Hawaiʻi Domestic Violence Policy Agenda 2024
INTRODUCTION

We are proud to present the second annual Hawai‘i Domestic Violence Policy Agenda published by the Hawai‘i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV). This agenda reflects the input and priorities of domestic violence service providers statewide and allied coalition members.

Domestic violence does not occur in a silo and requires a systemic approach beyond a criminal justice response. Survivors face many barriers to safety such as access to childcare, affordable housing, and economic security. We’re grateful to work in collaboration with our peers to advance these important issues for Hawai‘i. HSCADV supports all the initiatives listed in the agenda. Each initiative includes a lead organization that serves as the primary point of contact for advocacy and references any other agendas or packages in which it may be included.

ABOUT HSCADV

HSCADV is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to address the social, political, and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities. We envision a Hawai‘i where all individuals and families thrive and live free from violence.

What We Do

- Foster partnerships and create trusting relationships with community partners
- Increase awareness of domestic violence through outreach and prevention education
- Conduct research and analyze data to identify the needs of survivors and service providers
- Develop the capacity of service providers to address the needs of survivors and their families through training and technical assistance
- Advocate for social justice and change through public policy and community action

Our Members

We are a coalition comprised of 27 domestic violence programs within 19 organizations.

- Catholic Charities Hawai‘i
- Child & Family Service
- Domestic Violence Action Center
- EPIC ‘Ohana
- Family Promise of Hawai‘i
- Hawai‘i YMCA Family Visitation Center
- Hawai‘i Health and Harm Reduction Center
- Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i Market
- Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i
- LoKahi Treatment Centers
- Mālama Pono Kohala
- Neighborhood Place of Kona
- Parents and Children Together
- PAU Violence (University of Hawai‘i)
- Salvation Army Family Treatment Services
- Victim/Witness Kōkua Services (Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney)
- Women Helping Women
- Women In Need
- YWCA Kaua‘i
KEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATA

NATIONAL¹

1 in 3 women
1 in 4 men
54% transgender²
34.8% women
30.6% men

have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime

HAWAIʻI

Prevalence by County⁴
Maui County: 17.8%
Hawaiʻi County: 14.9%
Kauaʻi County: 13.8%
City and County of Honolulu: 11.9%

In a Single Day...

2022 Domestic Violence Counts⁵
Domestic violence programs in Hawaiʻi
served 847 survivors
received 81 hotline calls
unable to meet 51 requests for services*

2023 Oʻahu Point In Time Count⁶
Domestic violence survivors accounted for
23% of all sheltered and unsheltered adults and unaccompanied minors surveyed†
13% of total Point in Time population

*approximately 53% of the requests were for emergency shelter and other housing

†sheltered = staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or Vet Safe Haven; unsheltered = staying on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation

Intimate Partner Violence in the University of Hawaiʻi System⁷
18.5% of students reported experiencing intimate partner violence while enrolled in the University of Hawaiʻi system

Stalking³
1 in 5 women (22.6%) have reported experiencing stalking by a current or former intimate partner

List of references can be found on page 7 of the policy agenda.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Litigation Abuse of Domestic Victims
Lead and Package: Hawai’i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (Hawai’i Children’s Policy Agenda)

Stops abusive and controlling litigation—where an abuser will take a person, their friends, and family to court over and over again, to control, harass, intimidate, coerce, and impoverish the survivor. Gives the courts the options to recognize and respond to controlling abusive litigation for domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence survivors. If found to be an abusive litigant, the courts can order financial compensation to survivors for lost wages, childcare, transportation, court fees, and attorney fees. Additionally, abusive litigants will be subject to future prefiling requirements.

Waiver for Mediation in Paternity Cases for Survivors of Domestic Violence
Lead: Hawai’i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Removes the requirement to engage in mediation in paternity cases. If a survivor chooses mediation, this legislation allows them to have a supporting person attend with them, including but not limited to an attorney or an advocate.

CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE

Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit Fix
Lead and Package: Hawai’i Children’s Action Network Speaks! (Hawai’i Children’s Policy Agenda)

Increases the percent of child and dependent care expenses that can be claimed, allowing more taxpayers to benefit from the increase that lawmakers passed last session.

Child Care Worker Wage Supplement Program
Lead and Package: Hawai’i Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance (Hawai’i Children’s Policy Agenda)

Establishes a permanent wage supplement program to improve the recruitment and retention of early childhood care and education professionals and provide sustained state funding after federal relief funding ends.

Mental Health Awareness in Schools
Lead and Package: Hawai’i Youth Services Network (Hawai’i Children’s Policy Agenda)

Youth recommendation from the 2023 Hawai’i Children and Youth Summit. Schools in Hawai’i should have a class that educates students about the importance and seriousness of mental health issues.
2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Paid Family Leave
Lead and Package: Hawai‘i Children’s Action Network Speaks! (2024 Working Families Caucus Package, Hawai‘i Children’s Policy Agenda)

Provides working families with paid time off from work to care for and bond with a new child or to address caregiving needs for loved ones. Also provides paid safe leave to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Paid Sick Leave
Lead and Package: Working Families Coalition (2024 Working Families Caucus Package)

Provides paid sick leave to all of Hawai‘i’s workers.

SNAP Income Eligibility Cliff
Lead and Package: Working Families Coalition (2024 Working Families Caucus Package)

Eliminating the SNAP income eligibility cliff for working families.

HOUSING

Conveyance Tax
Lead: Hawai‘i Housing Affordability Coalition

Increases tax on sales of homes over a specified amount. In addition, this removes caps on special funds such as the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and Land Use Conservation Fund and creates an allocation of this tax to a Homeless Services fund.

Landlord/Tenant Mediation and Rent Relief
Lead: Hawai‘i Housing Affordability Coalition

Establishes a pre-litigation mediation pilot program that requires landlords to participate in mediation before filing an action for summary possession. Appropriates funds for a pre-litigation mediation pilot program. Creates and appropriates funds for an emergency rent relief program.

Empty Homes Tax (City and County of Honolulu)
Lead: Hawai‘i Housing Affordability Coalition

Creates a tax applied to vacant properties that are not used as a principal residence for an O‘ahu resident for at least 6 months of the year. Appropriates funds into the county’s affordable housing trust.
HSCADV POLICY PLATFORM

HSCADV takes a systematic approach to assessing and preventing domestic violence, as effects can span a lifetime and even many generations. We aim to increase prevention efforts and reduce revictimization while connecting survivors to relevant resources aiding autonomy. We conduct these efforts in a trauma-informed manner to serve each person’s individual needs and avoid re-traumatization. The following is a list of HSCADV’s positions on certain legislative areas of interest relating to domestic violence.

**Accountability for Abusive Actions**
We **oppose** any legislation that does not hold those who cause harm accountable.

**Confidentiality**
We **oppose** any legislation that weakens current confidentiality and privilege statutes or causes the potential to breach confidentiality or endanger survivors, their families, or the programs that serve them.

**Economic Justice**
We **support** efforts that promote the economic stability of survivors and their families.

**Education and Prevention**
We **encourage** funding of prevention efforts to reduce violence and promote community healing.

**Firearms**
We work to address firearm legislation that indirectly and directly impacts survivors and their families.

**Funding**
We **support** efforts to increase funding for domestic violence services that reflect the true cost of providing services to the community.

**Housing**
We **support** policies that create safe and affordable housing for survivors.

**Immigration**
We **support** policies that affirm the constitutional protections of every person, regardless of documentation or immigration status. We also promote trauma-informed and culturally responsive measures that meet the needs of all immigrant survivors.

**LGBTQ+**
We recognize that several aspects of domestic violence are unique to the LGBTQ+ community which may make someone less likely to seek help. We **support** legislation that increases awareness, prevention, and intervention of domestic violence in this population and increases the competent services available to them.

**Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Filipino, and Indigenous Persons**
We recognize that indigenous populations and people of color are at an increased risk of experiencing domestic violence compared to non-indigenous counterparts. We **support** legislation for the advancement of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Filipino communities and strive to reverse the effects of historical trauma, colonization, imperialism, and the dispossession of land, as it pertains to domestic violence survivors.

**Racial Equity**
We **support** efforts that center the needs of those impacted by racism.

**Reproductive Justice**
We **support** legislation that promotes access to contraception, abortion, and reproductive healthcare for survivors.

**Sexual Assault**
We recognize the unique intersection between domestic violence and sexual assault. We **support** efforts to reduce the prevalence of and improve survivor-centered responses to sexual assault.
Domestic Violence Data References


