

ALOHA FRIDAYS

WITH SP@M

**Cultivating Social Capital and Fostering
Peer Support Lifting Two Generations**

Together



**14th Annual National Student Parent Success Symposium
Portland State University
June 18 – June 20, 2018**

Do you work directly with
Student Parents?

Angie Solomon, Student Parents At Mānoa (SP@M) Coordinator

- Mother of two girls and first in my family to attend college.
- M.Ed. in Counseling & Guidance in Higher Ed., and a Nationally Certified Counselor.
- 10-years dedicated to the field of student affairs with a passion for mentoring students.
- Research interests include access to & equity in higher education for first generation, underrepresented student populations.
- Enjoy working with student parents and looking at ways to develop their leadership and advocacy skills.



University of Hawaii-Mānoa (UHM)



- UHM was founded in 1907 and is a land-, sea- and space- grant research institution.
- UHM is the largest and oldest of the 10-campus UH system with the campus located in Honolulu, District of Mānoa.
- UHM total enrollment for academic year 2017-2018 was 17,612; of that we estimate 880 are student parents.

Content Source: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/quick-facts/>

How Family Friendly is UH Mānoa?

- UHM Children's Center – childcare is offered to student parents with 100 spaces on our main campus and 3 satellite sites offering a total of 90 spaces.



Family Friendly UH Mānoa...

UHM does provide two lactation stations, a very limited number of changing tables, and what our housing office describes as family housing.

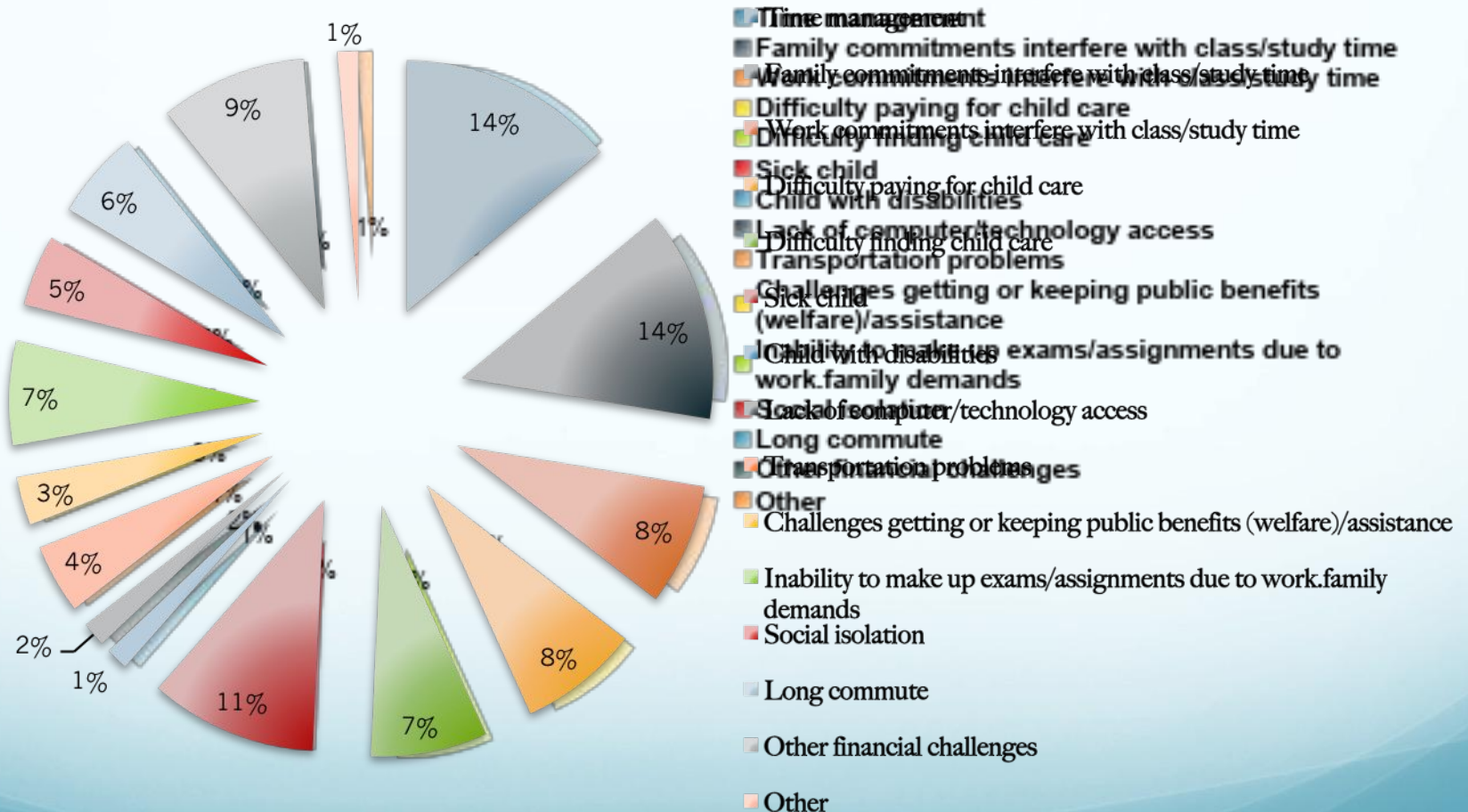


Student Parents @ UH Mānoa

- 77% are transfer students & attending school full-time.
- 43% are undergraduates with the median age of 30.
- 24% of undergraduate student parents are single parent households.
- 44% of undergraduate student parents are first in their family to attend college.



Challenges Student Parents Confront



Positives Shared by Student Parents at UH-Mānoa



- **90% of undergraduate student parents rarely or never felt judged or harassed by faculty or staff.**
- **54% of undergraduate student parents who asked for faculty accommodation were granted accommodations.**
- **73% of undergraduate student parents at the time of the survey reported having a safe and dependable place to live.**

Base Camp for SP@M



- **SP@M is currently housed in the UHM Women's Center, sharing space with four other programs each serving a diverse student population.**
- **WC provides a small, cozy student lounge with access to a refrigerator and microwave.**
- **No dedicated center or space on campus for student parents to meet & connect with each other.**
- **SP@M is dedicated to supporting student parents and advocating on their behalf to facilitate a more family friendly campus.**

Importance of Social Capital for Student Parents



- Robert Putnam describes different forms of social capital, whereby social capital can be derived from shared experience, cultural norms, or shared purposes.
- For the sake of simplicity, I define social capital as the social networks we establish through engagement, the sharing of time and building trust. And, upon establishing this trust individuals work as a group to support and encourage one another.

Social Capital...

These networks of social relationships can help student parents manage the expected and unexpected challenges by providing them with relevant information, guidance, and emotional support.

Relationships between students and institutional agents on campus are different, but just as important and broaden students' network of social capital

Aloha GOT KIDS? Fridays

- Event held every Friday during the academic year September - May.
- Same time and same place every Friday facilitated as a drop-in / open house event.
- Food provided as an incentive to attend with special topic workshops offered every other Friday.
- SP@M peer mentors support facilitation of event.

Cultivating Community

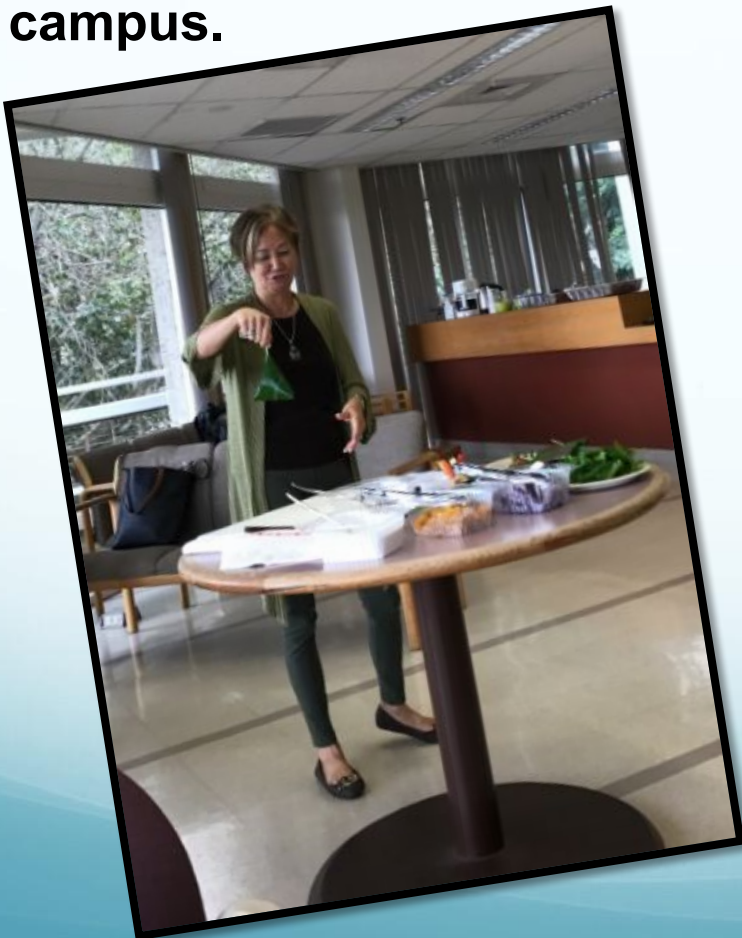


Aloha Fridays provide a supportive space on campus for student parents to come together to share a meal, connect with each other, form friendships and cultivate community.

These networks of social capital developed enhance student parents academic success and personal wellbeing.

Campus Engagement & Visibility

Aloha Fridays provide opportunities to collaborate with campus colleagues in academic and student affairs providing workshops enhancing student parents' knowledge of support services on campus.



Building Partnerships with Community Organizations

Aloha Fridays provide the platform for community organizations to come onto campus and share their programs and services.

- **Hawaii Community Assets** – providing financial literacy series.
- **Adopt-A-Family Program** – helping needy families with Christmas gifts.
- **Ready2Learn Program** – helping needy families with school supplies.
- **SNAP** – Information sessions & enrollment workshops.
- **Childcare** – Workshops (placement, subsidies)



Highlighting Student Parents



Loren – veteran & single student parent completed her bachelors in Spring of 2017.

“Aloha Fridays provide a giving circle of friendship, moral support and a sense of ‘ohana... I made at least three friends and several acquaintances because of SP@M and Aloha Fridays... it’s nice to have a connection with another student parent who values education and understands the challenges of juggling parenthood, relationships, work and school...having a support system of other parents who empathize with what you are going through makes a huge difference...I know that I am not alone in my pursuit of working hard to provide my daughter with a better future.”

Leianne, Hope and Jasselyn

- Youtube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12fh9Thw9RM&feature=youtu.be>

Tips & Lessons Learned

- Providing a space for student parents to connect and engage with each other on campus is vital to cultivating social capital.
- Facilitating events both on and off campus can help to nurture these important social networks to enhance academic success.
- Funding Aloha Fridays and other family friendly events is expensive so seeking external sources of funding is essential.
- Staffing challenges – it is a lot of work to facilitate this weekly event and SP@M is a one-person program.

Future Goals for SP@M

- More changing stations & more lactation stations throughout campus.
- Family friendly study spaces open at various hours.
- True residential housing to accommodate families affordably.
- Emergency loan program for student parents.
- Dedicated family friendly fun space on campus.
- Services, and programming geared toward the children of student parents.

Mahalo!



Contact Information

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