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HOSPICE HAWAII TO HOST 10th ANNUAL FAMILY BEREAVEMENT CAMP
***** Children learn to cope with loss of loved one *****

HONOLULU (June 22, 2009) – There are no official statistics for child bereavement, but it is estimated that 2 percent of children are bereaved before the age of 18. Young children may not verbalize their feelings about a death in the family and may therefore need more support than adults to deal with their grief. Hospice Hawaii’s annual Family Bereavement Camp aims to give children a safe-haven to share their emotions with other young people in similar situations. The intimate camp attracts approximately 40 attendees and has almost an equal amount of volunteers and staff.

Ten years ago, Hospice Hawaii, in partnership with Queen Liliuokalani Children’s Center held their first bereavement camp. The camp provides children and families a weekend full of opportunities to share their experience of loss while trained staff and volunteers offer support through the healing process.

“It’s important for us to care not only for those who have passed, but for the loved ones who are dealing with the grief,” says Kenneth Zeri, president and CPO of Hospice Hawaii. “The Family Bereavement Camp allows children to be in a welcoming setting where they are encouraged to express their emotions and make life-long relationships with other children who are faced with the same struggle. It is important they know that they are not alone.”

Hospice Hawaii’s annual Family Bereavement Camp is held at the Queen Liliuokalani Children’s Center in Hauula every June. The camp is for families with children 5-17 years old who have lost a loved one to death in the past three to four years. The camp provides a balance of fun activities and introspective grief exercises to assist families with the process of loss, grief, remembrance and healing.

For more information about the Family Bereavement Camp, call Hospice Hawaii at 924-9255.

About Hospice Hawaii

Hospice Hawaii was founded in 1979 to serve terminally ill persons and their families. Hospice is a philosophy of care and approach, which emphasizes palliative and supportive services. Hospice Hawaii strives to meet the physical, emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs of patients by offering quality end of life care. For more information about Hospice Hawaii, visit www.hospicehawaii.org.

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