SEMIA-NUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
COVER SHEET

1. Grant Number: 90DN0231

2. Grantee Name and Address:
   University of Hawai`i Center on Disability Studies
   1776 University Avenue, UA 4-6, Honolulu, HI 96822

3. Telephone Number: 808-956-2653

4. Project Title: My Voice, My Choice

5. Period of Performance: October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008


8. Principal Investigator’s Name and Telephone Number:
   Jean Johnson DrPH, Principal Investigator, 808-956-2653

9. Author’s Name and Telephone number: Nathan Say and Jean Johnson, 808-956-2653

10. Date of report: April 25, 2008

11. Name of Federal Project Officer: Larissa Crossen

12. Date Reviewed by Federal Project Officer: ________________________

13. Comments (if any)
1. Major Activities and Accomplishments During This Period

- **Organization of the Management Team.** The Management Team has met three times during the project period. Initially the Team approved the revision of the project objectives and activities based on the reduction in funding between the grant application and the grant award. A copy of those revisions are attached. The Team met a second time to develop the position description for the Youth Coordinator and to identify strategies for successfully recruiting a well-qualified youth with a disability. The Team met a third time to interview candidates for the position. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5.

- **Recruitment of Youth Mentors.** The Hawai`i Disability Rights Center was successful in recruiting four youth outreach workers. This activity provides the local match for the grant.

- **Recruitment of Youth Project Coordinator.** After an extended search, a Youth Project Coordinator, Nathan Say, was selected to be the youth coordinator for the project. Mr. Say, with a bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University-Hawai`i, was identified in the original grant application as a potential applicant. He has had cerebral palsy and multiple disabilities since birth. He is active in disability organizations at the local, state, and national levels. At the state and national level, he serves as secretary of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawai`i, and is a regional representative to the National Statewide Independent Living Council Congress. Locally, he is the vice-chair of *Abled Hawai`i Artists*, an arts festival for persons with disabilities, currently Hawai`i’s only celebration of the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. He has undergraduate teaching experience in disability studies. He has published in the field and is currently taking graduate courses at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa. A copy of his resume is attached.
2. Problems

- **Recruitment.** Major problems were encountered prior to advertising the position. It was submitted initially with a minimum qualification that applicants be youth with a disability who had demonstrated experience in self-advocacy. That request was denied by the University’s EEO/AA Officer as well as a subsequent request to have that criteria listed as a desirable qualification. During the first posting of the advertisement, the Management Team deemed that no applicant met the minimum qualifications. Until the position could be readvertised and filled, the Project Director did an emergency hire to provide needed support for the project. The readvertisement resulted in two applicants who were interviewed by the Management Team, with Mr. Say being selected. His appointment date was April 14, 2008.

- **Other Management Team Challenges.** The Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities has encountered similar problems and has been unable yet to recruit for the position to direct adult self-advocacy efforts. The Self-Advocacy Advisory Council encountered leadership challenges and was without a President for a number of months. That position has now been filled.

- **Neighbor Island Youth Coordinators.** The Management Team is concerned that with the reduction of funds from ADD, the positions of part-time youth coordinators on the neighbor islands were deleted. Over the next few months, the Youth Coordinator and the Management Team will be exploring ways to address the needs on the neighbor islands.

3. **Significant Findings and Events-**

   The youth coordinator participated in the International Forum on April 12-13, 2008, and in the Pac Rim Conference on April 14-15, 2008. During the International Forum he was introduced to Commissioner Patricia Morrisey as the newly-appointed coordinator for the project. After the
initial recruitment delays, it is anticipated by the end of the first project year, the project will be on-target for completion of the indicators identified in the evaluation plan.

4. Dissemination Activities

Reports on the progress of the project have been made at each bimonthly meeting of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and to the quarterly meetings of the Center on Disability Studies Community Advisory Council. The youth coordinator is currently meeting with relevant projects in the Center on Disability Studies and other organizations in the state to develop collaborative activities. A proposal has been accepted for presentation during the project meeting in July. Proposals have also been submitted for the SABE Conference in September.

5. Other Activities

The Project Director has been participating in the planning for the meeting of the projects scheduled for July 9-11, 2008.

6. Activities Planned for the Next Reporting Period

- **Youth Council.** During the past few months a number of potential youth have been identified to serve on the Youth Council. Establishing the council and initiating training activities for its members will be a high priority over the next months.

- **Self-Advocacy Advisory Council (SAAC).** Now that the SAAC has elected leaders, the youth coordinator will begin meeting with them on a monthly basis to support their activities and to make their website accessible.

- **Additional Training.** The youth coordinator will be participating in a Hawai`i Title V Family Trainers Academy summer training program.

- **Dissemination Activities.** The youth coordinator has meetings set to work on a logo for the project, and to design the website. A project brochure and poster will be printed over the next month. Further dissemination activities are being planned.