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Hands Across the Pacific

Changing Tides

By: Mellanie Lee

Over the last several months we have seen “changing tides” across the Pacific, each of them bringing us new gifts. These tides stay with us for awhile but when the tide returns, the waves take back the special treasures with it but still some remain... Just as the tides are always moving and changing, so is the news in this edition of our newsletter.

You will read about our amazing Talk Story time with Haben Girma as she started off our new year sharing her insights and wisdom; news from our Deaf-Blind Mentor, Shayleen in her recent internship at the Helen Keller National Center; fun, food, and fellowship at a Make and Take Book Making workshop on the Big Island, Hawaii` and the sweet and special visit from the miniature horses who also visited one of our deaf-blind preschool students. There was an informative and engaging workshop on Positive Touch with the fabulous Susie Morgan, Director of the New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative.....And from the greater Pacific you will read about the iCanConnect program, Special Olympics, and the third year of the Navigating Success for Students in the Pacific program at the College of Micronesia.

All of our stories offer treasures we hope will nourish your minds as you greet each day. As we sail into Fall and bid goodbye to Summer, we hope this finds each of your voyages going smoothly. Hoping you enjoy this edition of the HPDB Newsletter!!!

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DEAF-BLIND RELATED EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO!



1. Workshop: Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) Assessment & Intervention: Introduction to Phase 1

10/22/19 8:30-4pm at the Oahu Veteran's Center

2. Training: Orientation and Mobility for SSPs

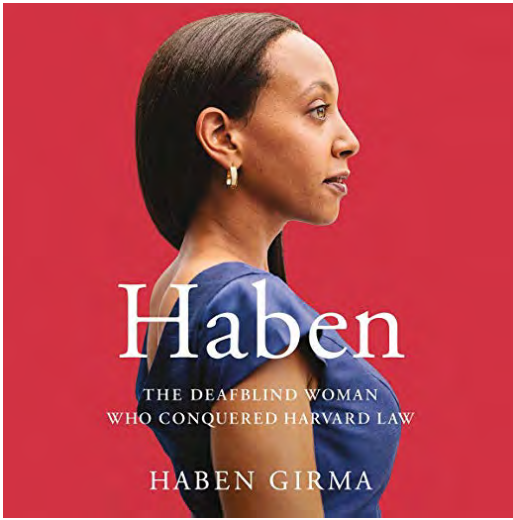


10/19.9-12pm at the Comprehensive Service Center for People who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind



3. Movie Premiere: Feeling Through

Tentatively scheduled for 11/16/19 is a film with a deaf-blind actor! More information coming soon!



Aloha and Mahalo Haben Girma!

At the end of December, the tides brought us an amazing gift and a great way to welcome in the new year. That special gift was Haben Girma, the first *Deafblind woman to graduate from Harvard Law School, and Mylo, Haben's Seeing Eye dog. The HDBP was thrilled to sponsor this Talk Story where members of the Hawai'i deaf-blind community were in attendance - including deaf-blind students who came from neighbor islands, and our deaf and deaf-blind Kupuna (elders). Haben spent several hours with us sharing her life experiences, giving advice on technology, accessing information, strategies for dealing with depression when losing your hearing hearing and vision, going to college, finding jobs and resources, seeing eye dogs, advice for parents and a variety of other topics. Haben also shared that she had been working on her autobiography. Everyone was excited to learn what some of the stories in the book were going to be about. The group of twenty turned out to be a perfect size for asking questions and learning from each other. Everyone walked away happy. After her presentation and spending time with us, Haben went to the beach to go surfing! For those of you who are as eager as we are to read her book, "Haben: The Deafblind Woman Who Conquered Harvard Law," is now out and available through Amazon.



*The HPDBP recognizes the recent legislative resolution reaffirming the use of the term Deaf-Blind by the State of Hawai'i and the Counties. However, Haben prefers the term "deafblind" with no hyphen to suggest that the disability is "a cultural identity, not merely a medical condition" from this website: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/deafblind-trailblazer-haben-girma-has-a-vision-of-inclusion-11564761224>.

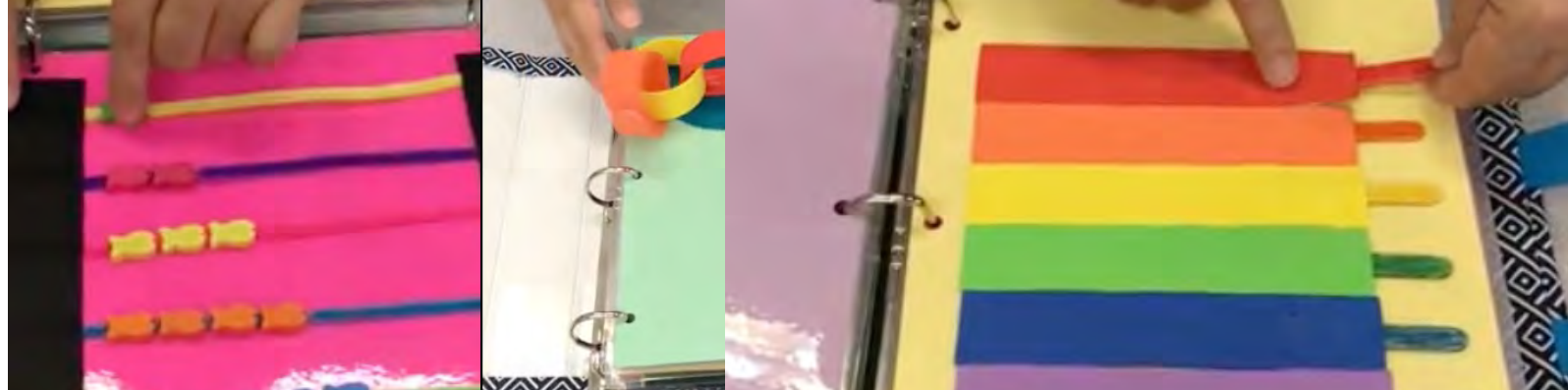
lakwe Everyone,



I'm currently in Denver Colorado. My parents feel it is for my own good to move here to live with my auntie and uncle and go to school. My dad told me that the US would have better resources than Majuro, and he is right.

I'm flooded with many different emotions inside of me, like stress, excitement, anticipation, and more. I think this is going to be a whole new year for me. Majuro will still be my home sweet home and nothing will ever change that. I mean, at this point I am starting to feel like Denver is going to be my second home sweet home. Here is a picture of my family at church. I will keep you updated on this new chapter of my life!

Cristelle Keju



Make It and Take It on Hawai'i Island!

Creating Tactile Concept and Experience Books for Blind and Deaf-Blind students

On a beautiful Saturday morning back in March, a group of parents and teachers came together to make Tactile Concept and Experience Books for their children. Four 6 ft. tables lined the wall filled with all kinds of assorted materials, including buttons, feathers, textured fabric and paper, ropes, Christmas décor, colored foam boards, pipe cleaners, pompoms, colored popsicle sticks & straws, beads, zippers, hoops, plastic Easter eggs, recycled tins, and much more! There were also glue guns, a sewing machine, and a Braille.

Maryanne Genova, “Teacher Extraordinaire” of the Visually Impaired, taught us how to make a book out of used binders covered in fabric. For the inside of each book, we designed unique pages for students. Maryanne provided lots of examples and ideas on how to create tactile books individualized for a child. Some of the books had real objects with Braille, some had large print and objects, and all of the books used different materials that provided engaging tactile experiences.

Everyone had an excellent time learning, creating, and of course eating the “onolishous” food people brought to share. At the end of our time together it was a unanimous decision to do this again!!! Pot-luck and book making...what a great way to spend a Saturday! The tides brought in a creative, productive time, and they washed back out with “gifts from the sea”, as everyone went home with a book they were proud of.

Mini Horses Visit Big Island Pre-Schoolers



It was a beautiful North Kohala* day, in March, when two therapeutic mini horses named Peaches and Calypso visited the pre-school special education students at Kohala Elementary School. Teachers Cheryle Leany and Rebecca Weizz brought their excited class members to meet these tiny horses to learn how to brush, pet, and lead them. Nancy Bloomfield, with Therapeutic Horsemanship Hawaii-Kona, was responsible for this engaging visit. She also made a special home visit to a pre-schooler who had been sick, so everyone in the class was able to experience the joy these tiny horses bring. Special Mahalo to Nancy, Peaches, and Calypso for sharing your Aloha!

If you would like to learn more about this program, please check out Therapeutic Horsemanship of Hawaii - Kona at www.thhkona.org.



From Sea (Pacific) to Shining Sea (Atlantic) This Hawaiian Wahine Goes to NYC!



Aloha all the way from The Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) in New York! My name is Shayleen Siquig and I am a Hawaiian artist with Usher Syndrome. That's me standing next to a painting I made based on a photograph I took of a sunset from my home on Oahu, Hawai'i. It will be auctioned off at Helen Keller Service's 40th Annual Gala at the end of September.

During the summer, I interned at HKNC Professional Learning and Leadership Institute. It was an amazing experience to be back in New York. I visited the Statue of Liberty, Rockefeller Center, live performances and puppet shows at Central Park, and enjoyed Italian ice (a little different than our Hawaiian shave ice) and so much more.

It was nice returning to HKNC as staff and seeing familiar faces after being a former HKNC student in 2007. As a summer intern, I worked with Deaf-Blind students and provided art instruction and support. Art projects were based on individual student's interests and included macramé, clay, tiles, acrylic, dream catchers, etc. I developed many new skills during my summer internship including multi-tasking, flexibility, taking initiative, time management, being a team player and organizational skills. I will share my new knowledge and skills as I continue serving as a Mentor with the Hawai'i and Pacific Deaf-Blind Project.

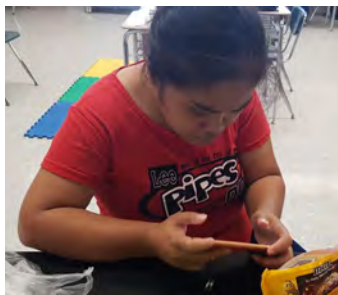


Shayleen Siquig is the HPDB Mentor, she can be reached at shayleen.siquig@gmail.com

iCanConnect in the Pacific

By: Leah Neuman, Helen Keller National Center

I work for the Helen Keller National Center as a Deaf-Blind Specialist and running the iCanConnect Program (ICC) in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands. Though it has only been a few months, I already feel so connected to these programs and their missions.



Through connections with the Hawai'i and Pacific Deaf-Blind Project, ICC has provided free telecommunication technology to two students. In Tinian, a beautiful island in the Northern Mariana Islands, I met one student and her family. We set up a Serene Innovations central alert system that connects to her iPhone and has a bed shaker and portable receiver for notifications. Later in the month, I was off to American Samoa where ICC was able to provide another student with an iPad, switch controller, Trekzair headphones and an Orbit 20 braille display. I had a lot of fun working with her teacher and getting her comfortable on all of the devices.

It feels so rewarding to be a part of something that provides so much good in the community. I love being able to work with others through HKNC in order to help provide full access to individuals with combined vision and hearing loss through telecommunication devices. If anyone would like more information on the iCanConnect Program, please email me at leah.neumann@hknc.org.

Navigating Student Success in the Pacific (NSSP) New Summer Tides 2019

The College of the Marshall Islands in collaboration with UHM Center on Disability Studies wrapped up another successful summer. This was the third summer that NSSP students from American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Guam gathered to take courses as part of either the Deaf Education or Severe Disabilities Advanced Certification, BAEE program. This summer in the the Deaf Education (DE) program focused on Literacy Development (taught by Nancy Bridenbaugh) and Social Studies & Pacific Literature (taught by Lori Seago). The Deaf Education students worked in teams and individually on course projects including developing skills in presenting (sign-'reading') storybooks to deaf students.

Instructors for the Severe Disabilities (SD) cohort were Jennifer Tarnay and Kathy Ratliffe. The curriculum for the SD students focused on Inclusive Practices and Communication strategies. A bonus to the program were two wonderful interns from San Francisco State's Project Building Bridges program.



This Federally funded grant is preparing Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) to provide Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) services with children and families of diverse cultural and language backgrounds. Brittany Davis and Becky Mathews, joined us for two weeks of our summer. They taught us how to make adaptive switches for battery operated toys, baggie books and helped lay a foundation for Augmentative and Alternative Communication for our children with complex communication needs. They also went on home visits, tried the local foods and learned about the different Pacific island cultures. It was a memorable summer for everyone.

Just as the tide brings in marine life (animals, plants, etc) that fill tide pools, so too the summer brings NSSP students from across the Pacific to the Marshall Islands to continue their studies to become teachers for deaf students or for students with severe disabilities. Kommel Tata to our old and new NSSP instructors and friends for bringing in new gifts with-their tides of knowledge! When the tide goes out, the marine life returns to the sea. And like the tide, when the NSSP summer courses are finished, the NSSP students return to their islands across the sea. To all of the dedicated NSSP students, instructors, and staff, we look forward to the tide bringing you back for the final NSSP courses in Summer 2020!!

Touch Techniques and Increased Access for Individuals who are Deaf-Blind



Mahalo to our Sponsors:



Special Olympics has grown across the Pacific Special Olympics Across the Pacific

By Tua Tupulola, Director (UCEED)

Basin using sports to reach individuals with intellectual disabilities of all ages. Last month, Guam joined the Special Olympic Asia Pacific Region with American Samoa, Palau, Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Early this year, the Pacific Islands were represented competing at 2019 Special Olympic World Games in Abu Dhabi held in the Middle East. Over 10,000 athletes, partners, coaches, and staff from 170 countries competing in 24 sports.

One initiative that Athletes look forward to at all Regional and World Games event is Healthy Athletes. Special Olympics Healthy Athletes offers free health screening and education for all athletes. By providing free health screenings, services, and

educational awareness in conjunction with competition events would encourage each athlete's ability to train and compete to their fullest potential. Healthy Athletes offer eight disciplines in their screening program.



- Lions Club Opening Eyes (vision)
 - Healthy Hearing (audiology)
 - Special Smiles (dental)
 - MedFest (sports physical exam)
 - FUNFitness (physical therapy)
 - Fit Feet (podiatry)
 - Strong Minds (emotional well-being)
 - Health Promotion (health /well-being)
- Healthcare professionals from around the world volunteer to provide free screening and services in a welcoming, fun environment while educating athletes on healthy lifestyle choices. Athletes completing screening disciplines would receive prescribed

glasses, sunglasses to protect from UV rays, dental hygiene kits, free sports shoes, and lots of exciting incentives when completed.

For more information about Inclusive Health or Healthy Athletes program you can contact a Special Olympics program within your jurisdiction or country. Ms. Tua-Tupulola can be reached at: t.tupuola@amsamoa.edu

FLYER UPDATED: NEW LOCATION OAHU VETERANS CENTER

Hawai'i & Pacific Deaf-Blind Project proudly presents...

Laying the Foundation for Assessment and Intervention

Introduction to Phase I Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI)

Training Description: Cortical visual impairment (CVI) has been defined for educational purposes as "a neurological disorder, which results in unique visual responses to people, educational materials and the environment" (American Printing House for the Blind, 2004). Presently, it is the most common cause of permanent visual impairment in children (1-3). This training will inform participants with a basic understanding and/or review of CVI while providing interactive activities that promote an understanding of CVI assessment and intervention.

Target Audience: Service providers, families, communities agencies working with children with vision loss or dual-sensory impairment/deaf-blindness.

Learner Outcomes:

- Describe unique visual characteristics of children with CVI
- Observe, and identify, the visual characteristics of CVI
- Plan interventions for students Phases I & II
- Implementing the Routine Planning Form/CVI Schedule

Presenter Information: Connections Beyond Sight and Sound is a partnership between the Maryland State Department of Education and the University of Maryland, College Park. This project supports children with deaf-blindness in their homes, schools, and communities by providing consultation, training, special programs, resources, and technical assistance to children and their families and care providers.

Date
& Time

October 22, 2019
8:30am - 4:00pm

Cost

Professional rate: \$75.00
Parent rate: \$35.00

Location

Oahu Veterans Center
Ballard Hall
1298 Kukila St, Hon HI 96818

Connections Beyond Sight and Sound



Rebecca Hommer



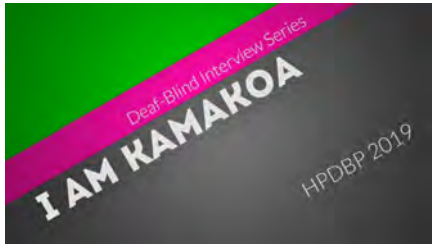
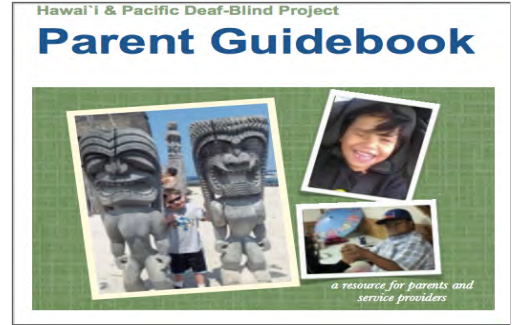
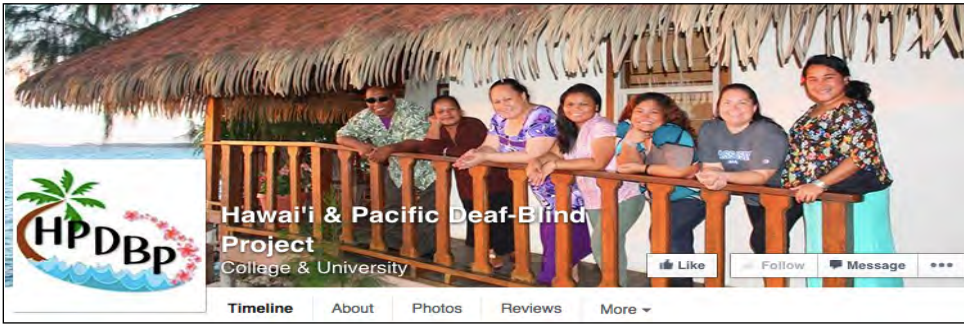
Sandra Newcomb



Donna Riccobono



Jennifer Willis



"I Am Kamakoa" is the first in a series of interviews of Deaf-Blind individuals by the Hawai'i & Pacific Deaf-Blind Project, this video features Kamakoa Almasin of Maui, Hawai'i. Spend a few minutes with us to meet this incredibly well spoken young man as he explains about Alström syndrome, his vision and hearing loss, and more. This video can be viewed on the HPDBP website.

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Upcoming Events:

Orientation & Mobility Training for SSPs at CSC
 with Amy Downard, M.Ed.TVI/O&M
 10/19/19 9am-12pm

Learner Outcomes:

- General Overview of Blindness Issues and Skills
- Vision Simulation Self Practice Kit
- Human Guide Techniques across various settings (indoor/outdoor, stairs, elevator, street area)
- White Cane for the blind overview

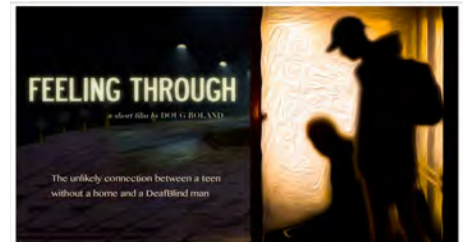
Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing signers and non-signers are welcome.

Snacks provided.

Location:
 1953 S Beretania Street, Suite 5A

Parking limited. Carpool recommended.

To Register:
<https://forms.gle/e2bWwi6a6ieYRNn36>
 or email roz@csc-hawaii.org



Helen Keller National Center Presents:



MOVIE FEATURING A DEAF-BLIND ACTOR

Feeling through is a movie featuring the first ever DeafBlind actor! Join us as we celebrate this moment in history for Deaf-Blind Awareness Day! We are still planning. More information coming soon!

For the latest information, sign up here:
<https://tinyurl.com/HawaiiFeelingThroughPremiere>

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