



HAWAI'I STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The first quarter of 2021 brought us the COVID-19 vaccine, an unprecedented federal relief package making its way through the state, the FVPSA, and VAWA reauthorization bills, and the VOCA Fix bill. While we're hopeful the end to the pandemic is in sight, it will take years for the state, survivors of domestic violence, and the programs that serve them to recover from its impact. We are constantly inspired by the courageous actions of survivors seeking help and the advocates who rise to the challenge to meet their needs in new and innovative ways.

In this quarter, we're proud to have successfully worked with the Legislature and community advocates to restore \$907,659 in direct services contracts cut by the Judiciary in FY2021 and advocated to maintain special funds that saved funding to DV services and programs, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Coordinator at the Department of Health and the Crime Victim Compensation Commission.

In the second quarter of 2021, we're honored to host our second annual conference. The coalition board of directors and staff are engaged in the final stages of the strategic planning process, the results of which will be released in the late summer/fall. Thank you to all of our program Executive Directors and staff who participated in the listening sessions that helped inform our work.

Yours in service,



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 2021 Legislative Session Recap
- Federal policies updates
- Recent events & upcoming trainings
- 2021 Conference Updates
- Program Updates

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



The 2021 Legislative Session began in January with the state budget as the dominating topic as legislators grappled with a looming \$1.4bn per-year budget deficit over the next several years.

Special Funds that fund domestic violence programs through various state agencies such as DHS, DOH, and the Judiciary and that also fund the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Coordinator and Crime Victim Compensation Commission were among the many that were targeted to be swept into the general fund and eliminated. HSCADV joined other community partners to successfully oppose these efforts.

One of the biggest wins this session was the restoration of \$907,659 in direct services contracts cut by the Judiciary in FY2021.

We're grateful for our partnership with PHOCUSED and collaboration with affected member programs for this incredible win for survivors of domestic violence. These cut impacted batterer intervention programs on O`ahu, Kaua`i, and Hawai`i Island and advocacy services on O`ahu.

Other wins for survivors this session include:

- **SB828 HD1** – Repeals the requirement that a person be domiciled or physically present in the state for a continuous period of at least six months before a divorce is granted.

- **HB1237 HD1 SD1** – Clarifies that the effective period of a temporary restraining order, protective order, or injunction for a minor may extend to a reasonable date after the minor has reached the age of eighteen.
- **HB566 HD1 SD1** – Adds coercive control between family or household members to the offense of abuse of a family or household members as a petty misdemeanor and adds it to last year's petty misdemeanor pilot program.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- **June 21, 2021** the Governor must inform the Legislature and deliver his intent to veto list.
- If bills are vetoed, they will not become laws unless the Legislature successfully overrides the veto in special session by a 2/3 vote in each chamber. The Legislature must convene in special session at or before noon on July 6th to override the Governor's veto.
- **July 6, 2021** bills signed or not vetoed will become law.

FEDERAL POLICIES

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP)

Signed by President Joe Biden in March 2021, the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) of 2021** is the latest COVID-19 stimulus package aimed at providing economic relief to those affected by the virus.

- Most Americans received up to \$1,400 in stimulus checks,
- Unemployment insurance was extended, and
- A national COVID-19 vaccination program was implemented to eliminate vaccine shortages.

Read more below to learn how the ARP will help domestic violence and sexual assault programs and survivors.

Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Prevention & Services (National Numbers)

- **\$180 million** for Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) programs (subject to state formula, no state match)
- **\$49.5 million** to support culturally specific activities for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence for COVID-19 and other public health concerns (administered through FVPSA)
- **\$198 million** to support survivors of sexual assault
- **\$18 million** for Native American tribes
- **\$2 million** to the National Domestic Violence Hotline
- **\$5 billion** in emergency housing vouchers
- **\$25 billion** in emergency rental assistance



FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FVPSA) REAUTHORIZATION

H.R. 2119 would:

- Increase the funding authorization level to \$252 million to respond to very low per-program funding levels and adjust the current formula to increase access to FVPSA funds for programs not currently funded.
- Expand support for and access to culturally-specific programs by authorizing a new grant program to provide enhanced access to services for racial and ethnic minority populations.
- Strengthen the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise their sovereign authority to more fully respond to domestic violence in their communities by increasing resources for tribes, and authorizing funding for tribal coalitions, and authorizing the currently funded Alaska Native Women's Resource Center.
- Meaningfully invest in domestic violence prevention by increasing support for evidence-informed, community-based prevention demonstration projects and funding new initiatives that bring these approaches to more communities across the country.
- Create a new underserved populations grant program.

FEDERAL POLICIES CONT.

VOCA FIX PASSED HOUSE

This bill addresses the low deposits into the Crime Victims Fund over the last four years, in part due to deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements, and increases the federal government match of state funds from 60% to 75%. As many of you are aware, VOCA funds have been decreasing and are projected to decrease further without this legislation. This measure is supported by our Congressional delegation and the Hawai'i Attorney General's Office (the state administrator for the funds).

Hawai'i was included in a **letter of support** based on past signatories from last year's efforts. Check out this **fact sheet** and **state analysis** for more information.

VAWA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021 (UPDATE FROM NNEDV)

HR 1585 was introduced in the last Congressional session and included the following improvements, which are all in the **2021 iteration of VAWA (HR 1620)**. HR 1585 responded to many challenges identified by survivors and by domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, and other organizations that serve survivors. Among other provisions, HR 1585 (and now this new VAWA bill):

- Enhances and expands victim services;
- Increases funding for prevention programs;
- Ends impunity for non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse and elder abuse co-occurring with domestic violence, stalking, sex trafficking, and assaults on tribal law enforcement officers on tribal lands;
- Protects victims of dating violence from firearm homicide (aka closes the boyfriend loophole);

VAWA REAUTHORIZATION (CONTINUED)

- Ensures compliance with VAWA non-discrimination requirements and guarantee equal access to VAWA protections for all victims regardless of gender;
- Provides economic justice responses that help survivors access unemployment insurance and help to clarify what constitutes economic abuse;
- Maintains existing protections for all survivors; and
- Improves the healthcare system's response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

SO WHAT'S NEW?

1. Expanding Purpose Areas in STOP
 - One of which relates to restorative practices
2. Increasing Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) authorization to \$75 million
3. Increasing Funds for Culturally Specific Services Program (CSSP)
 - New authorization of \$40 million
4. Dedicated Leadership at OVW
 - Establishes a Deputy Director for Culturally Specific Communities position at OVW.
5. Improving Criminal Justice Responses
 - Adds new purpose areas including restorative practices
6. Housing Protections
 - The housing protections are almost the same as those in the companion Senate bill from last Congress (S. 2843), which created a more streamlined emergency transfer process paired with the authorization of a new \$20 million National Victim Relocation Voucher Pool
7. Increasing the Rape Prevention and Education Program authorization from \$50 million to \$110 million and creating a 15% set aside for sex assault coalitions
 - Read the **full copy of the bill** and a **section-by-section analysis**.

2021 HSCADV CONFERENCE



The 2021 HSCADV conference theme, **From the Margins to the Center: Building Solidarity Across Movements**, is intended to center the experience of survivors of domestic violence who are too often at the margins of our community and acknowledge the intersections with colonialism, racism, ableism, and homophobia, among others in order to strengthen our response to domestic violence.

HSCADV is grateful to feature a combination of local and national experts in the following workshops:

TUESDAY, JUNE 15

Keynote by Valli Kalei Kanuha, PhD. (Assistant Dean for Equity and Justice, University of Washington School of Social Work)

Kuleana and Community: For Kanaka and Other Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i panel hosted by C. Melenani Wai'ala'e (Family Law Attorney, Greg Ryan & Associates)

Survivor Defined & Centered Advocacy by Sarah Khan (Director of Programs, Asian-Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence)

Queerness And Justice: Exploring The Intersectionality Of Violence panel hosted by Ian Tapu (Law Clerk, Hawai'i State Judiciary)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16

Spiritual Abuse: Frequently Utilized, Difficult to Identify by Rev. Al Miles (Hospital Ministry Coordinator, Queen's Medical Center) & Clara Priestler (Executive Director, Women's Board of Missions for the Pacific Islands)

Assessing Risk Of Homicide Or Near Lethal Violence In Collaboration With Survivors – Centering Their Experiences by Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN (Professor & Chair, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing)

Engaging Men & Boys by Ed Flores (Executive Director, Ala Kuola)

Navigating Conflict: Elevating Emotional Safety And Relational Repair by Cathy Cave (Founder, Inspired Vision, LLC.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

Negotiating With Allies About Survivor Confidential Information by Alicia Aiken (Principal, Danu Center for Strategic Advocacy & Director, Confidentiality Institute)

To Live Without Fear And Violence: Serving Survivors Of Domestic Violence With Disabilities by Ashley Brompton (Program Associate, Vera Institute of Justice Center for Victimization and Safety)

CONFERENCE CONT.

REGISTRATION

Register [here](#) today!

- **Coalition Members - HSCADV member program staff can attend this conference for FREE. PLEASE register with your organization's email address.**
- Community Inclusion - We encourage people of color, Indigenous people, people from other historically marginalized communities, individuals from diverse backgrounds, and survivors of domestic violence and need financial assistance to attend the conference to use this FREE ticket option.
- Students - Students can attend the entire conference for \$19, **please register with your school email address.**
- Non-Coalition members may register for \$69.

STAR ADVOCATE



2021 STAR ADVOCATE AWARD

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Submit your nominations for the "Star Advocate Award" by completing [this form](#) by May 24! The award will be presented at the finale of this year's conference on June 17.

Nominees must be a domestic violence advocate, volunteer, or employee who has gone above and beyond to serve domestic violence survivors in Hawai'i

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAUI & O'AHU LEGAL SEMINARS

HSCADV's Civil Legal Training series continues on **May 20** with the Maui County Legal Seminar for DV Advocates. Like the Hawai'i and Kaua'i County seminars, all sessions in this series is a half-day virtual training that provides legal information to DV advocates and helps build relationships with local officials in the courts, legal aids, and immigration services. The final session in this training series, focusing on the City & County of Honolulu will be on **August 19**. Registration for the O'ahu seminar will open later this summer.

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP & SHELTER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

HSCADV member program administrators, managers, and supervisors are encouraged to save the date for the next quarterly Membership & Shelter Committee meetings on **Wednesday, August 4**. Toby Shulruff, Senior Technology Safety Specialist at NNEDV's Safety Net Project will present on best practices in using technology to communicate with survivors. More details to follow as it gets closer to the meeting date.

RECENT EVENTS

QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP & SHELTER MEETINGS

The first two HSCADV quarterly membership and shelter committee meetings were held on February 3 and May 5. We were fortunate to have Erica Olsen, Director of the NNEDV's Safety Net Project, Nāpua Casson, Education & Training Coordinator of Papa Ola Lokahi, and Toby Shulruff, Senior Technology Safety Specialist at NNEDV's Safety Net Project as guest presenters. Ms. Olsen shared her tips, insights, and expertise for programs on tech safety and abuse and Ms. Casson shared COVID-19 updates in the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities on February 3 while Ms. Shulruff discussed how advocates can use technology to communicate with survivors.

STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VIRTUAL PANEL

HSCADV's Chelsey Stewart was proud to represent in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumnae's Stop Domestic Violence Virtual Panel on February 6. This virtual awareness event also featured Lt. Mark Matsusaka of the Honolulu Police Department, Rev. Al Miles of Queen's Hospital, Genia Stith of the Domestic Violence Action Center, and DV survivor, Tiana Lama. Together, these local DV experts shared their perspectives on the religious community and law enforcement's response to DV, DV dynamics, and shared resources on where to find local service providers.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HEALTHCARE

HSCADV Training & Technical Assistance Director, Matāpuna Levenson, hosted this presentation to the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine's first year students in the Social Justice elective course. This presentation discussed the dynamics of abuse, examined the connections between DV and public health, and reviewed interventions and resources available to support patients who disclosed experiencing domestic violence.



IVAT HAWAII SUMMIT

On April 28, HSCADV Executive Director, Angelina Mercado, was one of the Keynotes at the session, ***Innovative Techniques in Dealing with Domestic Violence Victims and Offenders*** at the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT) Hawai'i Summit. The following day, HSCADV's Matāpuna Levenson moderated the ***Lessons from the Frontline of the Movement – Domestic Violence Programs During COVID-19*** panel with guests, Sanoe Ka'aihue from Women Helping Women, Chiyo Churchill from Catholic Charities Hawai'i, and Jason Estrella from the Island of Hawai'i YMCA Family Visitation Center. Together, more than 160 people attended these presentations to learn about program operations, navigating budget shortfalls, and the digital divide during COVID-19.

RECENT EVENTS CONT.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HSCADV's Matāpuna Levenson co-presented the "Violence and Substance Abuse" session with Robert Boyack from Child and Family Service for the 2021 CSEC Symposium on March 4. This workshop focused on examining the intersections of DV with human trafficking as it pertains to the dynamics of abuse and exploitation, the impact on victims and survivors, and strategies and resources available to support victims and survivors.



TEENS TALK TDV

To commemorate National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, HSCADV hosted the Teens Talk TDV virtual panel on February 24.

Moderated by Keli'i Beyer of the Domestic Violence Action Center's Teen Alert Program, the panel featured Hawaii's youth and young adults highlight actions they are taking to prevent relationship violence. Guest panelists were Mairi Travis and Christian Cristobal of the Planned Parenthood Teen Council, Abigail Galman of TAP808, and Kaian Torres of Leeward Community College's Love Pono.

HAWAII & KAUA'I COUNTY LEGAL SEMINAR FOR DV ADVOCATES

The first two of HSCADV's 2021 Civil Legal Training (CLT) series, the Hawai'i County Legal Seminar for DV Advocates and Kaua'i County Legal Seminar for DV Advocates occurred in February and April. Both half-day virtual seminars focused on building the skills and capacity of advocates in critical legal issues.

This series is also aimed at strengthening relationships between advocates, courts, and legal resources in each county. Approximately 75 victim advocates and community partners attended the Hawai'i County and Kaua'i County CLT seminars which included guest speakers from the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i branches in Kona, Hilo, and Lihue, the Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, Hawai'i & Kaua'i County Prosecutor Office Victim Witness Divisions, and Hawai'i State Judiciary's Third and Fifth Circuit Courts.

PROGRAM UPDATES



CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE - WEST HAWAI'I

West Hawai'i CFS programs continue to see participants either via Zoom or in-person following CDC guidelines of sanitation and distancing. Groups services are all virtual with individual counseling sessions taking place in-person or via Zoom as appropriate. Currently their programs all have active participants, and they are receiving referrals regularly. Several job openings are available such as a F/T Shelter Services Advocate for the DV shelter, F/T DV Specialist IV for the DHHS DV contract, and P/T (20 hours per week) Specialist IV for the Hope & Healing contract that deals with risk/exploited youth. They are regularly blessed with donations and are very appreciative of the items which are put right to use.

In January, West Hawai'i CFS and community partners held a "Festival of Hope" in Ocean View providing necessary food and other items to the community in that area. This was the second festival for CFS's West Hawai'i office.

Staff and Management attend monthly and quarterly meetings regularly to connect with other providers and the Judiciary on Hawai'i Island.



PARENTS & CHILDREN TOGETHER

The PACT shelter services (Ohia, Hale Ola, Lehua) are presently fully staffed and the onboarding of new advocates over the last few months have taught the importance of standardizing and updating policies and procedures to allow for consistent training. The PACT-RRH program is also getting some traction and they are now receiving referrals from the DV Coordinate Entry System regularly. More good news is that PACT received an automatic renewal from HUD and can plan to assist survivors with rental assistance through 9/30/22.

PACT's Family Visitation Centers on O'ahu & Kaua'i are rolling out their return to face-to-face visitation services. Services will be a combination of face-to-face visits and remote visits until they can accommodate all families with at least one face to face visit per month.

Their key priority is the safety and well-being of all families and our staff so they have new procedures and protocols in place that may take some time for families to get used to. Overall, PACT is excited to see families in their centers again!

PROGRAM UPDATES CONT.



WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

Since December 2020, things have picked up in survivor assistance with each program in WHW. The shelter has seen more activity with more hotline calls and survivors needing safe shelter and they've added new staff to our Children's Advocate position. With county council budget hearings set to begin soon, they've had conversations with local council members in terms of current needs and future plans. The overall feeling throughout WHW is optimistic with a sense of readiness to advocate for our survivors. For Easter, shelter staff facilitated an Easter event which included crafts, egg hunt, lunch, and lots of laughter.

WHW was also awarded a one-time grant from the Stupski Foundation to help support clients directly with needs that cannot be met with our normal funding sources. Many organizations, companies, and community members continue giving generously in many ways.



ISLAND OF HAWAI'I YMCA

Through the partnership with HSCADV, the YMCA Family Visitation Center had the opportunity to connect with and participate in a supervised visitation immersion program led by Inspire Action for Social Change. The training allowed for the FVC to identify and address areas to improve delivery of support to families.

Jason Estrella joined other DV and Sexual Assault advocates, police officers and prosecuting attorneys from across the nation, by attending the Advance Strangulation Prevention training program organized by the Alliance for Hope International. Both of those trainings will allow for strengthening of FVC staff awareness and implementation of trauma informed support via best practices.