

FOREVER FAMILIES FOUND!

Through the Families for Waiting Keiki Project, twelve legally orphaned children have found forever adoptive families in 2007. More placements are in various stages of the process.

Each story begins in heartbreak but ends in HOPE.

Read their stories,
inside this brochure.

If your church or community group would like a presentation about our Families for Waiting Keiki project or if you or someone you know is interested in adopting a waiting child, call HOPE INC at (808) 230-2445.



FAMILIES FOR WAITING KEIKI

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FAMILIES FOR WAITING KEIKI



*Stories of
Homecoming...
Hawaii's children who
are orphans no more*

A collaborative effort of the Department of Human Services, HOPE INC and Hawaii Family Forum

Coming Home Forever . . . Hawaii's Children Who are Orphans No More

Kainani — To HOPE from Despair

At ten years old this part Hawaiian girl has experienced more of her share of challenges. Abuse and neglect by homeless, drug affected parents, and her father's self inflicted knife stab landed her in foster care. She was depressed, anxious and fearful with long tangled hair and dark eyes. Her pain and uncertain future caused her to act out aggressively in her foster homes. **Now, after a year, the love, nurturing, acceptance and secure future in her HOPE INC adoptive home has helped her take many steps towards healing. Her countenance is happy, her eyes sparkle and hair shines.** Her adoptive parents keep her connected to her birth grandfather, uncle, aunt and cousins.

Kainalu — Breaking the pattern of multiple generations in foster care

His mother was raised in foster care, in foster care himself since birth, developmental delays, including very little speech and extreme hyperactivity were significant in this three-year-old's life. **Within just months of life with his adoptive parents** who read to him everyday and spend time with him in special- ed preschool **he began to speak words and now full sentences.** His adoptive parents take him to visits with two of his birth siblings, one of whom is also in a HOPE INC adoptive home.

Hannah — Home Forever after 10 Foster Homes

After six years in foster care due to neglect, ten different foster homes (two of which broke their promise to adopt her) and permanent separation from four siblings this **11 year old girl finally came home to her forever family.** Needless to say, to trust that she will not be moved again, it has taken much assurance by her adoptive family that they want to keep her. Her smiles at family court when the adoption finalized dazzled everyone. One of her statement's that day was, "If you say something to a child that you are wanting to adopt, you would have to keep your promise because it is heartbreaking if they have to leave your family and go to another family." Her adoptive family is in contact with her siblings and grandmother.

Momi — From constant abuse to safety and love

One of six children removed from mother's care because she could not protect them from a father with multiple arrests for assault, abuse and domestic violence this troubled seven year old girl has been moved through six foster homes. Two of those homes were relative placements that also abused her. She got to be with her siblings sometimes but eventually was permanently separated from them. **Her HOPE INC adoptive home is giving her the stability and unconditional love that will help her heart heal.** Her therapist recommends that healing must come before she has visits with her birth family.

Four Siblings — Two Adoptive Homes, Connected Forever

These four siblings, five through twelve years old lived on the beach before they were placed in foster care four years ago when their baby half-sister was born drug exposed. They have been in five foster homes, some of them relative placements. They were removed from one home because foster mother was using drugs. Since it is very difficult to find adoptive homes who will take four siblings HOPE INC helped place them in two permanent adoptive homes. Their adoptive moms are cousins and attend church together. **The children get to be together often and their families are also willing to stay in contact with their grandparents.** The most exciting event they have experienced so far was flying in an airplane for the first time and visiting the mainland.

Lani — From Desperately Lonesome to Lively and Loved

This six year old girl's new adoptive parents planned to adopt an infant. When they heard about this active, cheerful girl in need of an adoptive family they were concerned that their childless years had not prepared them to meet the challenges of a first grader. **After attending HOPE INC trainings and then getting to know her during weekend visits they discovered that they could provide the nurturing and love that this lonesome girl wanted.** She had been in foster care for three years and separated from her brothers. Now in her adoptive home she enjoys visits with her brothers and is learning many life skills from her adoptive parents.