



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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**Imua Family Services Hosts First Annual
Early Child Development Conference
Co-Sponsored by UHMC Early Childhood Education Program**

Wailuku, Hawaii – In an unprecedented effort to bring quality continuing education to Maui for Professionals, Teachers, Therapists, Providers and Parents who work and care for children with special needs and developmental concerns Imua Family Services is bringing together two very dynamic approaches for this very special educational opportunity.

The first full day workshop will be taught by Laura Barker, MA, OTR an experienced clinician and educator from Michigan. This keynote speaker worked for the Farmington Public Schools in Michigan from 1977 to 2002 with extensive experience treating a large variety of disabilities including sensory processing disorders. Laura is among a select group of professionals across the country that has demonstrated advance expertise in using and teaching the principals and techniques associated with The Ready Approach. **The Ready Approach** was actually designed for children and adults who have challenging behaviors associated with developmental disabilities.

The second full day workshop will be taught by Kiegan Blake, OTR. Kiegan has been an Occupational Therapist for over 17 years and has worked in almost every pediatric setting including ICU, inpatient and outpatient hospital settings, school system, early intervention and private practice. Kiegan has been a **DIR®Floortime** practitioner for over a decade and is the only professional in the state of Hawaii that holds a DIR®Floortime certificate qualified to train others. Kiegan opened the Maui Center for Child Development in 2003 and works with Maui families providing assessment and direct therapy as well as consultation for home programs and school programs.

This exciting and uniquely combined learning experience is available for Teachers, Parents, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Pathologists, Educators, Early Interventionists, Mental Health Professionals, Health Care Professionals, Behavioral Specialists, Skills Trainers and other paraprofessionals or caregivers who work with children or adults with sensory processing difficulties and children with special needs.

Imua Family Services provides comprehensive early childhood development services to children and their families with the support and resources needed to reach their full potential in life. “We are thrilled to bring this specialized training conference to Maui’s special needs caregiving community and to be working collaboratively with UHMC Early Childhood Education Program” says Wong, Imua Family Services Executive Director

If you would like more information about Imua Family Services, please visit our website at www.imuafamilyservices.org or call 244-7467.