



The Compassionate Friends

Honolulu Chapter

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

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Sibling Coordinator: Holly Bostwick
Sibling Coordinator: Sandee Moon
Sibling Coordinator: Darrin Moon

HONOLULU CHAPTER

Layers of Softer Pain

Posted on March 24th, 2026 on TCF National Website

Often in our support group meetings, I have shared that one day our pain grows softer, and as I look around the circle of new or fairly new attendees, I see the looks of absolute disbelief on their faces. I believe most of us who are grieving the death of a loved one, whether a child, sibling, spouse, parent, friend, or other family member, have a very hard time with accepting, and often allowing, that the pain will grow softer one day. It seems to us that if it does grow softer our love is weaker. I can tell you that never happens and our loved ones would want a softening of our pain for us. They would want us to one day rebuild our lives in our “new normal” state and to not suffer as agonizingly as in the beginning...

If anyone had told me in the first years, though, after my son, Brian’s death to a homicide, when he was at the receiving end of two bullets from a robber hell-bent on getting his wallet, that one day I would feel joy again I would have laughed in their face, claiming NEVER!

Actually, now, many years later, I am grateful for the softer pain and returning joy. If it still all consumed as horrifically as it did in the first few years, I could not have stood it. It would have literally killed me. Mercifully, though, as time passed it did soften. No, it did not ever leave, nor did I ever stop missing my son and I will never get over his loss. Instead, I have gotten on with it. It is incorporated into my new life, always a part of me just not fully engulfing me as in the beginning. As we have a measure of healing (we never fully recover) the joy comes in again; that first laugh that catches us off guard, the birth of a new family member/grandchild, a wedding, or graduation. Yes, each event is bittersweet, always over-shadowed by who no longer is able to share the events with us, but we can control the focus on the bitter or be grateful for the sweet.

As much time passed instead of the fresh, raw, bleeding pain in my heart, healing began to form protective layers over my open wound. With more time, more grief work, more acceptance, and many journey “gentlers” in my life the layers increased, allowing even more protection and the wound finally began to stop seeping. As it stopped seeping, a softening of my pain replaced the rawness of that fresh and open wound. It will happen but not real soon. It takes a lot of time, work, and many steps both forward and back.

The softening of my pain did not however, at any time soften my love. Nothing can ever take away from the love my son and I shared -and still share- as nothing can take that away from you, those who share the same painful loss. Embrace that softening of the pain that will one day come to you. It must. Or we would simply wither up and die from that open wound in our hearts. As you embrace

Two Monthly Meetings

Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Place: Kaneohe Bay Plaza
Address: 45-955 Kamehameha Hwy
City: Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Meeting time: **First Saturday** of every month 10:00 – 11:30 AM

Parking: Behind the Bldg. First two entrances on the right

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting time: **Third Tuesday** of every month 6:30 – 8:00 pm

See the Announcements

Upcoming Events

Walk to Remember

Saturday June 20, 2026

See the Announcements

49th TCF National Conference

– July 2 to 5, Baltimore, MD

Regional Coordinator

Regional Coordinator: David Kaniaupio

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National Office

The Compassionate Friends

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the softening, the love actually becomes stronger. Nothing, not even death, can ever take away the love... As our wonderful Darcie Sims always says, "May love be what you remember most."

Beckie Miller, serves on the Board of Parents of Murdered Children (POMC)
Brian's Mom

Announcements



Monthly Meetings Update ~ We have restarted in-person meetings on the morning of the first Saturday of the month. The Saturday meetings are Hybrid, meaning we are also conducting the meetings virtually via Zoom. We will continue to hold the evening meetings on the third Tuesday of the month virtually. You will need to download the Zoom APP (Zoom Client for Meetings). To download the Zoom APP, go to: <https://zoom.us/download> and follow the instructions to download the APP. The monthly meeting reminder will contain the link to join the meeting. Clicking on the link in the reminder email will allow you to join the meetings. If you have any questions, please call or email David Kaniaupio – (808)222-6556 or email – kaniaupiotcf@gmail.com.

TCF Hawaii Regional Grief Conference 2026 ~ Mahalo to the Presenters, Volunteers, Ala Moana Hotel and their Staff and all who attended the conference. It was truly a success.

Walk to Remember ~ The Walk to Remember will be held at Kapi'olani Regional Park. Currently we have reserved Area 6. There may be cancellations in Area 4 (The area we gathered for our walk last year. Diamond head of the tennis courts) and we may be able to gather there. Updates and the latest information will be on our website. Looking for volunteers to help set up and man registration. Contact David at hontcf@gmail.com. Please send me a photo of your child for the banner if you would like us to walk in their honor.

Donating to TCF ~ Loved ones have asked how they can give to The Compassionate Friends. The Compassionate Friends is an approved non-profit organization. We are listed with the Aloha United Way (under "The Compassionate Friends" #72860) If your employer participates in this Giving Campaign, please consider The Compassionate Friends when completing your pledge – Mahalo!

Sibling Group ~ TCF siblings walking together with our brother's and sister's love beside us forever. We are working on creating a sibling support group. The sibling leaders are Holly Bostwick, Sandee Moon and Darrin Moon. Please welcome them should you run into them.

Voices ~ We would like to include writings from parents in our chapter's quarterly newsletter. If you are a creative writer and would like to share your child through stories, poems or artwork in our newsletter, please submit it to us.

"Sorrow comes in great waves...but rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us, it leaves us. And we know that if it is strong, we are stronger, inasmuch as it passes and we remain."

— Henry James



Loving Listeners:

David Kaniaupio (808)222-6556

Terry Kaniaupio (808)222-2729



The Honolulu Chapter of The Compassionate Friends operates solely on donations: monetary gifts in any amount are deeply appreciated. Donations can be made to: The Compassionate Friends, c/o Tami Cox Martinez, 45-1013 Wailele Road, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744. Mahalo!

Our Children Remembered

Forever Loved, Missed, Remembered

APRIL

Our Children Born in April

Keisha Agena, Apr 1989 - Jul 2015
Andy Agnostinelli, Apr 1979 - Feb 1992
Victoria Kanani Augugliaro, Apr 2003 - May 2007
Brody David Black, Apr 1998 - Mar 2002
Clay Chung, Apr 1976 - Jul 2008
Stephan Dinnan, Apr 1978 - Jun 2013
Brandon Keola Fong, Apr 1975 - Aug 1995
Leah Marie Goldberg, Apr 1996 - Aug 2014
Michael Hallenbeck, Apr 1994 - Aug 2015
Jacob Hensley, Apr 1993 - Nov 2015
Laura Weldon Hogue, Apr 1965 - Jul 2009
Charlie Lilinoepahola Kimura, Apr 2014 - Jul 2016
Andrew Madrid, Apr 2000 - Sep 2014
Enzo Atsuo Matsumoto, Apr 2007 - Dec 2010
Arianna Lei Müeller, Apr 2018 - Apr 2018
Dustin Phillips, Apr 1986 - Apr 1986
Linden Jordan Radona Quintal, Apr 1996 - Jan 2015
Allan Gordon Sanford, Apr 1960 - Aug 1990
Nicole Siegrist, Apr 1987 - Dec 2016
Shannon Shea Smith, Apr 1976 - Mar 1997
Jeremy Tolentino, Apr 1983 - Apr 2001
Kirk Wehrenberg, Apr 1974 - Dec 2013
Ross Yokoyama, Apr 1965 - May 2007

Our Children Who Left Us in April

Erika Byrd, Jun 1968 - Apr 2013
Kyle Spencer Iaukea Ennis, Jul 1991 - Apr 1994
Mark Gatanis, Mar 1967 - Apr 2013
Nicole Keonimelani Hookeno-Elliot, Mar 1980 - Apr 2009
Scott Hoover, Dec 1967 - Apr 2006
Yoshio E.K. Lamansky, Aug 1976 - Apr 1996
Shaun Mahtani, Dec 1966 - Apr 1999
Darius Ikaika Mau, Jan 1991 - Apr 2013
Arianna Lei Müeller, Apr 2018 - Apr 2018
Broch Nall, Jun 1978 - Apr 2013
Maya Eve Tacadena Perdido, Dec 2002 - Apr 2004
Dustin Phillips, Apr 1986 - Apr 1986
Dalzell Johns Potter, Dec 1961 - Apr 2005
Jared Makana Isamu Teruya, Jul 2000 - Apr 2013
Jeremy Tolentino, Apr 1983 - Apr 2001



Andrew Madrid



Arianna Lei Müeller



Linden Jordan Radona Quintal



Scott Hoover



Darius "Ikaika" Puni Mau



Leah Marie Goldberg



Jared Makana Isamu Teruya



Nicole Siegrist



Mark Gatanis



Michael Hallenbeck



Charlie Lilinoepahola Kimura



Victoria Kanani Augugliaro

Our Children Remembered

Forever Loved, Missed, Remembered

MAY

Our Children Born in May

Jasonims Amora, May 1981 - Oct 2013
Brandon Aurand-Stephens, May 1989 - Oct 2010
Diana Mei Barthel, May 2019 – May 2019
Poppy Elizabeth Baxter, May 2013 - Jun 2013
Quintin Cho, May 1994 - Feb 2016
James Brennan Cohen, May 1966 - Mar 2009
Daniel John Collette, May 1976 - Mar 2005
Danielle Reiko Cox, May 1991 - Mar 2016
Melissa Hauser, May 1982 - May 2007
Devin Johnson, May 1986 - Nov 2009
Jaime Avelina Leonen, May 1986 - Sep 2015
Michael Joseph Maneha, May 1986 - Nov 2008
Eric Bradford Rohlfig, May 1961 - Mar 1986
Jason Ang Shuster, May 2008 - Mar 2024
Diane Marie Taylor, May 1973 - Oct 1996
Leif Timothy Umphrey, May 2008 - Oct 2008
Simon Chung Yuen, May 1974 - Nov 2009

Our Children Who Left Us in May

Victoria Kanani Augugliaro, Apr 2003 - May 2007
Diana Mei Barthel, May 2019 – May 2019
Alissa Rona Bennett, Sep 1989 - May 2014
Marcia Chu, Dec 1980 - May 2009
Kristin Akemi Claudi, Nov 1980 - May 2009
Kaelyn Cullender, Jan 2009 - May 2010
Christina Fang, - May 2012
Evan Robert Kai Gleason, Nov 1992 - May 2009
Franklin Waikilo Goldwire, Feb 2018 – May 2019
Melissa Hauser, May 1982 - May 2007
Elia Puahone Heder, Oct 1982 - May 1991
Shaun Makena Kailikea, Oct 1982 - May 2017
Maile Christina King, Oct 1989 - May 1998
Destiny King, Mar 2002 – May 2008
Jeffrey Michael Kiyan, Sep 1987 - May 2010
Bert Kenalio Malott, Sep 1961 - May 2014
Dwayne George Mattos, Sep 1970 - May 2013
Julie Anne McHale-Reti, Dec 1965 - May 1995
Kyla Mariko Meaney, Oct 2010 - May 2015
Ruby Miller, Jul 2007 - May 2013
Barbara Alice Mower, Jun 1959 - May 1980
Manuel Reza, Oct 1980 - May 1996
Christopher James Tamao, Sep 1992 - May 1994
Grant Uyeshiro, Sep 1976 - May 2006
Ross Yokoyama, Apr 1965 - May 2007



Christina Fang



Victoria Kanani Augugliaro



Brandon Aurand-Stephens



Jason Ang Shuster



Evan Robert Kai Gleason



Ruby Miller



Diane Marie Taylor



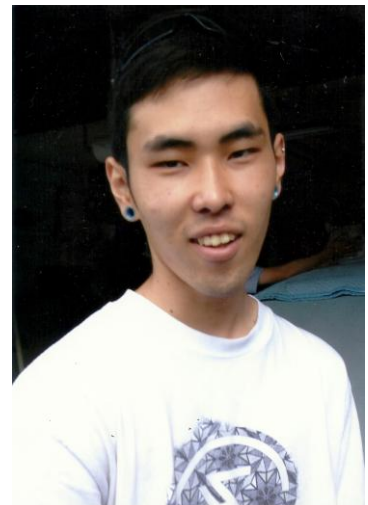
Jaime Avelina Leonen



Danielle Reiko Cox



Alissa Rona Bennett



Quintin Cho



Bert Kenalio Malott



Franklin Waikilo Goldwire



Manuel Reza



Poppy Elizabeth Baxter



Dwayne George Mattos



Diana Mei Barthel

*Grief is not a choice;
it is a transformative experience we are living.
The choice is not whether we will be transformed,
the choice is how much we want to be
a part of shaping that transformation.
Profound loss shakes us to our core and
one hard fought, messy, painful step at a time,
we make the most intense, deep-set,
impossible choices about how, who,
and what our lives will look like now.*

- Andy McNeil, CEO, The Compassionate Friends



**The
Compassionate
Friends**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

compassionatefriends.org

Our Children Remembered

Forever Loved, Missed, Remembered

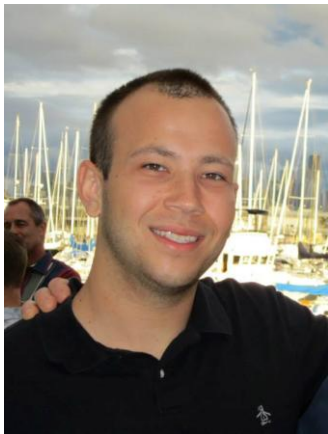
JUNE

Our Children Born in June

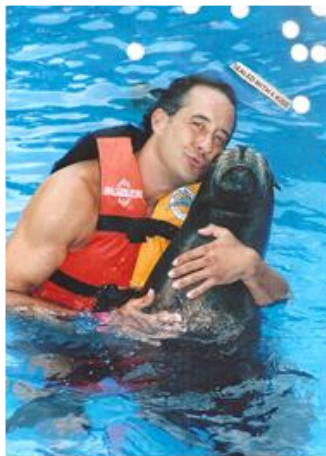
Anthony “Tony” Almeida, Jun 1989 - Mar 2014
Harper Posey Bennetts, Jun 2015 - Jun 2015
Erika Byrd, Jun 1968 - Apr 2013
Jaime Akamie Coelho, Jun 1991 - Dec 2004
Irene Free Devine, Jun 1999 – Oct 2022
Melissa Jo Elmore, Jun 1971 - Jul 1992
Amy Elizabeth Heitz, Jun 1969 - Jun 1989
Daniel Jezek, Jun 1977 - Sep 2010
David Joshua, Jun 1983 - Aug 2006
Ronald Kaneta Jr, Jun 1959 - Jun 1999
Noel Christopher Lagat, Jun 1989 - Feb 2009
Jing Li, Jun 1967 - Jul 1990
Richard Mannheimer, Jun 1961 - Aug 2010
Michael Mannheimer, Jun 1962 - Jul 2019
Peter Miller, Jun 1973 - May 2006
Barbara Alice Mower, Jun 1959 - May 1980
Broch Nall, Jun 1978 - Apr 2013
Lisa Marie Ortiz, Jun 1978 - Oct 1998
Steven M. Oshiro, Jun 1963 - Jan 2000
Shaun Shinjiro Tokumura, Jun 1979 - Jun 1989

Our Children Who Left Us in June

Poppy Elizabeth Baxter, May 2013 - Jun 2013
Harper Posey Bennetts, Jun 2015 - Jun 2015
Frank Joseph-James Cleboski, Oct 1989 - Jun 2015
Jack Cone, Dec 1984 - Jun 2006
Stephen Dinnan, Apr 1978 - Jun 2013
Danielle Eiko Fletcher, Feb 1997 - Jun 2016
Amy Elizabeth Heitz, Jun 1969 - Jun 1989
Ronald Kaneta Jr, Jun 1959 - Jun 1999
Alex Mambo, Mar 1979 - Jun 2011
Jason May, Jul 1974 - Jun 1988
Kourtnee Otsuka, Mar 1990 - Jun 2016
Elston Pang, Jul 1990 - Jun 2014
Ameliya Ridgeway, Feb 2015 - Jun 2015
Sonny Dee Vesper Santiago, Sep 1962 - Jun 1990
Tabatha Schoenfelt, Jul 1985 - Jun 2016
Emma Grace Smith, Aug 2003 – Jun 2016
Aaron Carter Steffens, Feb 1974 - Jun 2010
Shaun Shinjiro Tokumura, Jun 1979 - Jun 1989
Matthew Trinkle, Aug 1992 - Jun 2012
Matthew Jee Yul Williams, Jul 2000 - Jun 2013
Evan Jonah Won, Aug 2002 - Jun 2017



Anthony “Tony” Almeida



Alex Mambo



Daniel Jezek



Poppy Elizabeth Baxter



Elston Pang



Matthew Jee Yul Williams



Tabatha Schoenfelt



Peter Miller



Aaron Carter Steffens



Michael Mannheimer



Frank Joseph-James Cleboski



Kourtnee Otsuka



Evan Jonah Won



Richard Mannheimer



Danielle Eiko Fletcher



Emma Grace Smith



Jason May



Irene Free Devine



Matthew Trinkle

Gifts of Love

Linda Yoneshige and her team of angels in memory of her daughter Heather Haunani Akiko Nahina:

Lili Ah Hee, Nanette Castro, Florence Fukagawa, Becky Kanetani, Marilyn Kunitake, Susan Leoncio, Kay Mathes, Miles Oshiro, Kanoe Rhoden, Sherry Imamura-Ryan, Paul Ryan, Jo Valdez and Steve Yoneshige.

Mahalo for their love and hard work in making the ribbon leis for the presenters, leis for the attendees, favors and centerpieces for the luncheon at the TCF Honolulu Grief Conference 2026.

Eric and Mary Wilford

In Honor and Loving Memory
of their son,
Scott G. Wilford

Margaret and Robert Mirsky

In Honor and Loving Memory
of their daughter,
Lauren Mirsky

Tami and Raul Martinez

In Honor and Loving Memory
of their daughter,
Danielle Reiko Cox

Dr Bob and Kris Baugher

In Honor and Loving Memory
of
Darryl Kahoeikaika Kaniaupio

Naomi Ferreira

In Honor and Loving Memory
of
Patrina Sharmaine Best

The Compassionate Friends Credo

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding, and with hope.

The children we mourn have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for them unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope.

We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races, creeds, and relationships. We are young, and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, but others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that they feel helpless and see no hope.

Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, while some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, while others radiate an inner peace. But whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other our love for the children who have died.

We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building a future together. We reach out to each other in love to share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubts, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow.

We need not walk alone. We are The Compassionate Friends. ©2016

The Mission of The Compassionate Friends

When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.

The TCF Mission Statement

The Mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.

Please Consider Helping

I have found through my own experiences that helping others through their grief journey has strengthened my own journey. The memories of my son are positively reinforced as other bereaved parents share their stories and memories. We Need Not Walk Alone. That simple phrase resonates throughout my journey. There are other aspects to The Compassionate Friends that need help. If you have a talent – web design, writing, creativity, organizing, and greeting and would like to help others – please let us know.

