

“The Magical World of SPIN”

Evaluation Report

May 10, 2025

Koolau Ballrooms in Kaneohe

- Registration and Attendance
- Conference Evaluation Data
- Workshop Evaluation Data
- Photos
- Comments





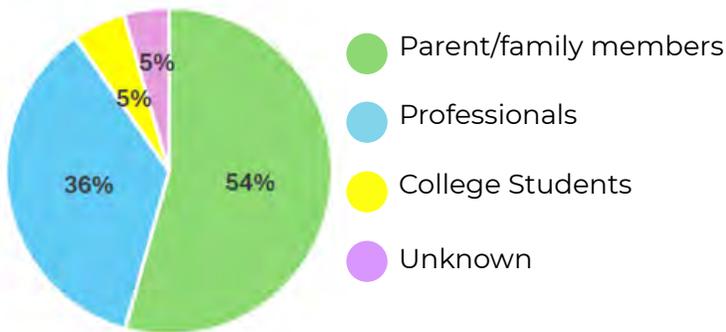
2025 Conference Attendees



Over 500 people participated in the May 10th SPIN Conference. 484 gathered at the Koolau Ballrooms and Conference Center while 17 participated virtually via Zoom. 362 individuals signed up to attend the conference keynote, workshops, and award luncheon in person while another 122 individuals manned the exhibitor tables only.

Total Participants	501
Parents/family members	196
Students	10
College Students	20
Professionals	136
Exhibitors	122
Unknown	17

Conference Participants by Role Group

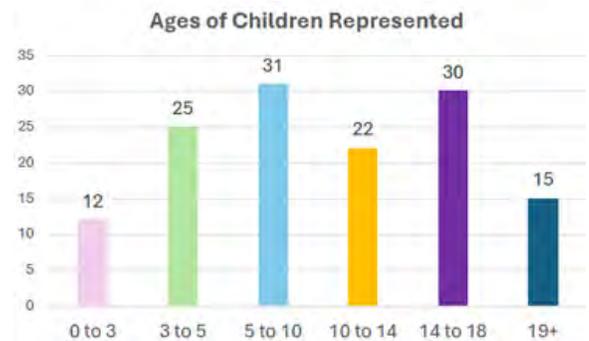


Parents and family members of youth with disabilities made up the majority of conference goers with the next largest group being helping professionals – teachers, agency personnel and health care workers. For the first time in several years, parents made up a large majority of conference participants.



Ages of Children Represented

Of the children represented by their parents and other family members, transition-aged students – those in high school or recent graduates – made up the largest group, followed by elementary aged children. SPIN was also pleased to host a fair number of young families with children in early intervention or preschool.

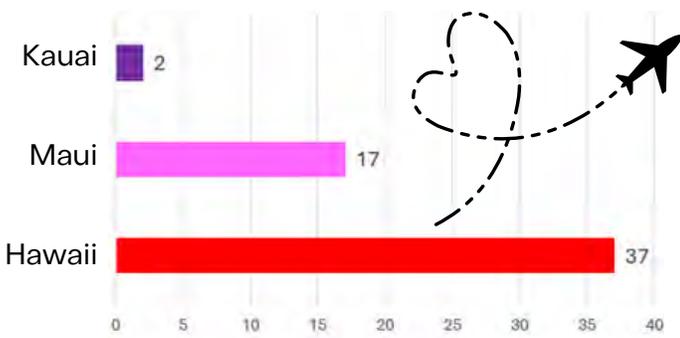


Children's Disability Represented

Child's Disability	Prevalence
Autism/ASD	78
ADHD	27
ID/DD	8
Genetic Syndromes	8
Multiple Disabilities	4
Mitochondrial	4
Dyslexia	3
Other	9

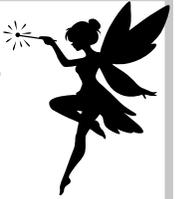
As in recent years, children and youth on the autism spectrum were by far the largest disability group, followed by children with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. SPIN speculates that families of children with more complex and developmental needs are most motivated to find support services and knowledge to meet their child's unique academic, behavior, and social-emotional needs.

Parent Airfares Scholarships by Island



Thanks to the generosity of the Children with Special Health Needs Branch, SPIN was able to offer **56 airfare scholarships** to allow neighbor island parents and close family members to attend the conference. Hawaii island made up the bulk of the requests.

Magical Numbers



3 Keynote Speakers

16 Workshops

3 Breakout sessions

6 SPIN Awardees

45 Volunteers



SPIN's Enchanted Hall of Resources

80 tables representing 71 organizations - our largest fair ever!

- 15 State & Federal Agencies
- 11 Family Support Groups
- 10 Autism Support Programs
- 24 Service Organizations
- 11 Transition to Adult Services



The most shout-outs on evaluations

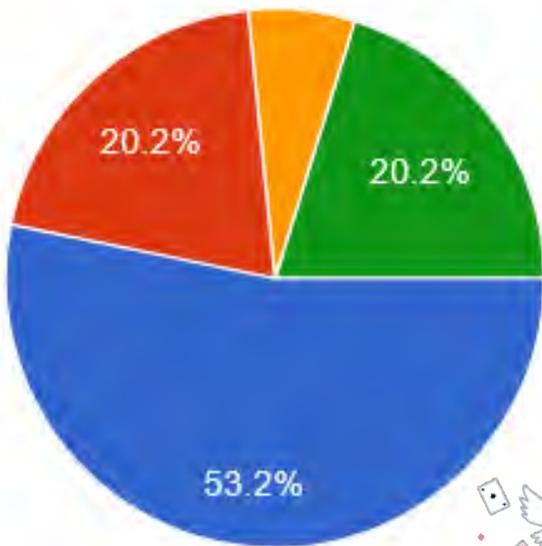
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| • TACA | • DDD |
| • Easter Seals | • Malama Pono |
| • LDAH | • HI Kids Can |
| • ATRC | • HFAA |
| • CHSNB | • Hoomana |



Conference Evaluation Data



I have attended the SPIN Conference:



- My first time!
- My second time
- This is my 3rd time
- Lots of times!



74% of evaluations were from parents

SPIN Conference was a positive learning experience = 99%

I felt respected and appreciated = 100%

Registration was quick and easy = 95%

The Keynotes were relevant & informative = 94%

I had opportunities to visit the Resource Room = 92%

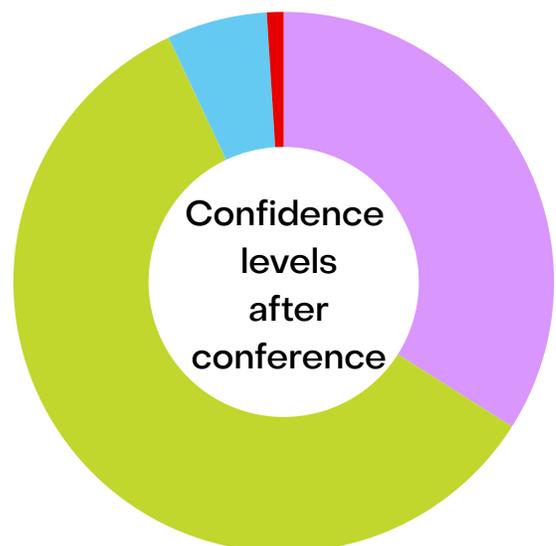
The lunch buffet was yummy = 98%

I enjoyed the SPIN Awards = 90%

The workshops were diverse and relevant = 95%

I will definitely come next year = 99%

- Very Confident
- More Confident
- Same Confidence
- Less Confident



Confidence levels after conference

Recommendations

Workshop Topics/themes

- more for toddlers and young children
- drug education (specifically fentanyl)
- emotions (like the movie “Inside Out”)
- teenage perspective on having a disability
- PDA in Autism (pathological demand avoidance)
- how to get through Due Process
- more in depth IEP prep
- planning for independence
- play therapy
- preschool mental health
- “twice-exceptional” (gifted and neurodivergent)
- disaster prep

Theme Suggestions

- Jewels
- Shells
- Medieval
- Rainforest
- Native Hawaiian plants and animals



Other Suggestions

- seating for all who registered
- more signage for workshops and vendors
- chairs along the side wall
- online registration & payment
- same place & food
- have it again next year
- more breakout groups for parents
- less workshops per session (so hard to choose)
- more vegi/non-meat options
- handouts for every workshop
- have it at Koolau Ballrooms again
- more support at the registration table
- more time for resources or less workshops



What Attendees Loved About the Conference



Meeting new people and resource, learning about how to support my child now and in the future



I loved every well thought out aspect of this conference! From the Keynote speakers to the workshops, every session was informative, helpful and made me feel empowered!

The theme of the conference is fun. The workshops on transition are helpful at each conference because last time I wasn't ready to learn/need this info.

The abundance of resources and how informative and pleasant everyone was

Amazing

I learned so much from other organizations and we were able to share and make connections!



So well organized, honors parents & educators, advocates for children & families, networking with other parents & professionals, the amazing lunch buffet, the fabulous resource tables. The venue was AMAZING!

GREAT

Sometimes I feel so lost and alone dealing with a child with ADHD, but I no longer have to feel that way anymore.

Getting to know other parents with children with same disabilities. Learning about resources. Great vendors and workshops.

FANTASTIC!

WOW!

SPIN Awards



We are excited to announce our magical SPIN Award winners for 2025! This year, Will Carlson accepted for Elizabeth Johnson and Dr. Jeff Okamoto accepted for Dr. Christine Walton. For a description of each award winners accomplishments, read our June SPIN Newsletter, found on our website: <https://spinhawaii.org/newsletter-download/>



Parent of the Year
Kristy Arias



Professional of the Year
Amelia Kyewich Kaneholani



Family Choice
Amy Downard



Parent of the Year
Shyla Gacusana



Professional of the Year
Dr. Christine Walton



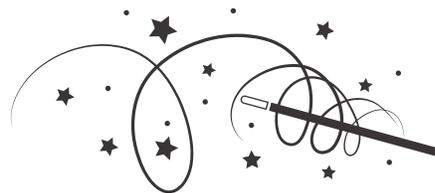
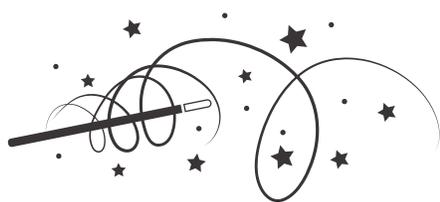
Family Choice
Elizabeth Johnson

Conference Photos



Workshop Evaluations

“Twinkling with Possibilities” (Transition to Preschool)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 24 Evaluations Received:			Parent: 72%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	88%	12%	Professional: 28%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	88%	12%	Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	88%	12%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Parent speakers were very knowledgeable and skilled in making parent attendees engaged. • All speakers gave helpful information about transition. • The open discussion was helpful.			



“Mind Over Magic” (Self-Regulation Strategies)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 50 Evaluations Received: 41			Parent: 65%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 3%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 27%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate: 5%
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: So amazing! Can't wait to check out online information. • Put a lot of things in perspective. • I appreciate the explicit examples of day-to-day strategies—the “how” aspect. A lot of great information but a little overwhelming.			

Workshop Evaluations

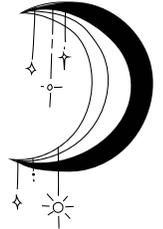
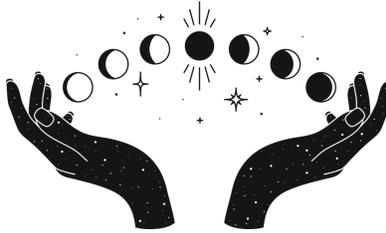
“Crafting S.M.A.R.T. IEP Goals“ (Writing IEP Goals)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: Evaluations Received: 25			Parent: 64%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	96%	4%	Family member: 4%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 32%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	96%	4%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Great conversation and <u>real life</u> stories. • Thank you for breaking the IEP down. • Appreciated the outline and handouts.			



“Bippity-Bobbitty-Boo: Self Care for YOU“ (Self-Care for Parents)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 21 Evaluations Received: 19			Parent: 67%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 33%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	95%	5%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Loved lessons on social justice and challenging ableism. • Great topic! Learned new things. • Love the ideas. I’m going to try tonight. I learned a lot. It was more than I expected. Very knowledgeable and passionate. Love the reflection and the ability to have a fluid dialog.			

Workshop Evaluations

“Presto Chango”		Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder
(Understanding Puberty)				Participation
Attendance: 25	Evaluations Received: 15			Parent: 73%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.		100%		Family member: 7%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.		100%		Professional: 13%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.		100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.		100%		College student: 7%
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.		100%		
Handouts were provided.		93%	7%	
Comments: Great slides! • Clear and helpful with things to do/action steps. • Very good information for parents trying to prepare for puberty. • Great communicator and knowledgeable. • Very informative as a future parent.				

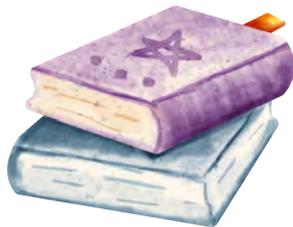


“Magic Keys to Unlock Benefits”		Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder
(Benefits Planning)				Participation
Attendance: 51	Evaluations Received: 36			Parent: 75%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.		100%		Family member: 5%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.		100%		Professional: 22%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.		100%		Self-advocate: 3%
The workshop was helpful to me.		100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.		100%		
Handouts were provided.		100%		

Comments: The speaker was very articulate and provided helpful information. • This is a valuable topic for parents with or without a child who is disabled. • I have more questions, but I sort of know where to look now.

Workshop Evaluations

“Potions of Positivity“ (Positive Behavior Supports)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 50 Evaluations Received: 9			Parent: 72%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	88%	12%	Professional: 28%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	88%	12%	Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	88%	12%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Parent speakers were very helpful and knowledgeable in making parent attendees engaged. • All Speakers gave helpful information about transition. • The open discussion was helpful.			



“Spell Book of Sensory Success“ (Sensory Integration)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 35 Evaluations Received:			Parent: 72%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	88%	12%	Professional: 28%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	88%	12%	Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	88%	12%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		

Comments: Parent speakers were very helpful and knowledgeable in making parent attendees engaged. • All Speakers gave helpful information about transition. • The open discussion was helpful.

Workshop Evaluations

“Your Time to Sparkle“ (Becoming a Better Parent Advocate)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 33 Evaluations Received: 26			Parent: 81%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 19%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	96%	4%	College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	92%	8%	
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: I am much more motivated after this workshop. • So friendly and relatable. • Update parent advocacy strategies to include modern technology such as AI.. * Great tips throughout the session.			



“Mystical Tools“ (Assistive Technology)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 11 Evaluations Received: 8			Parent: 50%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 37.5%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	88%	12%	College student: 12.5%
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Great assistive tools and AI tools. • Lending library is a great resource. • Great information. •			

Workshop Evaluations

“Spellbinding Social Networks“ (Building Social Networks)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 25 Evaluations Received: 13			Parent: 50%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 13%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 15%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate: 15%
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student: 7%
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	80%	20%	
Comments: Excellent and heartfelt presentation. • I really enjoyed listening to Tina and Zach’s journey. So much love, perseverance and Tina always advocating for her son. • Inspiring!			



“Enchanting Paths“ (Transition Planning in the IEP)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 21 Evaluations Received: 15			Parent: 53%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 7%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 40%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%	12%	Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: I liked the various speakers. Very refreshing. Very positive vibes. • This was a fun, interactive presentation! Please keep up the amazing work and engagement during presentations. • Handouts are great! Very knowledgeable team.			

Workshop Evaluations

“Behind the Curtain: Autism and OCD“ (Autism and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 65 Evaluations Received: 26			Parent: 64%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 8%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	88%	12%	Professional: 20%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate: 8%
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: Enjoyed having parents share their experiences. Helps with understanding. • Very wonderful presentation! • Look forward to learning more about Autism Moms of Kona and how to mirror or expand the reach to Oahu.			



“The Wizard’s Guide to Dyslexia“ (Dyslexia Supports)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 9 Evaluations Received: 7			Parent: 43%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member: 14%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 43%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate:
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	100%		
Comments: This was my favorite presentation of the day! Engaging, professional and great content! • Very good presenters and lots of good information. • Learned a lot!			

Workshop Evaluations

“Keep Calm and Conjure On“ (Anxiety Supports)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 44 Evaluations Received: 42			Parent: 48%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:12%
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 35%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate: 5%
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student:
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	98%	2%	
Handouts were provided.	98%	2%	
Comments: Perfect pairing of speakers! • Timely topic and <u>really well</u> presented. • Grounding. Explaining and exposure. Practical strategies. • I think this confirmed my own anxiety.			



“Wizards of Independence“ (Alternatives to Guardianship)	Agree	Disagree	Stakeholder Participation
Attendance: 24 Evaluations Received: 18			Parent: 72%
Speakers were knowledgeable about the topic.	100%		Family member:
Speakers allowed time for questions and answers.	100%		Professional: 17%
Speakers were engaging and easy to understand.	100%		Self-advocate: 5.5%
The workshop was helpful to me.	100%		College student: 5.5%
I learned useful tips I can use at home or on the job.	100%		
Handouts were provided.	33.7%	66.7%	
Comments: The most informative session of all the ones we attended. • Nice use of examples. • With so much technical information, it would have been super helpful to have the slides printed out.			