



# TRANSITION STORIES

KAAHANUI OHANA

# OUR OHANA



**SOLO**

- 25 yrs at Sea Life Park as animal trainer
- 21 years at Honolulu Zoo as Chimp Zookeeper
- Retired in Nov. '20
- Loves surfing, kayaking, gardening & a good steak



**AMANDA**

- 26 years in Hawaii
- Worked in education at Sea Life Park and Honolulu Zoo
- Been with SPIN for 6 years
- Loves gardening, staying home, making cards & crafty things & chocolate



**IKAIKA**

- Senior at Kalaheo High
- Diploma Track with CTE in Broadcast Media
- Wants to be a filmmaker, YouTube content creator & game creator
- Loves Marvel movies, Legos, Minecraft, FNaF, dogs and poi

# TRANSITIONS HAPPEN

As we prepare for Ikaika's future, we look back at how far he's come and the transitions he has successfully navigated.



# TRANSITION TO PRESCHOOL

- Started at 3 years old – Emmanuel PS had a deaf/hard of hearing class with a DOE Teacher of the Deaf
- Started 2 days a week, ½ days
- Had a nurse with him (trach & g-tube) – this was a hard transition for mom – I had trust issues
- Ikaika is only child, it was overwhelming at first, but he quickly adjusted
- Transitioned to HCDB for 2<sup>nd</sup> year of PS, and language exploded – both spoken and signed



# TRANSITION TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Choosing which school to attend (deaf school or d/hh program school or homeschool) would affect language, academics & friends
- When he turned 8, his trach was removed. We lost home care and school nursing, and he transitioned to A+ after school care – learning independence
- In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, his gen-ed teacher helped him transition to math in her class – it changed his trajectory in education and it changed (raised) our expectations of what Ikaika could do!



# TRANSITION TO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

- New school after 8 years at the same elementary school
- Full time inclusion – for the first time, Ikaika was taking the same classes as his peers (except math)
- New social expectations
  - From peers
  - From adults
- Transitioned to Boys and Girls club (on campus) after school



# TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

- Transition Meeting – announced he'd be on a diploma track and all we heard were crickets
- New Principal, VP & Sped Chair all embrace inclusion and made it work
- Rides his flicker to Boys & Girls Club
- In all classes with peers (except math)
- In CTE for Broadcast Media – preparing now for his capstone year!
- Spent 2020-21 SY distance learning at home and had his best academic year
- Fully vaccinated and ready to transition back to in-person in the fall



# IEP SUPPORT: TRANSITIONING TO ADULT LIFE

## GRADES 9 & 10

- The transition page of the IEP only had the classes he was taking with a nod to his CTE
- Time spent for “interest” surveys, but no connections outside of school



## GRADE 11

- New transition teacher
- Connected to DVR for Pre-employment training of soft skills
- We did not realize DVR subcontracts for Pre-ETs
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter took a class from Abilities Unlimited and NEi
- Summer – possible paid employment!



# HOW WE ARE WORKING ON TRANSITION AT HOME

- Signed up for LT Animation Academy
  - In person 2019
  - Virtual 2020
  - Both years: Student Showcase at the Hawaii International Film Festival
- Signed him up for film contest for voting – won 1<sup>st</sup> place high school div.
- Multiple Zoom classes for art, animation, YouTube, ect.
- State ID in September
- Moving from pediatric to adult docs
- Looking for 1<sup>st</sup> job or internship
- Learning “adulthood”: laundry, shopping, cooking, savings account, etc.



# IKAIKA'S TRANSITION GOALS FOR POST HS

- Windward Community College
  - Creative Media Certificate
- Free online college (mom's union)
  - Potential to get his AA classes done
- West Oahu
  - 4 year program in Creative Media
- Internships, work experience, classes, connections
- Living at home through schooling
- Building relationships & circles of support that will last beyond us



# FINAL THOUGHTS

Dad: “I hope he gets a job he likes and is able to make friends and learn to be independent.”

Mom: “I would like to see him get a job at the Hawaii Film Studio – it’s a union gig and would provide stability.”

Ikaika: “I want to go to college, get a job making films and have friends.”

All of us: We want Ikaika to be happy, be safe and be loved by those around him.





**MAHALO!**