



## Kauai 2015 Ambassador Family

Every year, the Kauai March for Babies designates a family to serve as an Ambassador to help the event and help raise much needed funds. This year's family is the Punzals.

Ka'eo Jace Punzal was born a full month premature on February 23, 2009. Within the first several days

Ka'eo had breathing difficulties and was taken to Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Unable to diagnose the problem, Ka'eo was rushed to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children on Oahu. There he was diagnosed with a "total anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return" which means the veins in his left lung were not



connected to his heart and he was not getting enough oxygen. Ka'eo was then flown to Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego for immediate open heart surgery. He was only 11 days old. He recently celebrated his 6th birthday and completed in his first race with dad Smilie and brother Po'okela.

Doctors were amazed Ka'eo survived after more than a day with limited oxygen, much less 11 days. As a leader in advocacy

for newborn screenings for all infants, the March of Dimes is currently working with 2015 Hawaii State Legislature to consider Senate Bill 337 and House Bill 467 which would require all birthing facilities to perform a newborn screening for critical congenital heart defects on all infants born in Hawaii.

### Upcoming event

#### March for Babies - Kauai 2015

**Date:** Saturday, April 11, 2015

**Time:** 8:00 AM

**Registration Time:** 6:45 AM

**Where:** Lydgate Park main pavilion

Lydgate Park

4470 Nalu Road

Kapaa, HI 96746

Register online at [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org).

For more information, call 1-800-272-5240.

We're getting ready to walk in March for Babies! It promises to be a fun day out with people who share our passion for improving the health of babies. Join family teams, company teams and people walking with friends for a great cause: making a difference for real families right here in our community. Sign up and raise money to help more moms have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies.

**Our mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.**

## YOUNG BROTHERS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR MARCH OF DIMES

**Young Brothers wishes March of Dimes a warm aloha and mahalo for all it does to ensure healthy babies on Kaua'i**



# The History

## A president's cause changed babies' lives forever

President Franklin Roosevelt's personal struggle with polio led him to create the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis at a time when polio was on the rise. Better known as the March of Dimes, the foundation established a polio patient aid program and funded research for vaccines developed by Jonas Salk, MD and Albert Sabin, MD. These vaccines effectively ended the polio epidemic in the United States.

## Promoting vaccines

The March of Dimes funded the development of the first

safe and effective polio vaccine by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1955, followed by the oral vaccine developed by Dr. Albert Sabin in 1962. Nearly every baby born today receives a lifesaving polio vaccine.

In 1969-1970, the March of Dimes led a nationwide immunization campaign against rubella (German measles), which can cause a range of serious birth de-



fects or fetal death if women contract it during pregnancy. The campaign was so successful that there has not been a case of congenital rubella syndrome in the U.S. in more than 30 years.

## Preventing birth defects

Its original mission accomplished, the foundation turned its focus to preventing birth defects and infant mortality. The March of Dimes has led the way in discovering genetic causes of birth defects, promoting newborn screening, and educating medical professionals and the public about best practices for healthy pregnancy. We have funded research for surfactant therapy to treat respiratory distress in premature infants and helped initiate the system of regional neonatal intensive care for premature and sick babies. Our recent Folic Acid Campaign achieved a dramatic reduction in birth defects of the brain and spine.

## Fighting premature birth

Since 2003, our fight to save babies has



been strongly characterized by our Prematurity Campaign. The rising incidence of premature birth has demanded action, and the March of Dimes has responded by initiating an intensive, multi-year campaign to raise awareness and find the causes of prematurity.

## The Epidemic of Prematurity

The worldwide mortality rate of children under-five has declined dramatically from 76 in to 46 deaths per 1,000 live birth. This is an annual reduction rate of 3.9 percent. Significant progress has been made.

# KIUC Loves Babies!



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march for babies<sup>SM</sup>

April 11, 2015

Lydgate Park - Main Pavilion  
Registration at 6:45 a.m.  
Walk at 8:00 a.m.

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April 11th 8am  
for the  
march for babies

at Lydgate Park  
4470 Nalu Road-Kapaa  
Registration: 6:45am



# Today

## Programs funded through the March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter Grants

The March of Dimes regularly funds programs through grants such as the Healthy Mothers Health Babies Coalition of Hawaii (Statewide) – Text4baby Hawaii – Delivering weekly text message-based information related to prenatal care throughout pregnancy to aid in the prevention of preterm birth, low birth weight and infant mortality. This and other programs, including education, are a vital part of meeting our mission.



## Everyone can help

The Punzal family – Jacob “Smilie” Punzal, Po’okela, and Ka’eo are happy to serve as Ambassadors. “We hope everyone will come out and support the March of Dimes at the March for Babies walk on April 11 at Lydgate,” says Smilie. “If it wasn’t for the research, equipment, and testing at the NICU at Kapiolani, who were able to diagnose what was wrong, Ka’eo might not be with us today. Help us raise the money needed to further this research and education to ensure no parent ever has to go through what we went through.” Today, Smilie owns a fitness center, Au’rai Fitness, where the boys spend a great deal of time. Both boys are fit, energetic, and most importantly healthy.

The March for Babies is set



Ka’eo and Po’okela Punzal - 2015

for April 11 at Lydgate Park at the main pavilion. Registration begins at 6:45; the walk begins at 8:00. Food, games, and prizes are all part of the planned activities.

We encourage anyone who cares about improving the lives of babies to join us by registering a team or as an individual at [www.marchforbabies.org](http://www.marchforbabies.org). Then ask your friends,

neighbors, aunts and uncles to donate.

The funds go to research, science, and legislative advocacy as well as assisting the families on the neighbor islands get the help and resources they need. We need your help to ensure all babies born in Hawaii are healthy. Come to our event and celebrate our achievements.



Taislee Simao - 2014



Rhexlyn Butay - 2013



TeeAnn Garcia - 2012

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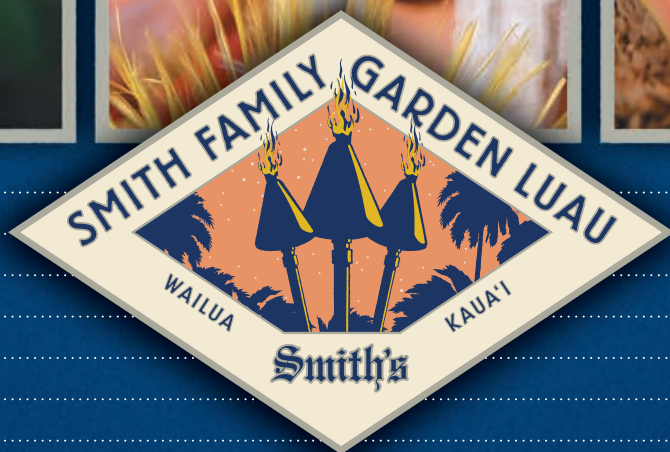
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