

# Hawai'i Domestic Violence Policy Agenda 2024



HAWAI'I STATE  
**COALITION AGAINST  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

# INTRODUCTION

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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

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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

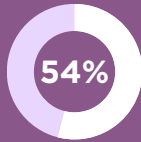
### Our Members

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
- Lo'kahi 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 Ko'kua Services (Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney)
- Women Helping Women
- Women In Need
- YWCA Kaua'i

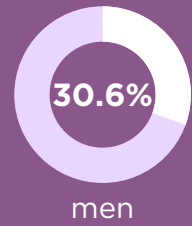
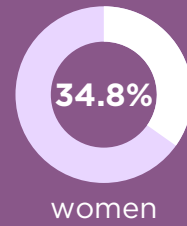
# KEY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DATA

## NATIONAL<sup>1</sup>



transgender<sup>2</sup>

## In Hawai'i...<sup>3</sup>



have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime

## HAWAII

### Prevalence by County<sup>4</sup>

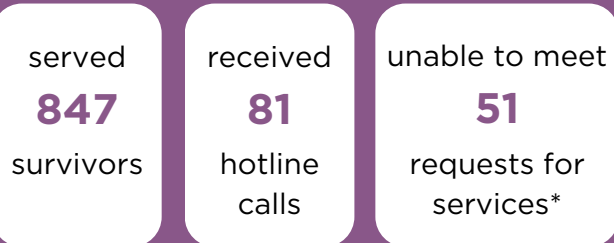
Maui County: 17.8%  
 Hawai'i County: 14.9%  
 Kaua'i County: 13.8%  
 City and County of Honolulu: 11.9%



### In a Single Day...

#### 2022 Domestic Violence Counts<sup>5</sup>

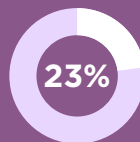
Domestic violence programs in Hawai'i



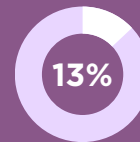
\*approximately 53% of the requests were for emergency shelter and other housing

#### 2023 O'ahu Point In Time Count<sup>6</sup>

Domestic violence survivors accounted for



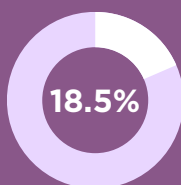
of all sheltered and unsheltered adults and unaccompanied minors surveyed†



of total Point in Time population

†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 Hawai'i System<sup>7</sup>



of students reported experiencing intimate partner violence while enrolled in the University of Hawai'i system

### Stalking<sup>3</sup>



**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.

# 2024 POLICY PRIORITIES

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## 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

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## 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

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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

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2. James, S.E., Herman, J.L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & Anafi, M. (2016). The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Washington, DC: National Center for Transgender Equality. <https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf>
3. Smith, S.G., Khatiwada, S., Richardson, L., Basile, K.C., Friar, N.W., Chen, J., Zhang Kudon, H., & Leemis, R.W. (2023). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2016/2017 State Report. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs/NISVS-2016-2017-State-Report-508.pdf>
4. Vergara, R., Hayes, D., Higashi, J., Liang, S., Kaiwi, H., Arakaki, K. (2018). Violence Between Intimate Partners in Hawai'i Across the Life Span. Data from BFRSS, PRAMS, and YRBS. Honolulu (HI): Hawai'i State Department of Health, Family Health Services Division. [https://health.hawaii.gov/fhsd/files/2019/02/IPV-Fact-Sheet\\_2018\\_FINAL\\_01-29-19-1.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/fhsd/files/2019/02/IPV-Fact-Sheet_2018_FINAL_01-29-19-1.pdf)
5. National Network to End Domestic Violence (2023). 17th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report. Washington, DC. <https://NNEDV.org/DVCounts>
6. Partners In Care O'ahu Continuum of Care. (2023). Point in Time Count 2023 Comprehensive Report. <https://www.partnersincareoahu.org/news/2023-oahu-point-in-time-count-community-report-released>
7. Loui, P.M., Fisher, B.S., & Martin, S.L. (2021). 2021 Report on University of Hawai'i Student Campus Climate Survey on Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence. <https://www.hawaii.edu/titleix/documents/12871>

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