



The
International
DYSLEXIA
Association

Promoting literacy through research, education, and advocacy.[®]
Hawai'i Branch

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

*The mission of the Hawai'i Branch of the International Dyslexia Association is to
increase awareness of dyslexia in our community,
provide support for dyslexics, families and educators,
promote teacher training, and improve literacy for struggling readers.*

ODYSSEY PROJECT TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Over 450 educators, parents and clinicians attended the following professional development workshops and courses, each lasting from one day to two weeks: Orton-Gillingham Associate Level, Multisensory Structured Language (MSL) Module, Project Read Written Expression, Literacy Across the Curriculum (spring conference), and Multisensory Math Literacy Instruction.
- Collaborated with: Assets School for MSL Modules, Multisensory Math Literacy Instruction and Orton-Gillingham course; DOE Hilo/Laupahoehoe/Waiakea Complex, E.B. DeSilva Elementary and Hilo High School for Big Island professional development; LEAP (Levin Education Access Project) for “Better IEPs with Barbara Bateman”; and, Straub pediatrician Dr. Lillian Fujimoto for “Working Memory: What is it? How does it affect learning (reading, writing, arithmetic) in students with dyslexia and related problems?” with Rosemary Tannock, Ph.D.



ODYSSEY PROJECT TUTORING PRACTICUM

- Sixty-one children in elementary, middle and high school on Oahu, Maui and in Hilo benefited by receiving MSL tutoring, primarily in small groups of 3-6 students each; partial and full scholarships for tutoring fees were awarded to many students; 12 teachers and tutors trained in MSL approaches refined their instructional skills by providing the tutoring
- At HIDA’s original school-based intervention project in collaboration with E.B. DeSilva Elementary School in Hilo, Odyssey trained DeSilva teachers tutored DeSilva students designated as struggling readers participating in the Odyssey tutoring practicum. The students showed greater gains in comprehension on progress monitoring measures than their non-struggling peers. Although the goal was to increase each student’s lexile (reading comprehension) score by 75 to 100 points in a year’s time, the average Odyssey student gain in reading comprehension was 267 points. Regular education teachers at DeSilva agree that Odyssey allows many struggling readers to remain in the general education curriculum while they close gaps in reading fluency and comprehension. Most Odyssey students did not need a referral for special education services.
- In June 2010, HIDA began its second school-based intervention project in collaboration with Kamali’i Elementary School in Kihei, Maui. HIDA first provided the Orton-Gillingham Associate level course to Kamali’i teachers and several others in the community, and 9 trained Kamali’i teachers began providing MSL small group tutoring to 23 Kamali’i students in January 2011.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- HIDA was instrumental in passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR 110) which was adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the 25th legislature of Hawai’i. SCR 110 provides for the establishment of a working group to develop a comprehensive plan to improve awareness of, and support for, students with dyslexia, and to train teachers in strategies necessary to teach students with dyslexia, or other reading disabilities, how to read. HIDA is a member of the working group along with representatives of the University of Hawai’i, Department of Education and other organizations designated in the resolution. Progress is being made towards the final report which is to be presented at the 2012 legislative session.
- The volunteer speakers’ bureau offered free presentations which were attended by over 350 parents, educators and other professionals: Amazing Technologies; 33 Tips for Parents and Educators; Panel Presentation by Adult Dyslexics; and, Dyslexia Simulation Workshop.
- Free presentations on dyslexia, HIDA, MSL instruction and assistive technologies were given to school/community groups including several classes of future teachers (UH-Manoa, Honolulu Community College); Windward Oahu Rotary; Hongwanji Mission School; Ma’ema’e Elementary School; and, a flight instructors’ recertification class.
- HIDA participated with an information table at community events including Kapolei High School health fair, Alu Like Literacy Fair, UH-Manoa Special Education Showcase, Puohala Elementary School, and annual conferences of SPIN (Special Parent Information Network) and HAIS (Hawai’i Association of Independent Schools).
- HIDA Board members Kathy Ferguson and Wayne Sunahara together with past HIDA president Sue Voit and Assets’ Head of School, Paul Singer, presented “The Other 16 Hours” at the PacRim International Conference on Disabilities held at the Hawai’i Convention Center.
- Program Manager Margaret Higa was interviewed on the *Na Oiwī Olino – People Seeking Wisdom* radio program sponsored by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as part of a focus on National Literacy Day and the Alu Like Literacy Fair.
- An Annotated Bibliography of HIDA’s *Resource Guide About Dyslexia for People in Hawai’i (Guide)* was completed by Kathy Ferguson, author of the *Guide*, and may be downloaded at www.dyslexia-hawaii.org.

FUNDRAISING

☞ \$76,300 in grants were received for the Odyssey Project Teacher Training and Tutoring Practicum programs, Public Awareness initiatives and in general support of HIDA from the following:

- Alexander & Baldwin Foundation
- ABC Stores / Kosasa Foundation
- Atherton Family Foundation
- Carole Kai Charities / Great Aloha Run
- Donald C. Brace Foundation
- Hawai'i Hotel & Lodging Association – Big Island Chapter
- Kristofferson Foundation
- McInerney Foundation
- Friends of Hawai'i Charities, Inc. / Sony Open



Margaret Higa and Susan Kowen
pass out juice to runners at
the Great Aloha Run

☞ \$8,732 in donations to Spring & Fall direct mail appeals

☞ \$9,606 raised from other fundraising initiatives, such as the 2nd annual Read-A-Thon held in collaboration with Assets School, an evening with professional sailor Andrew Lewis, Aloha United Way's donor choice program, customer donations through Foodland's annual Give Aloha campaign, and in unsolicited contributions

☞ \$39,897 net from annual *Open the Door* Fall Event held at the beautiful kama'aina home of Burta Atherton

Generous donations were also received from:

- Bank of Hawai'i Foundation
- City Mill Co., Ltd. / Chung Kun Ai Foundation
- The Michael & Patricia O'Neill Charitable Fund
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INFORMATION & REFERRAL

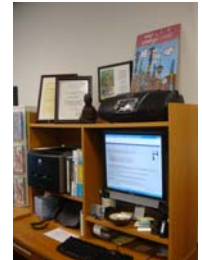
- Responded to over 850 inquiries for information on resources for parents, educators and other professionals including educational testing, tutoring, teacher professional development, public awareness events, advocacy, membership, volunteerism and making a donation
- Facebook “fan page” launched in early 2011 as a forum for the latest information on workshops, inspirational articles, and initiatives in our community and nationally
- HIDA website received over 8,000 unique visits



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



- In March 2010, HIDA relocated to its current office location in Honolulu at the Standard Financial Plaza, 705 South King Street, Suite 206



- Program Manager Margaret Higa was one of nine executive directors or equivalent from local non-profit organizations serving disadvantaged Hawai'i residents to be invited to participate in the 2010 Weinberg Fellows Program. The 75 hour leadership development program provided practical, interactive sessions focused on key elements of non-profit management, the chance to meet and form long-term relationships with peers, and opportunities to identify and connect to a rich network of other helpful resources. HIDA president Elizabeth Ishii, (seated to the left), celebrated “graduation day” with Margaret. Mahalo to The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc. for underwriting the majority of the program costs.
- HIDA held its 2nd annual bookmark design contest for children with dyslexia and/or other language-based learning disabilities. This year’s theme was “books made into movies”. The winning designs featured *Curious George*, *Charlotte’s Web*, *Where The Wild Things Are* and *Dragon Hunter*. The back side of the bookmark contains HIDA contact information. Mahalo to Fisher Printing for generously donating its services to print 2,000 bookmarks.
- A special mahalo to the Board of Directors and the many other HIDA volunteers who served on committees, fundraised, stuffed packets, “manned” information tables, facilitated presentations and workshops, and helped in so many other ways. HIDA rides on the shoulders of its volunteers!



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