

Charting the Course for Parent and Family Engagement in Head Start Forum, Washington, DC: Parent Interview:
Charlene K. Ishikuro

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Charlene K. Ishikuro: Aloha, my name is Charlene K. Ishikuro. I'm from the big island of Hawaii. I am a former parent of Early Head Start. I've been involved with Head Start for the past 23 years. My daughter, Kanani Ishikuro, at the age of three, was enrolled at a home-based program, and at the age of four she transitioned into the center-based program. And, as a parent, I wanted to learn all about Head Start, as much as I could. So I volunteered in the classroom, and for two consecutive years I won Outstanding Parent award for volunteer hours. So it was an honor, and it was a beginning for me as a parent in Early Head Start.

And Early Head -- Head Start has helped me. I've learned about the Policy Council; I sat on the -- on the committee. I was the president for our Parent Committee. And Early Head Start has helped me and grow where I became a teacher's aide, I became a teacher's assistant, and I became a head teacher in a center-based program. And later in time, I became -- or I am currently employed with Family Support Hawaii. And, today, I am happy to say that I am a Early Head Start site manager/home visitor.

And I truly enjoy doing what I do for Early Head Start because it gives me a chance to work with families and young children and give back what Head Start has given to me throughout all these years. So I thank you very much for this opportunity, and I want to just encourage all the families out there to get involved with Head Start because Head Start is there not only for the child, but for the whole family. So, again, I thank you so very much. [Speaking in Hawaiian]
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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000064-Charlene+K.+Ishikuro+Parent+Interview-SD360p/29cc07dbs112cm4cfbr8b8bc5132102df13a>