NĀ KEIKI O EMALIA PROGRAM INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

THE HISTORY OF NA KEIKI O EMALIA

Brooke Brown, Ph.D. founded the program in 2015 following the death of her daughter, Emalia, who left behind her 3-year-old son. Recognizing the need for a supportive environment where Maui's keiki could receive assistance in dealing with grief, Brooke adapted the Dougy Center Model to create services for the community she served.

In June 2024, the Nā Keiki O Emalia nonprofit closed its door and the program integrated with Imua Family Services, bringing along the indistinguishable grief support services the Maui Community has grown to depend on—only now powered by the enhanced support and structure of Imua Family Services.

Nā Keiki O Emalia's Four Principles of Grieving:

1. Grief is a natural reaction to the loss of a loved one for children, teens and adults.
2. Within each individual is the natural capacity to heal.
3. The duration and intensity of grief are unique for each individual.
4. Caring and acceptance assist in the healing process.

We believe that every child, teen, and adult deserves the opportunity to grieve in a supportive, understanding environment. Our society often fails to recognize or comprehend the unique needs of grievers, particularly young ones, who may experience and display grief differently from adults.

OUR GROUPS

Nā Keiki O Emalia offers peer-support groups for children and teens (3-18 years) when they have lost a parent, sibling, caregiver, or someone important to death. Our groups are facilitated by trained volunteers and coordinated by Nā Keiki O Emalia staff. Groups are held in-person in the schools and in the community. School groups are organized by school counselors and/or behavioral health specialists, and led by Nā Keiki O Emalia facilitators. Please contact your child's school first to inquire if there are any current groups running. Community groups may meet once a week for 6-8 weeks. Dates and other specifics vary by age and group.

Participants may join groups at any time after the death, soon or long after it. They may stay with Nā Keiki O Emalia as long as they choose. We know that there is no fixed timetable for grief, and support may be needed immediately or sometimes much later. We welcome you to participate on your own timing.

Whether participants choose to share or simply listen, they are welcome to engage in whatever way feels right for them. Talking in the groups is never required; our priority is to always ensure a safe and nurturing environment.

COST
There is ***NEVER ANY FEE*** for attending support groups. Financial gifts to the program are welcome, but not expected or required. Donations are tax-deductible under IRS guidelines. *All donations should be made payable to Imua Family Services with Nā Keiki O Emalia in the memo line*.

ADULT PERMISSION & SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS
Permission from a parent or legal guardian is required for children younger than 18 to participate in online support groups. For our community-based groups, we require an authorized adult to be on-site at the group location, and adults will have the option to participate in a discussion during the timeframe of the children's group.

ATTENDANCE & CONTINUITY
Regular attendance is important and expected of all participants. Continuity helps create a safe and supportive group. Please call, text, or email staff if your child or teen will be unable to attend.

CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY
We honor confidentiality. It helps to create a safe environment for youth to share feelings, thoughts, and stories. Staff is available to discuss general impressions of your child/teen, but we will not disclose specifics of what is said or done in groups. No written records are kept of what is shared in groups. Staff will inform the adult of confidential information as indicated on the "Your Right to Privacy and Exceptions to Privacy" form. If you want the staff to share information with a school counselor, teacher, or therapist, please request our "Authorization for Release of Information" form.

REFERRALS TO MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
Nā Keiki O Emalia offers peer support groups, but not private therapy or counseling services. Now that the program has integrated with Imua Family Services, families and caregivers can meet with a clinician from our Infant and Early Childhood Department to assess the bereaved child(ren)'s level of need for support. When asked, we can also provide the names of several referral therapists for the family's consideration and selection.

VISITORS
Please do not invite visitors or on-lookers; this violates participants' rights to privacy.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION
We may invite you to join us in research projects to help us improve or to evaluate how we're doing. Participation is always voluntary. We do conduct evaluation of groups in the beginning and end of school group cycles as well as periodically during community-based groups for program quality measures and to ensure we are providing the best services in grief support to our community's grieving keiki, teens, and families.