

Katherine Gale Watanabe Bennett

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**Child-centered mediator, lawyer, educator, social worker, facilitator,
and child advocate with experience settling cases in the areas of
divorce, custody, guardianship, adoption, child welfare
and protection, and other areas of family law.**

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Family Mediation Hawai'i** Dec 2007 - Present
Family law practice grounded in mediation, settlement and child-focused legal services.
- Family Court – O'ahu Child Welfare Mediation Program** Mar 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** Mar 2012 – June 2018
Mediator for the Mediation Center of the Pacific's partnership with the State of Hawai'i Judiciary 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
Associate Specialist faculty teaching undergraduate and graduate courses. Additional duties included student recruitment, academic advising, reviewing admissions applications, 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 – July 2017
Guardian Ad Litem to children and incapacitated adults in the child welfare system.
- 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 Associate to Geoffrey Hamilton – Divorce and Family Law	Jan 2008 – Feb 2010
It Takes An ‘Ohana and Family Programs Hawai‘i Provided Statewide Legal Training to Foster Parents on How to Appear in Court	2009
Volunteer Legal Services Hawai‘i 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.	Aug 2006 - Oct 2007
Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i Family Law Attorney and <i>Guardian Ad Litem</i>	Aug 2005 -Aug 2006
The Honorable Karen M. Radius Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai‘i Judicial Extern	Fall 2004
The Honorable R. Mark Browning and the Honorable Paul T. Murakami Family Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii Law Clerk	Summer 2004
Senator Daniel K. Inouye’s Office Intern - Washington, D.C.	2003
Learning Home Kindergarten Kindergarten Teacher - Bangkok, Thailand	2001-2002
INFO Nepal Elementary School Teacher - ESL and environmental sustainability - Kathmandu, Nepal	2002
Hope Cambodia Teacher - ESL at the Center of Hope (a hospital for the poor) and a local kindergarten - Phnom Penh, Cambodia	2002
Zambuko Trust 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	2000

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

Access to Justice Commission, appointed as HSBA Representative for a three (3) year term (2018-2021)

Kāhi Mōhala – Board of Director (2019-Present)

Hale Kipa - Board of Director (2018-Present)

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), 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 (2007-2018)

Hawai'i Women Lawyers – Member (2017-Present)

Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i - *Pro Bono Guardian Ad Litem* to children in foster care (2006-2017)

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