

26th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities

April 12 & 13, 2010
Honolulu, HI



www.pacrim.hawaii.edu

Contact: Charmaine Crockett
Conference Co-chair
cccrocke@hawaii.edu
808-956-2673
pacrim.hawaii.edu

For Immediate Release

Honolulu, Hawai'i— On April 12th and 13th, 2010 over 1,000 persons with disabilities, family, researchers, service providers, teachers, and policy makers will come together from the Pacific and all parts of the world for the 26th Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities at the Hawaii Convention Center. They are coming because of the cutbacks, not in spite of the cutbacks. Because this is a critical time for persons with disabilities. Because participants are hungry for the ideas and technology that the conference presents. Because they need these ideas to take back to their home states and countries. Because this is the largest and best conference of its kind in the Pacific Region. For these reasons they come to this top-rated international conference for the new cutting-edge research, to learn from each other, share resources and ideas that support the quality of life, community inclusion, and self-determination for all persons with disabilities and their families and help shape our world community.

The conference still hues to its traditional topics such as developmental and learning disabilities, autism, employment, transition to postsecondary education, independent living, hidden disabilities, and many others. These topics have bred much of the interdisciplinary research and educational advances of the last three decades. But because of the urgency of the situation, the organizers have introduced new topics strands to foment discussion and change: environmental toxins, disability rights and poverty alleviation, war and disability, gender and ethnicity, and sustainability. These are areas that the conference has not previously addressed but have great impact on the security and well-being of all people with disabilities. There is also a new section called *Innovation* which will showcase new theories, concepts, solutions, ideas and applications that can benefit people with disabilities during this economic downturn.

Registration and the call for proposals are now open. Please visit <http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu> to register, submit a proposal and for more detailed information on the conference.

On April 10 and 11, there will be a pre-conference, the 3rd Annual International Forum on the Rights of People with Disabilities which will focus on the United Nations Convention on rights of persons with disabilities with special attention to poverty alleviation, education and employment. Michael Stein, executive director of Harvard Law School's Project on Disability will be one of the keynote speakers.

The Pacific Rim International Conference on Disabilities is sponsored by the Center for Disability Studies (CDS), a research unit of the College of Education, University of Hawaii at Manoa. The mission of the CDS is to promote diverse abilities across the lifespan through interdisciplinary training, research, and service.

For more information, please contact Charmaine Crockett at (808) 956-7539 or email at cccrocke@hawaii.edu , or visit our Web site at www.pacrim.hawaii.edu .

Center on Disability Studies, College of Education
1776 University Avenue, UA 4-6, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822

