

The Role of Peer Mentorship in Hawaii's Developmental Disabilities Division

Presenters: Joel Lakins (Lead Presenter); Evan Murakami; Ronalyn Rosenberg,

Intended Audience: Self Advocates, Families, Direct Support Professionals, Provider Agencies

Session Description

This presentation will highlight the activities of a team of employees within Hawaii's Developmental Disabilities Division who work to promote self advocacy and the principles of self determination. This effort includes developing and participating in trainings from new employee orientation to individualized planning workshops to relationships and sexuality. They also develop outreach efforts to schools and service provider agencies to raise awareness of self advocacy and individual rights and opportunities. They participate on Division wide committees in areas including employment and self-advocacy, and they support an emerging group of individuals with developmental disabilities who have organized themselves into an organization called the Self Advocate Advisory Council. They will talk about the successes and challenges of their work and share their experiences to help self advocates who want to be more involved in their lives and organizations that want to build on or initiate their own peer mentorship activities. The goal of this presentation is to explain the benefits of Peer Mentorship and foster the development more Peer Mentoring programs.