

- telephone counseling with several pregnant women about the alternatives to abortion
- face-to-face counseling with a pregnant single woman who has no family support
- providing fostercare for a 7 yr. old boy while we are searching for him an adoptive family
- providing foster care for a premature drug exposed infant

The number of heartbreaking stories that are brought to the attention of HOPE INC are growing rapidly and we are working hard to bring HOPE and lasting help to these lives.

Perhaps there are individuals or families in your church that are called by the Lord to minister in this area. Please consider calling HOPE INC to come make a presentation at your church. If you know of people already who may be able to help please have them contact HOPE INC.

In addition, please consider giving to this wonderful ministry. With God's help and your regular mission donations HOPE INC can make a bigger impact in the lives of Hawaii's children and their families.

For more information contact Deeana at (808) 230-2445.

**SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY IN**

**HAWAII BACK IN ACTION—ALMOST**

Names and addresses of convicted sex offenders have once again been posted on the state website—but not all of them. A large number of convicted offenders, over 1,000, are NOT on the list because they are pending an additional court hearing to allow them to petition the court to have them excused from being placed on the registry.

Since the 2001 ruling by the Hawaii Supreme Court overturning Hawaii's Megan's Law, felony sex offenders and repeat misdemeanor sex offenders can object to the posting. Offenders must prove to a judge that they do not pose a threat to community.

On November 2, 2004, Hawaii's voters will be asked to approve an amendment to the constitution that will allow lawmakers to eliminate the courts requirement for the extra hearing.

**Hawaii Family Forum urges you to vote YES on Question #2.** For more information about this issue, or for further information on the constitutional questions, please visit our website listed below. Also available is the 2004 General Election Survey.

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| November 2, 2004 (Tuesday) | General Election |
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To find out more about Hawaii Family Forum, visit our website at: <http://www.hawaiifamilyforum.org>

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# Ohana News in Brief

October, 2004

*Neglected and abused in every sense of the word. Surrounded by violence and drugs until age three. Seven foster homes in three years, abused in two of those homes. This describes one Hawaiian child.*

Submitted by Deanna Marie Wallace

Since 1999, child abuse cases across the nation decreased by 8.6%. That's good news!! Hawaii on the other hand has seen an increase in their number of child abuse cases.

In mid July, over 1,000 people from all 50 states gathered in Washington DC for a historical event. Through a federal grant initiative, the first annual, Answering the Call; Partnering with Communities of Faith Summit, was held to discuss faith-based organization's involvement in recruiting and retaining foster and adoptive homes. The statistics are staggering with 530,000 abused and neglected children across the nation being "parented" by state child welfare agencies. In Hawaii alone, nearly 13,000 cases of possible abuse are under investigation and well over 3,000 children are living in foster homes and emergency shelters. Nationwide 126,000 are waiting for adoptive homes because their own homes were declared unsafe. In Hawaii, approximately 40% of all

foster kids may never go home. Currently over 500 children wait for permanent homes.

James 1:27, calls God's people to care for the widows and orphans. Let us together, care for the modern day widows (1/3 of babies born in Hawaii have single mothers) and orphans (thousands of Hawaii's children are separated from their families). HOPE INC's purpose in Hawaii is to strengthen, equip and assist expectant and single mothers and at-risk couples to avoid family disruption and breakup; and in the event of unpreventable family breakup, provide foster/adoptive parents to care for children whose original family permanency has been or is at threat of being disrupted. Recent HOPE INC activities have been;

- helping a teen girl and boy make an open adoption plan for their newborn infant
- providing fostercare for a three-month-old while his mother is in a drug rehab program

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