunteer for 10+ years, she coordinates TACA Hawai‘i and mentors families in the TACA Mentor program. As a community member she is involved with Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) and LDAH Parent Partner; alumni of the Institute of Special Education, William & Mary College; and student member of Hawai‘i Association of Behavior Analysts.

Linee Reeves is a Special Education Advocate, Mom of children with learning disabilities, and a continuous learner and health and fitness fanatic. Her greatest joy in life is serving my community and helping people.
Susan Rocco found her true calling when she answered a job posting in 1985 for a coordinator of a new parent information and referral program within the Disability and Communication Access Board. She likes to say that her son Jason “got her the job” as they were looking for a parent of a child with a disability to provide parent-to-parent support to other parents. During her decades at SPIN, Susan has realized the importance of systems advocacy in making the world a more welcoming place for her son and all people with disabilities.

Clayton Takemoto is the supervisor of the Social Work Services Unit in the Hawai‘i Department of Health’s Early Intervention. He provides statewide technical support to social workers and care coordinators, and oversees the Early Intervention Referral Line which is the state’s central point of contact for referring children. He has a Master’s Degree in Social Work from the University of Hawai‘i; is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers; and is licensed in the State of Hawai‘i. Mr. Takemoto's entire career has been dedicated to early intervention and supporting family centered practice.

Adam Tanners received his Ph.D. in Education from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, with a specialization is Special Education. His research interests include universal design in education and use of everyday technologies as accommodations to students with disabilities. Adam is currently working as an Instructional Designer for the College of Education at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. He stays true to his background and interest in special education by following universal design principles on all courses he works on. In addition to his role as Instructional Designer Adam occasionally teaches classes for the Department of Special Education.

Matthew Ulanski joined CDS around 2010, with an initial focus on a Medicaid Infrastructure grant about a buy-in option for people with disabilities. His duties included serving as Vice Chair of the CAC for several meetings. "Most people would describe me as well-read and able to take criticism and use it constructively."

About the Community Advisory Council (CAC)

The Center on Disability Studies, Community Advisory Council meet bi-annually to advise CDS and serves a strategic role in the success of the goals CDS undertakes. Members of the CAC are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and includes self-advocates, family members of self-advocates, individuals with disabilities, service providers and other stakeholders.