



## STRIDE Hawai'i

### Mentor and Mentor-In-Training Project Information

#### Welcome

We would like to take a moment and offer you a heart-felt mahalo and welcome! This application is your first step toward becoming a STRIDE Hawai'i mentoring project (STRIDE) mentor – a person who can directly and positively impact the life of a local young adult with a disability. This is a chance for you to tell us about yourself and help us determine if STRIDE is right for you.

#### Overview

STRIDE is a program for 16-26 year old disabled youth and young adults who are receiving services from Hawai'i Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind Division. STRIDE is designed to offer its participants a variety of educational and vocational opportunities as well as life skills necessary to become successful members of their communities.

#### Who Can Become a Mentor or Mentor-in-Training?

A mentor is somebody who:	A mentor-in-training is somebody who:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is 21 years of age or older</li> <li>• has knowledge of, or is willing to learn about, the VR system</li> <li>• is a resident of Hawai'i and citizen of the U.S., or legal resident</li> <li>• is employed or retired, <i>with past paid work experience</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is 21 years of age or older</li> <li>• has knowledge of, or is willing to learn about, the VR system</li> <li>• is a resident of Hawai'i and citizen/resident of the US</li> <li>• A full or part-time student with some volunteer experience</li> </ul>

If you fit into either of these roles, you may begin the application process. We ask you to first read our 'Agreement to Participate in STRIDE Mentoring Study,' which will explain a little bit more about our purpose and goals. Then we will ask you to fill out the 'Initial Application.' This will help us decide if you can help us achieve our goal of empowering young adults with disabilities to pursue further education and career development.

After you complete the application, including the required reference sheet, either fax your application to (808) 592-5909 or mail the application to: STRIDE Hawai'i Mentoring Project: 1268 Young Street, Suite 204, Honolulu, HI 96814.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (808) 592-5900 or V/TTY (808) 592-5906. Thank you so much for your interest in STRIDE. We look forward to working with you!



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## Agreement to Participant in STRIDE Hawai'i Mentoring Study

**Robin Brandt, Ph.D. – Principal Investigator**  
**Lea Grupen, M.Ed. – Co-principal Investigator**  
**Carol Young, M.S. – Co-principal Investigator**  
**Gerald L. White, Ph.D. – Project Coordinator / Researcher**

This research project is being carried out as part of a grant from the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration (Grant Number H235S040121).

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effect of mentoring on youth and young adults with disabilities from culturally-diverse backgrounds. Do these individuals have greater involvement in their community? Do they participate in post-secondary education? Are they more successful when seeking employment after they transition?

### Participation:

- Mentees and mentors are expected to spend at least an hour per week together for a year.
- The longest time a person could receive mentoring would be from August 2005 to September 2009.
- About 50 youth or young adults will be enrolled in the project each year.

### A Description of Our Procedures:

You will fill out or be helped to answer a survey about yourself every so often throughout the year. The survey will ask you questions about ...

- How you deal with problems or make decisions and choices,
- How much are you involved with your family and friends, and your community,
- How you feel about your disability,
- What career field you are interested in,
- How well are you doing in school, and,
- Information about your address, contact numbers, address, or other programs you are involved in or services you are receiving.

It will take you about 30 to 45 minutes to answer all the questions.



## STRIDE Hawai'i Mentor Consent Form

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### **Risks:**

There is a risk of lower self-worth for participants if a mentee-mentor relationship is abruptly terminated during the first three (3) months of interaction. There are no anticipated risks for mentors participating in this program

### **Benefits:**

- Improvement in school
- Increased self-advocacy
- Enhanced ability to express feelings
- Improved academic performance
- Confidence in relating to adults
- Increased awareness of personal skills and desires
- Greater participation in your local community
- Awareness of career and education opportunities

If you have any questions or feel any feel uncomfortable at being a participant, contact Robin Brandt at (808) 592-5900 or Gerry White at (808) 585-6127.

### **Confidentiality:**

Your name will not appear in any reports for this project. No personal information that could be used to identify you will be reported. Information will be reported as a group not on an individual basis. Research data will be confidential to the extent allowed by law. Agencies with research oversight, such as the University of Hawai'i Committee on Human Studies, have the authority to review research data.

### **Right to Withdraw:**

You may decide to stop participating in the STRIDE Hawai'i Mentoring Project at any time. Your involvement in this study is entirely voluntary. If you refuse to participate or stop participating there will be no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

### **Termination from the Program without Your Consent**

You cannot participate if you are violent, abuse others or yourself, or are convicted of breaking state or federal law.

You are expected to participate in all aspects of the project including the orientation, training, research and evaluation. Staff will make every effort to stay in touch with you about the project and events. Failure to participate on a regular basis would indicate that you are no longer interested in participating in the project. Notification will be sent to confirm your involvement or your desire to discontinue participating in the project.



**Consent**

I have read the information. I understand the information. I agree to participate in this research project.

Full Name of applicant (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Age of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

*If appropriate, please complete:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (Print):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: