



HAWAI'I STATE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Photo: David Bryant

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is with a sigh of a relief that I share with you the final newsletter of the year and bring 2020 to an end. Like you, we started this year full of hope and aspirations - little did we know of the challenges that lay ahead.

COVID-19 continues to test all of us in ways we have never imagined, intensifying emotional and financial pressures felt at all levels of our organizations and amplifying the experiences of survivors in our community. Like trees that are tested during a storm, we have grown to rely more on one another, develop deeper roots and link them. All of us at the coalition continue to be inspired by the innovation and adaptability of our member programs and the dedication of advocates serving survivors. This newsletter highlights just a glimmer of the incredible work of our community.

The year ahead brings the promise of the new vaccine, a stimulus package and other federal legislations. Yet, we all know that there are other storms headed our way, and while they make shake our leaves and limbs and make us sway, our roots are deep and interlinked. Together we will weather the storm.

With gratitude and aloha,
Angelina Mercado

WHAT'S INSIDE?

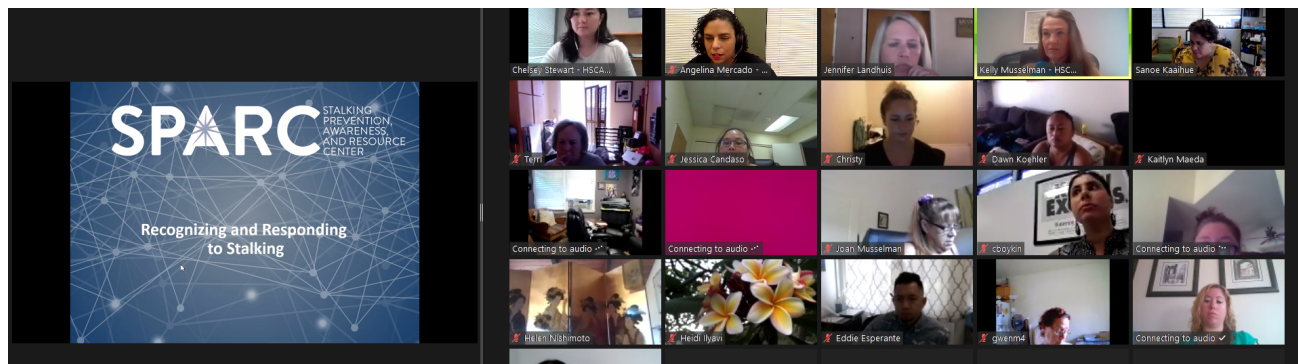
HSCADV Conference Recap

Domestic Violence Awareness
Month 2020 Highlights

Coalition & Program Updates

2020 HSCADV CONFERENCE

BUILDING ON THE STRENGTHS OF OUR COMMUNITY



Thank you to all who participated and helped make HSCADV's first virtual conference a success. There were more than 170 attendees from all the neighbor islands and the U.S. continent. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we moved the annual conference to a virtual format on August 3-6, 2020. Each workshop averaged between 90-110 attendees and included a mix of victim advocates, mental health professionals, law enforcement, social service providers, and students.

This year's conference theme, "Building on the Strengths of Our Community" was intended to engage our community a conversation about the primary prevention of domestic violence, a call on us to look within the strengths of our community for the solutions we seek to end domestic violence.

We were honored to have **Arlene Vassell**, Vice President of Programs, Prevention, & Social Change at the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence lead our keynote with **Anita Momilani Awo**, Social Services Team Lead at Lili'uokalani Trust.

This year's conference involved four days of intense online learning on the following topics:

- **Beloved Communities: Transforming Our Communities from the Inside Out AND Living at the Intersections: Shifting from Theory to Violence** - Arlene Vassell
- **Identifying and Responding to Stalking AND The Use of Technology to Stalk** - Jennifer Landhuis (Stalking Prevention, Awareness, and Resource Center)
- **Crisis and Emotional Intelligence: A Family Perspective** - Anisa Wiseman (National Alliance on Mental Illness Hawai'i)
- **The Intersection Between Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence** - Farshad Talebi (Hawai'i Dept. of the Attorney General)
- **Building on the Strengths of Us and Our Teams** - Ku'ulani Keohokalole (People Strategies Hawai'i, LLC.)
- **Effective Supervisory Practice AND Transparency, Accountability, Growth, and Reflection** - Cathy Cave (Inspired Vision, LLC.)

2020 HSCADV CONFERENCE

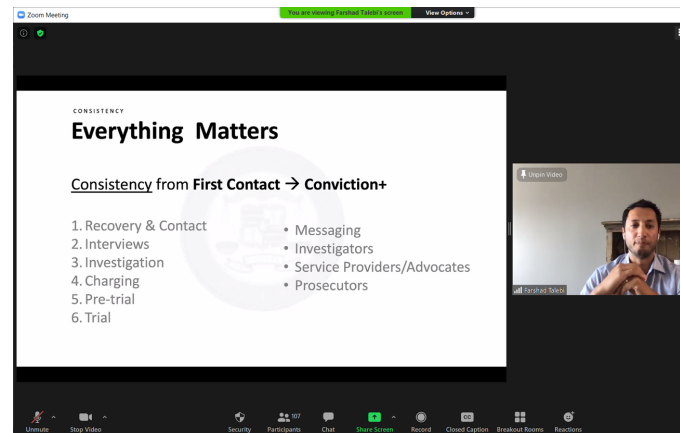
BUILDING ON THE STRENGTHS OF OUR COMMUNITY

The final day also highlighted Dr. Marie Vorsino of Parents and Children Together & Matthew Houck of YWCA of Kaua'i as they discussed how they practice prevention during a Reflection Hour Panel Discussion.

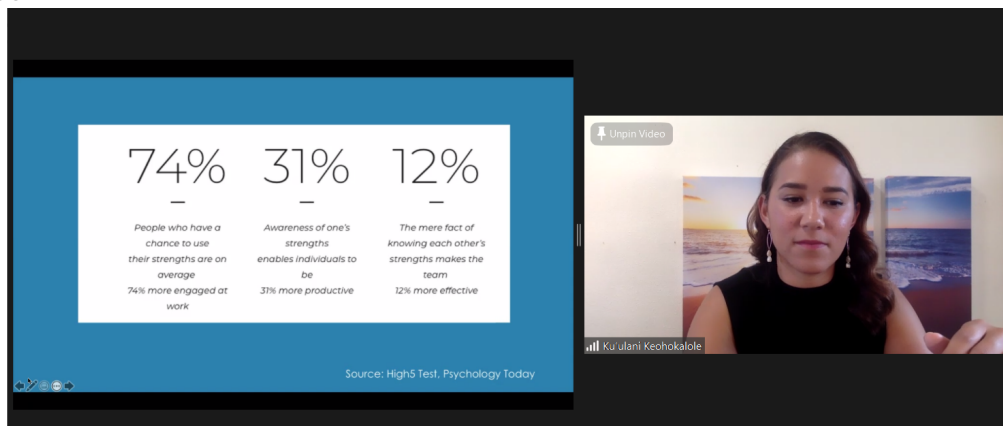
To help attendees prepare, the HSCADV sent conference bags in advance that included the *Building Beloved Community* workbook, a copy of *Trauma Stewardship* by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, affirmation cards, snacks, and "fun" items to keep them occupied such as Play-Doh and pipe cleaners.

Mahalo to the following organizations and individuals for their support in making this conference happen:

- **Funders** - Verizon, Family Violence Prevention Services Act, State of Hawai'i Dept. of Human Services
- **Supporters** - Red Pineapple, Island Popper, Bradley & Lily, State of Hawai'i Dept. of Public Safety SAVIN Program, Honblu, Professional Image
- **Volunteer** - Asa Swofford



"All of the speakers and presentations were very well chosen and presented, got tons of great and useful information. Everything went very smoothly and was very compatible with my days, everything was on time and greatly organized."



DVAM 2020

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HOW DID THE COALITION RAISE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS?

Although social distancing requirements this year reduced the number of events, we were proud to uplift the events of our member programs this month. From Facebook Live sessions led by the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and community town halls by the Domestic Violence Action Center to the Drive-Thru organized by Women Helping Women, HSCADV members found new and innovative ways to raise the awareness of domestic violence while also honoring survivors and their staff.

HSCADV's theme for the month, and beyond is **No Room for Violence (#NR4V)**. With this message, we're inviting our community-at-large to join the movement against gender-based violence and to take a stand against all forms of violence in our relationships, homes, and communities across the state. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that there is no room in our homes, communities or hearts for violence.



HSCADV'S most anticipated project was the **Bursting Bubbles** collaboration with Playbuilders of Hawai'i Theater Company. This four-episode project was created by and for survivors and is accompanied by panel discussions featuring local domestic violence experts. The first video, *Jenny's Story*, aired on 'Ōlelo and highlighted Jenny Delos Santos's journey to safety and healing. The panel included Cristina Arias, Vice President of Survivor Advocacy Services at the Domestic Violence Action Center, Dr. Steven Dick, Therapist of the YWCA of Kaua'i, and Chiyo Churchill, Program Director at Catholic Charities Hawai'i Counseling Center. Stay tuned for future episodes in this project!

HSCADV HIGHLIGHTS

- Honolulu Hale's lights turned purple in honor of DVAM.
- The #NoRoom4Violence Twitter chat engaged local & national organizations and community members to discuss DV in Hawai'i.
- HSCADV's six Instagram takeovers with member programs & local designers increased community engagement.
- HSCADV proclaimed October as DVAM with the state and all county governments.
- HSCADV staff were guest speakers at the 'Auamo Kuleana DV Summit & Brighter Together Candlelight Vigil.

PROGRAM UPDATES

STAR ADVOCATE - JASON ESTRELLA

The Island of Hawai'i YMCA Family Visitation Center Director, Jason Estrella, is this month's Star Advocate. He is being recognized for his initiative to take safeguards and support youth participants. Despite the temporary stoppage of some programs and minimized staff caused by COVID-19, Jason volunteered his own time during the evenings and weekends and conducted supervised video visits. He also managed to juggle that with volunteering for the Hawai'i Jiu Jitsu Foundation by educating staff about mandatory reporting policies of suspected abuse and safe practices to protect youth athletes from sexual and other forms of abuse. A true asset to the YMCA and the East Hawai'i community, Jason is commended for his hard work and dedication.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

WHW was recently awarded a Mary Kay Grant and Sanoë Ka'aihue was nominated for the Maui Nonprofit Directors Association's Nonprofit Executive Director of the Year Award. They hosted a "Go Purple Drive-Thru" Resource Fair for DVAM and collaborated with the Akaku radio station to air PSAs in October.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE OF KONA

NPK has been actively collaborating with Kosraean communities and promoting rental and food assistance while also operating prevention programs to help people cope with COVID-19 related stress. They also recently partnered with Ke Ala Ho'aka (KAHA) to provide training on adverse childhood experiences and cultural trauma.

CFS WEST HAWAII

CFS West Hawai'i is renovating their shelter and recently hired two new staff members (Tiana Aja & Courtney Boykin) who are in the Alternatives to Violence program to help process TROs.

ISLAND OF HAWAII YMCA

Through public support and recent donations, the visitation program has been doing consistent supervised video conferencing between parents and children. The YMCA Men's International membership also donated six new iPads for this program.

CFS O'AHU

CFS reports more male survivors calling to the CFS crisis line. In response, they started a new support group for male survivors.

Participants attend sessions through Zoom and so far there has been increased interest in the group and success.

CFS is also working with the Partners In Care Coordinated Entry System (CES) to develop a comparable database to the HMIS to address the housing needs of clients. This system serves as a conduit for several community organizations to collaborate and find permanent housing for the homeless.

The organization is also opening a Family Center in downtown Chinatown on O'ahu.

PAU VIOLENCE

PAU Violence recently celebrated a successful DVAM where they partnered with various groups within the UH system for virtual events and continued training for faculty, staff, and students. They also moved their bystander intervention training to a virtual format which includes sessions on dating violence and sexual assault.

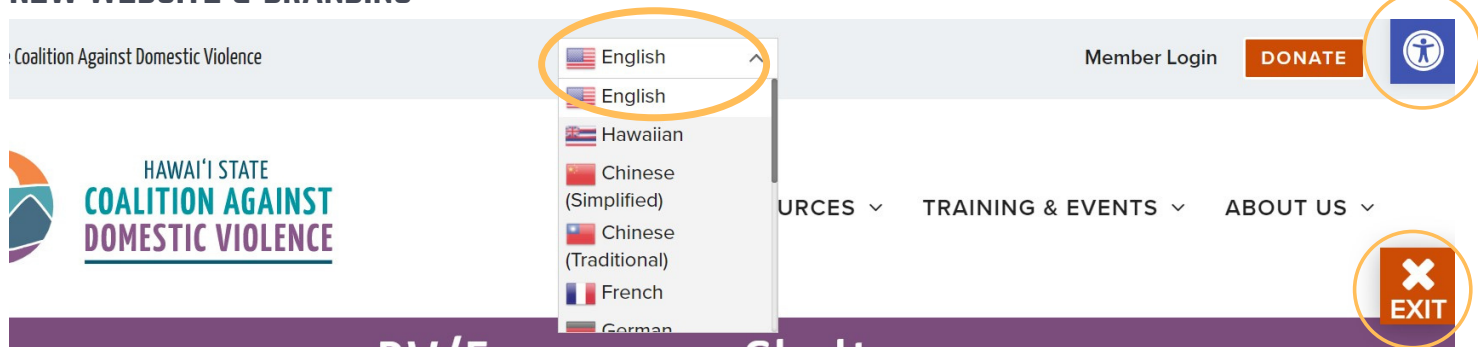
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

Legal Aid has been receiving many unemployment and housing/eviction cases.

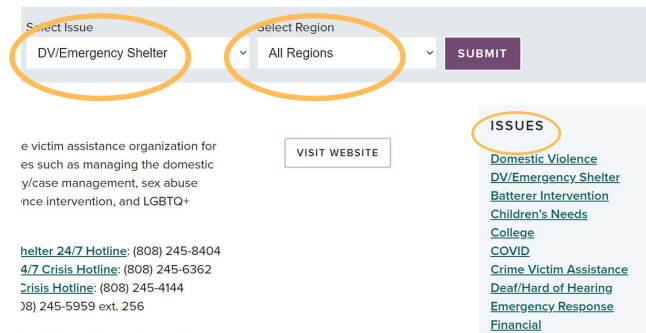
To help ease confusion about available resources, Legal Aid has been regularly releasing flyers and information about programs on their website in several languages.

COALITION NEWS

NEW WEBSITE & BRANDING



Go to the top menu right corner of our website to check out new digital accessibility features., change the language, and safely close the website and exit.



Search for resources by filtering them by specific issue and/or region.

HSCADV.org now includes digital accessibility features such as allowing visitors to view the website in grayscale and change the font sizes to make it more readable. It also includes language access in fifteen languages. The website was also updated for visitors to find the resources they need faster by filtering them by issue and/or region.

COVID-19

Coalition staff continue to work from home and support survivors and their families seeking help and referrals and member program staff. In response to the needs of member programs, HSCADV was able to successfully advocate for \$1.4 million in CARES Act funding and provide the following webinars and collaborations:

- **The Cost of Caring: Why Self-Care Matters?** - Sharon Simms, MSW CPC
- **Navigating Hawaii's Childcare Subsidies** - Hawaii Children's Action Network, Childcare Connections Hawaii'i, People Attentive to Children
- **Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (SAVIN)** - Hawaii Dept. of Public Safety

We continue to work with the State of Hawai'i Judiciary and the Center for Court Innovation (CCI) on the revision of the state's Batterer Intervention Program Standards. CCI successfully executed several surveys and focus groups of service providers and community programs which culminated in a three-part training series: Enhancing Holistic Abusive Partner Intervention Responses in Hawai'i.



HSCADV funded Chromebooks and cellphones to facilitate telehealth and distance learning in shelters (with Da Biz as guard cat).

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET TO KNOW THE COALITION



KELLY MUSSELMAN

In September, Kelly and her family relocated to the continent. We are grateful for Kelly's service and contribution as the Coalition as the Training and Technical Assistance Director and were sad to see her go. Kelly played a key role during the Coalition's transition in the last several years and was responsible for the success of the Lyft and Fly to Freedom programs, transition to Coalition Manager, and statewide needs assessment. She also led the planning and execution of this year's conference.



MATĀPUNA LEVENSON

Please welcome Matāpuna Levenson to the HSCADV 'ohana as the new Training and Technical Assistance Director. We are excited for member programs to get to know Matāpuna.

Matāpuna is a recent graduate of the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and former victim advocate who has served as a community organizer on several boards and commissions. Born in American Samoa and raised on O'ahu's North Shore, Matāpuna now lives in Waimea on the Big Island with her husband, son, and brother.



CHELSEY STEWART

Chelsey Stewart has been promoted to Training and Technical Assistance Specialist where she will focus on helping to develop and coordinate the Coalition's training curricula and events. She began her work at the Coalition in February 2020 as the Member Services Associate.