



Hello We Are...



Charlene & Brian

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Our Hopes & Dreams

Aloha from Hawaii!

After 15 years of marriage and years of struggling to become pregnant, we are more determined than ever to have our dream of building a family become a reality.

When thinking about our future and the family we hope to have, the phrase "it takes a village to raise a child" comes to mind. We both are the people we are today not only thanks to our parents, but also because of the many others who have been there for us growing up. Siblings, aunties, uncles, cousins, stepmoms, stepdads, teachers, coaches, and friends have all played a huge role in our lives and have been there through the good times and the struggles.

We hope to provide this same "village" for your child. Any child that comes into our family will have us, a large support network ready to care for them and love them, as well as a safe environment to flourish and reach their fullest potential. We want to offer your child a place where they can feel free to be themselves and to explore their interests, whether it be sports, dance, music, the arts, robotics, etc. The biggest thing we want to offer your child is our time and attention. It is important for us to have a good work/life balance and to be present for and involved with your child.

No one is alone in this and please know you are not alone either. We want you to feel comfortable with this process and feel seen and heard. We want you to know we welcome you into our "village" too. Everyone will be so welcoming to you, just like we welcome everyone else. If you come to visit, everyone will gather just like we always do to celebrate family. Stitch from Disney's "Lilo & Stitch" said it better than we ever could, "Ohana means family, and family means nobody is left behind or forgotten." We want your child to know you and value your important role in their life and we hope to welcome you into our Ohana as well.

Forever,

Charlene & Brian

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

LIVING ALOHA - "Aloha" is not just a phrase on a postcard or t-shirt, for Hawaii locals it is a lifestyle. The true meaning of aloha is living a life of warmth and kindness for others with no expectations in return. It is compassion for people and an unwavering acceptance of others. Aloha is something that we are taught in school growing up and is exemplified in our everyday kindness to strangers. People smile at each other, greet each other with hugs, share what they have and find joy in others' successes. It is common for a complete stranger to jump in to help others in need. Our child will grow up living Aloha by learning the importance of caring for others, treating strangers with kindness, sharing the fruit from our trees in our yard, and witnessing us talking to everyone we come in contact with, even strangers at the grocery store.



OHANA (FAMILY) - When we say Ohana, we don't just mean those in our lives through blood and marriage, we also mean our friends and their family. Charlene has had a tight-knit group of friends she has known for more than 30 years. Even though some of us live far apart now, we are always there when one of us needs help. When Charlene's friend gave birth to her first child, we all flew out from Hawaii to Arizona to be there. We cooked meals and helped with the baby; whatever she needed to make things easier, we did. Your child will see and feel the love from all their aunties and uncles and know that they have a large ohana to rely on.



HUMOR - We don't take life too seriously and always look at the positive and brighter side of all situations. We believe having a sense of humor is essential for keeping a positive mental attitude. We love to laugh together, not just chuckles but full belly laughs! Brian has a lot of dad jokes. Charlene has a lot of eye rolls. But we have fun together, and we think it's important for a child to experience the joy in life, find the "funny" in things, and be able to laugh at themselves.

EDUCATION/EXPLORATION - We want to encourage your child to explore the world. Growing up in Oklahoma, Brian knew there was more to see and experience. Through his 12 years in the military, he has been to almost every state in the United States as well as many different countries all over the world. Brian learned so much from his travels and understands that there is not just one path to success. We are determined to make learning a positive experience and help your child build confidence. Education doesn't look the same for everyone so we will support whatever path your child sets for themselves whether it be college, community college, trade school, or joining the military.



RESILIENCE - Life is not always rainbows and sunshine and we want to give your child the tools to be able to overcome challenges and learn to bounce back from disappointments. When things have gotten us down, we try to think of lessons learned and what we have to be grateful for. We want to encourage your child to set goals for themselves and help them figure out a plan to achieve them. When Brian went through Navy Aircrew School, he failed the drown proof test twice. He thought he might fail a third time. But a lifetime of overcoming obstacles taught him to keep going even though he was tired and scared. He passed. Aircrew training completion takes true grit. We want to instill those values in your child.

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Our Home

We live in Hawaii, the only state that is made up of islands. There are seven islands in total. We live on the island of O’ahu where the capital of Hawaii, Honolulu, is located. O’ahu is the most populated of all the islands and is the center of business, finance, and hospitality for the state. There are two distinct climates on the island, the cool breeze of the mountain area and the heat of the plains. We recently moved from the hot and dry region to Charlene’s childhood home in the cool mountainous region.

We live in paradise and think it’s a great place to raise children. We are about five minutes away from the elementary school that sits next to a community park with basketball and tennis courts and a baseball field. There is a hiking trail at the end of our street, and the closest beach is about a 15-minute drive. There is also a waterpark, zoo, aquarium, and several museums and other kid-friendly attractions just a short distance away.

Our home is filled with a collection of memories from Charlene’s childhood and the love we have put into it. Charlene has known our neighbors and their families her whole life. We literally share the fruit from our trees, exchange Christmas gifts, and keep an eye out for each other. We are grateful for the sense of community and family we share.

Our backyard is completely fenced in with lots of room for running and playing. We will add a play set for the child. It will be a hit with the cousins too! The neighborhood children play in each other’s yards and driveways or gather at the community park. We have a large patio in our backyard with outdoor dining space and a jacuzzi that has a locked cover for safety. We enjoy sitting out there just talking and when we have family and friends visiting, we usually eat meals on the patio, or lani.

Our house is comfortable, clean, and homey. The main floor has a full kitchen, a large open living room with a high open-beamed ceiling, two home offices, and plenty of space for playrooms. It’s a great place to relax, enjoy the breeze, read a book, or just stare out at the trees in the backyard. All of our furniture is chosen for comfort and durability, not just for looks.

We enjoy hosting gatherings for family and friends. Brian usually can be found manning the grill in the backyard. Our gatherings are usually around 25 people so there are always lots of laughs and food to share. We play games for prizes with team competitions that everyone can participate in. It always gets loud and competitive!

We are looking forward to the joy and laughter a child will bring to our home and providing them with lots of space to play and a room of their own. Charlene works from home, which gives her a lot of extra time to spend with the child. During the week we imagine playing together, taking walks around the neighborhood, and developing a routine of snuggling together for bedtime stories. On the weekends, we imagine your child involved in activities they might be interested in, spending time with friends, playing outside, or exploring other kid-friendly activities on our beautiful island in Hawaii.

HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Art, photography, cooking, baking, music, graphic design, interior design, poetry, playing pickleball, traveling, going to the beach, playing with our dog

Adoptive Father: Video games, soccer, pickleball, poetry, building computers, travel, deep sea fishing, boating, going to the beach, playing with the dog, swimming in the ocean, shopping at open markets and visiting food trucks

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Assistant Design Editor

Adoptive Father: Satellite Engineer

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Bachelors Degree

Adoptive Father: Navy (12 Years Active Duty)

PLUS:

- Family dog
- Both non-smokers

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Our Family

Welcome to our Ohana!

We are a very close and diverse family with generations of traditions that we look forward to sharing. Charlene grew up in Hawaii and is part English, Irish, Native American, and Okinawan, which is part of Japan. Her extended family draws from Japanese, Chinese, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Korean, Portuguese and Latin cultures for our cuisine and traditions. Brian was born in the Netherlands due to his dad's job, but grew up in Oklahoma and brings southern cooking and hospitality to our family.

Having met more than 19 years ago, we have a family-focused and stable relationship. Communication is so important to us as a couple. It is the reason our relationship has endured times when we were forced to be apart. About a month after meeting, Brian had to leave Hawaii to begin his new duty station in San Diego. Although the relationship was new, we felt it was worth fighting for. We talked and wrote emails to each other whenever we could, especially when Brian was deployed at sea for several months at a time. Charlene flew to San Diego to spend time with him over the next two years. After that, Brian decided it was time to leave the Navy and start a new life in Hawaii with Charlene.

We enjoy all our time together, going to the open air markets, hiking, watching soccer, vacationing and lazy afternoons at our favorite beach. We love taking our dog to the beach when it's not too hot. We sit there in our beach chairs and take in the sound of the waves, talk, and laugh together. We have recently started playing pickleball and although we are not the greatest at it, it's a lot of fun to try. We love to travel and have taken several cruises. There is nothing like being out in the open ocean!

Charlene has a large extended family and we all get together every holiday, taking turns hosting. On Christmas Eve, we all go over to Charlene's cousin's house to exchange gifts, play Christmas-themed games and eat a potluck dinner. Santa (her cousin Dixon) always makes an appearance handing out gifts to the children and adults. It's always fun to see the look on the kids' faces. We host the New Year's Day family gathering which includes 20-30 people. New Year's Day is an important celebration in Japanese culture and Charlene makes sure to carry on the traditions that they all grew up with. Charlene decorates the house with flower arrangements made with bamboo, and creates a platter of colorful fruits, eggs, tofu, and meats. Everyone eats soup which is a seafood broth that is meant to bring good luck. We also pop firecrackers to ward off any bad spirits and mark a new beginning.

We hope to continue all our family holiday traditions as our family grows and are excited to start new ones. We look forward to having a child in the house, especially on Christmas morning. We both remember the excitement of waking up early to check under the tree to see what Santa brought us. We also look forward to our child, and hopefully you, becoming part of our Ohana!



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