

Katherine Gale Watanabe Bennett

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**Family-centered mediator, lawyer, educator, social worker, facilitator,
and child advocate with experience settling and litigating cases in the
areas of divorce, paternity, guardianship, adoption, and child welfare.**

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Bennett Law Group, LLLC** Dec 2007 - Present
Family Law, Mediation, and Child-Focused Legal Services.
- Family Court – O‘ahu Child Welfare Mediation Program** March 2016 – Present
Mediator for the State of Hawai'i Judiciary's program to provide alternative dispute resolution in child welfare cases.
- Family Court – Paternity Mediation Pilot Project** March 2012 – Present
Mediator for the Mediation Center of the Pacific's contract to settle cases on the paternity calendar, providing alternatives to litigation and promoting positive co-parenting for parents who were never married.
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** Aug 2011 – Dec 2017
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
Assistant Specialist teaching SW 200: The Field of Social Work (an introductory course of 35-45 students), SW 325: History of Social Welfare (a history course of 35 BSW students), SW 326: Social Welfare as a Social Institution (a policy course of 35 BSW students), and SW 630: Social Welfare Policy and Services (a policy course of 20 MSW students). Additional duties include student recruitment activities, providing academic advising to students, reviewing and rating student applications to the BSW and MSW programs, serving on the Faculty Recruitment Committee, co-facilitating the School's Strategic Planning process, and fund development.
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** Jan 2013 – May 2015
Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
Lecturer for PACE 660: Family Mediation, a graduate-level course focusing on mediation skills, co-taught with Dr. David Chandler.
- Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i** Aug 2005 – Present
Guardian Ad Litem to children and incapacitated adults in the child welfare system.
- Mediation Center – Windward O‘ahu** 2010-2012
Educated Divorce Mediation Program
Developed and implemented a mediation program for divorcing families.
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** April 2011 – Dec 2011
Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
Federal Eligibility Quality Assurance Center

Quality assurance in foster care system including case reviews, documentation of eligibility, and generating reports presented at quarterly meetings for the Department of Human Services Child Welfare Division related to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.

Hawaii Pacific University Fall 2010
Adjunct Professor teaching graduate course: Mediation and Conflict

Char, Hamilton, Campbell & Yoshida Jan 2008 – Feb 2010
Associate to Geoffrey Hamilton – Divorce and Family Law

It Takes An ‘Ohana and Family Programs Hawai‘i 2009
Provided Statewide Legal Training to Foster Parents on How to Appear in Court

Volunteer Legal Services Hawai‘i Aug 2006 - Oct 2007
Children’s Services Division Manager – Na Keiki Law Center & Project Visitation
Managed a five (5) person team engaged in programs and services aimed at promoting social justice through legal trainings, volunteer recruitment and training, program development, full legal representation, and various other related activities.

Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i Aug 2005 -Aug 2006
Family Law Attorney and *Guardian Ad Litem*

The Honorable Karen M. Radius Fall 2004
Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i
Judicial Extern

**The Honorable R. Mark Browning and
the Honorable Paul T. Murakami** Summer 2004
Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii
Law Clerk

Senator Daniel K. Inouye’s Office 2003
Intern - Washington, D.C.

Learning Home Kindergarten 2001-2002
Kindergarten Teacher - Bangkok, Thailand

INFO Nepal 2002
Elementary School Teacher - ESL and environmental sustainability - Kathmandu, Nepal

Hope Cambodia 2002
Teacher - ESL at the Center of Hope (a hospital for the poor) and a local kindergarten - Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Zambuko Trust 2000
Zambuko is a micro-lending organization specializing in small loans to women.
Interviewed successful loan recipients and outline a basic script for a fundraising video - Harare, Zimbabwe

EDUCATION

Pepperdine School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution

Mediating the Litigated Case

July 31 – August 5, 2017

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work

Master of Social Work - Concentration: Children and Families, May 2007

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, William S. Richardson School of Law

Juris Doctor, May 2005

Occidental College, Los Angeles, California

Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, Anthropology and Economics, 2001

Study Abroad Program: **University of Zimbabwe**, 2000

Punahou School

High School Diploma, 1997

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Association for Conflict Resolution in Hawaii - Member (2011-Present)

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts - Member (2010-Present)

Mental Health America of Hawai'i - Board of Director (2009-Present), Board President (2014-2016)

Project Visitation - Advisory Board Member (2007-Present)

Hawai'i Family Support Institute - Advisory Board Member (2007-Present)

Mediation Center of the Pacific - Mediator (2007-Present)

Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i - *Pro Bono Guardian Ad Litem* to children in foster care (2006-Present)

Hawai'i State Bar - Member (2005-Present) - Family Law, Child Law, & ADR Sections

Kaimuki High School GRADS - Volunteer providing legal advice to pregnant and parenting teens (2006-2010)

National Association of Social Workers-Hawai'i Chapter, PACE - Committee Member (2007-2009)

National Association of Social Workers-Hawai'i Chapter - MSW Student Board Member (2006-2007)

Domestic Violence Action Center (formerly Domestic Violence Clearinghouse and Legal Hotline) - Board Member (2006-2007)

Hale Kipa/Waikiki Health Center Youth Outreach Program (YO!) - Weekly volunteer giving legal advice to homeless youth (2006-2007)

Kids First - Volunteer (2005-2008)

Court Appointed Special Advocate (formerly, Volunteer *Guardian Ad Litem* program) (2003-2009)

AWARDS / HONORS

Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service, 2014

National Association of Social Workers, HI Chapter, Social Justice & Advocacy Award, 2015