

## *Introducing the Alliance for Inclusion Advancement-Hawaii (AIA-HI) Team*

**Robert Stodden**, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Dr. Stodden is Director of CDS and the senior tenured faculty member in the Exceptionalities doctoral program – he is also a parent of a child with a disability. Over the past 25 years, he has served as principal investigator and director of more than 50 personnel preparation, research and demonstration projects in areas such as provision and improvement of services to CLD children with disabilities, secondary educational and transition outcomes of students with disabilities, school-to-work transition, special education, postsecondary education, supported employment, children's mental health. Dr. Stodden has more than 35 years experience as a researcher, teacher trainer, and teacher of secondary students with special needs. He served as Senior Kennedy Policy Fellow in the US Senate in 1995-96, drafting and negotiating much of the policy language found in the reauthorized IDEA of 1997. Dr. Stodden has spent the past 25 years performing research in multicultural settings and has been a member of the Graduate doctoral faculty in special education for the past 26 years.

**James Skouge**, Ph.D., Co-Principal Investigator, employs multimedia technologies to support persons with disabilities and their families to share their stories. In turn, these "digital stories" can be employed to promote self-determination. He has traveled and worked in American Samoa, Micronesia and Hawaii's neighbor islands, supporting indigenous peoples of the Pacific to employ technologies to share and document traditional knowledge and village wisdom.

**Steven E. Brown**, Ph.D., Project Director for AIA-HI. Dr. Brown, a person with a disability, works on several CDS projects and teaches graduate courses in disability and diversity. In 2000, he delivered a keynote speech, "Disability Culture: What Is It?" to the "Access: Opening the Doors to Service," United Cerebral Palsy/Access AmeriCorps and CNCS Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has extensive community experience, including directing two independent living centers, serving on numerous nonprofit Boards of Directors, and working with members of the Self-Advocate Advisory Committee (SAAC). He brings organizational, advocacy, and networking expertise to AIA-HI. In 2006, he received the COE Faculty Senate Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Madeline Harcourt**, M.A., Assistant Specialist, is employed on AIA-HI. Ms. Harcourt is a person with multiple hidden disabilities. Ms. Harcourt has vast experience with CNCS and AmeriCorps programs. She is an AmeriCorps\*VISTA alumna (1994-1997), served as an AmeriCorps supervisor at a local YWCA (1998-2000), created and developed Ready, Set, Go!, a National Service Inclusion demonstration project. As a CDS Leadership Trainee, she developed *Great Expectations* trainings to complement the *Great Expectations* handbook for UHM faculty and teaching assistants to educate them about disability issues. She has served on various CDS committees and within the community where she has developed a wide network of resources statewide.

**Alice Ehmes**, B.S. AIA-HI coordinates administrative efforts as part of her AIA-HI duties. Ms. Ehmes is responsible for contracts, reporting, purchasing, accounting, record managements, and other related duties. Originally from Micronesia, Ms. Ehmes brings added diversity to AIA-HI. She speaks several Pacific Island languages and dialects, which is useful in relation to the many Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i.