

# HAWAI'I STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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## HSCADV'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS



In late February, the Coalition started to collaborate with the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) and the 56 domestic violence coalitions across the US to develop best practices that would help programs keep survivors and their staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the pandemic evolved and Hawai`i determined its course of action, so did our role in the community. By mid-March, it was clear Hawai`i would not be spared the impact of COVID-19. The Coalition mobilized and advocated at the federal, state and local level for the prioritization of domestic violence survivors and programs at every stage of the planning from the procurement of PPE to federal aid.

We are grateful to our member programs and their staff for their unrelenting dedication to serving survivors during this pandemic while putting their own lives at stake. Below are some of the actions we have taken to ensure safety and well-being of survivors and program staff:

- Provided over 2,500 masks and 200+ bottles of hand sanitizer for domestic violence advocates and survivors;
- Worked with member programs, victim advocates, and victim witness programs to advocate against the early release of misdemeanor and felony inmates without proper supervision and notification to victims and prepared testimony for the Informational Briefing by the House Committee on Public Safety
- Collaborated with the Department of Health to develop guidance for shelters in response to COVID-19
- Advocated for domestic violence funding in the CARES Act and HEROES Act Hawai`i's to our Congressional delegation
- Hosted a training with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai`i on custody and immigration during COVID-19
- Created PSAs in 11 languages and facilitated a radio campaign throughout April and May to provide domestic violence service contact information to non-English speakers

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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## Parents & Children Together

Parents And Children Together has continued to provide services to survivors and domestic violence and their children during this very critical time. The shelter continues to operate using protective equipment and remote technology. Staff have identified an increased need for both shelter and hotline calls requesting supportive services. Both the Oahu and Maui Family Peace Centers are providing tele-services to all survivors by using remote technology via phone or zoom groups. Intakes, assessments, and therapeutic individual service are also being conducted remotely. Children's sessions and safety checks are also being conducted remotely and when not possible or if families cannot utilize remote services, are being done in person observing social distancing and with the use of appropriate PPE. Temporary Restraining Orders and court accompaniment has continued to occur in person on Maui throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The newly remodeled Ohia Shelter is scheduled to open on July 1st, 2020. This will increase capacity for survivors as we follow social distancing guidelines for Emergency DV shelter services. Shelter services are provided through telecommunication and face to face using social distancing whenever possible. Family Visitation Centers (Oahu and Kauai') continue to provide visitation services to families remotely. Registration, Intake and Orientation, and supervised visitation services are conducted via phone and/or zoom.

## Child & Family Services West Hawai'i

The West Hawai'i Domestic Abuse Shelter has focused on health and well being of all during the first quarter of this year. They have set up a break room for staff in their office and have hand sanitizer stations throughout the program. Masks are made available to residents and their children while staff have a variety of masks they can use as well. All of the processes put in place to address the pandemic are working well.

They are also doing very thorough screenings of all new intakes and setting up a quarantine for all new intakes as best we can for the 14 days in resident rooms. They have low census at this time which makes the quarantine areas manageable. Staff are meeting via zoom monthly and when there are items that need addressed. CFSWH has open positions and are currently reviewing resumes and doing our best to set up interviews.

## YWCA of Kaua'i

YWCA staff on Kaua'i have continued their relationship with the local police department and reported that the COVID-19 pandemic has opened the door for officers in their DV unit to become more proactive and want to learn more about ways to respond to the increase in domestic calls. More officers are coming forward asking the YWCA staff for ways to help victims.

## Domestic Violence Action Center

In April 2020, DVAC opened Hale Maluhia, a permanent housing complex for survivors. Formerly known as the City and County of Honolulu prosecutor's safe house, this is a safe and confidential residence for survivors to get a fresh start. The complex is now full and is staffed by an in-house advocate and resident manager. In response to COVID-19, DVAC also made their Helpline a 24/7 legal and crisis line in addition to launching a new text feature.



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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At the start of the 2020 legislative session HSCADV was actively monitoring more 20 bills and provided testimony on bills that would support address confidentiality programs, strengthen campus safety, extend TRO protection for minors, and establish consistent documentation requirements for survivors. Only a small selection of bills will be considered when the legislature reconvenes.

## **STATE LEGISLATURE**

The Hawai`i State Legislature suspended its session on March 17, 2020 to May 11, 2020, then reconvened for a brief session on May 12, 2020. The legislature's primary focus has been budget and relief measures. There will be no grants-in-aid this year and lawmakers are concentrated on looking at ways to increase revenue.

When the legislature convened in May, they passed Senate Bill 75 (SB75) that includes the appropriation of CARES Act funding to the counties as follows for a total of \$175,323,979 (Honolulu received its appropriation of \$387,000,000 separately from the US Treasury):

Hawai`i \$80,009,671

Maui \$66,598,757 -> prioritized \$3,000,000 for mental health, DV and SA

Kaua`i \$28,715,551 -> prioritized \$1,000,000 for mental health DV

The bill also put \$635,986,000 into a "budget reserve fund" (aka Rainy Day Fund) until June 22, 2020 when the legislature reconvenes.

We have been collaborating with the Working Families Coalition, Women's Coalition and Women's Legislative Caucus to prioritize funding for domestic violence survivors when the legislature reconvenes.

## **FEDERAL FUNDING**

### Family Violence Funding.

A total of \$45,000,000 in the CARES Act was allocated to family violence, administered by FVPSA. Hawai`i's programs received \$149,206.

### HEROES Act

The house passed the HEROES Act (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act) on May 15, 2020 and is now subject to negotiation with the Senate. Details on provisions for domestic violence and sexual assault can be found [here](#).



# COALITION NEWS - PART I



## **STAR ADVOCATE** **RACHEL "AURORA"** **DELARIES**

**Child and Family Services West Hawai'i** would like to bring awareness to their TRO/Court Advocate, Aurora Delaries.

Aurora provides individual support for minors referred to the DVSF program in addition to supporting survivors at the DV shelter. She offers DV education support groups at the shelter and has over 15 years of experience working across the DV programs at CFS. A diligent worker who provides well-rounded support on all sides of domestic violence, Aurora also co-facilitates DVI offender groups and YSP groups with youths referred by the juvenile probation office.

Aurora earned an MA in Counseling and is currently working towards a PhD as a Counselor of Education and Supervision.

Her services to the DV community are exceptional. Aurora goes above and beyond to serve the community of West Hawai'i as well as offering mentorship to all new staff CFS's DV programs.

## **CONFERENCE**

### **BUILDING ON THE STRENGTHS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

**AUGUST 3-6, 2020**

Due to COVID-19, the Coalition postponed their annual conference originally scheduled for June 5th at the Ala Moana Hotel. For the health and safety of attendees, the Coalition is excited to announce that this year's conference will go virtual for the first time from August 3rd-6th, 2020.

This year's conference will focus on primary prevention, advocacy and its intersections on domestic violence, and supervision. The Coalition is also happy to feature a great mix of local and national speakers:

- **The Beloved Community & Shifting from Theory to Practice** by Keynote, Arlene Vassell, Vice President of Programs, Prevention, and Social Change at the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
- **Know More, Do More: Identifying and Responding to Stalking & The Use of Technology to Stalk** by Jennifer Landhuis, Director of the Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center
- **Demystifying Human Trafficking** by Farshad Talebi, Human Trafficking Coordinator at the State of Hawai'i Department of the Attorney General
- **Building Your Strengths Awareness** by Ku'ulani Keohokalole, Founder of People Strategies Hawai'i, LLC.
- We are also excited to feature workshops (titles TBD) by Cathy Cave, Founder of Inspired Vision, LLC., and Anisa Wiseman, Program and Walk Manager at the National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawai'i.

Registration details coming soon!

# COALITION NEWS - PART II

## TEAM UPDATES

February marked the addition of Member Services Associate, Chelsey Stewart! Prior to joining the Coalition, Chelsey was the Campus Survivor Advocate at the Domestic Violence Action Center and Fair Housing Coordinator at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i.

We are sad to announce the upcoming departures of Training & Technical Assistance Director, Kelly Musselman, in September and Finance Manager, Michelle Gray at the end of the summer. Kelly will be returning to the mainland and we are expanding the role of the Finance Manager. We wish them both the best in their future endeavors and thank them for the wonderful work they have done for our domestic violence programs!

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our team, please check out [our website](#) for job announcements.



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

Membership Meeting

**August 3-6, 2020**

HSCADV Virtual Conference



## NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next membership meeting has been moved to **June 23, 2020 from 9am-12pm** and will consist of a workshop on Trauma, Compassion Fatigue and Self-Care led by Sharon A. Simms, MSW CPC, the CEO of SAS Services, LLC.

Not your typical trauma workshop, this training session is built on the premise that we have an ethical responsibility to develop trauma informed practices for our organizations.

Sharon has 20 years of experience working in human/social services and has worked within the nonprofit sector for over 17 years. She has a passion for identifying ways to assist agencies in providing effective programs and services to their clientele.