

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII

YEAR 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

"BUILDING A JUST SOCIETY"





Our Vision

"Building a Just Society"

Our Mission

The mission of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is to address critical legal needs through high quality legal advocacy, outreach, and education in pursuit of fairness and justice.

OUR FOUNDER

JUDGE BETTY M. VITOUSEK

Betty Belle Morrison was born in Wenatchee, WA. in 1919. After graduating from Lewis and Clark High School, she attended the University of Washington, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1940.

That year she traveled by ship to Japan as a delegate of the American Student Conference. While on board, she met and became friends with Roy Vitousek of Honolulu. After the war, they reconnected and were married in December 1945.

They attended law school at Stanford University and graduated together in 1948.

After graduating from Stanford, Judge Vitousek practiced adoption law for a number of years. She conducted the research which led to the **formation of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i**. She became the first executive director of the Hawaii State Bar Association and worked with Judges Gerald Corbett and Samuel King to pass legislation establishing Family Courts in Hawaii, only the second state to do so.

In 1970, Gov. John A. Burns appointed Judge Vitousek to the newly created Family Court of the First Circuit, and was named Senior Administrative Judge of the Family Court in 1977.

Judge Vitousek was an early advocate of mediation, and also started "Divorce Experience," to help divorcing couples to understand the process, both legally as well as emotionally. Today the program is called "Kids First" and is mandatory for couples with children.

Judge Vitousek's influence extended beyond Hawaii. She served as national president of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, was named a delegate to the White House Conference on Children, and served on the board of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court judges.

Judge Vitousek retired from Family Court in 1988, and passed away on August 28, 2017, at the age of 98.

"At least as long ago as thirty years, many citizens of this community recognized the need for legal advice or service to those persons worthy of help but without means to secure it..."

Betty M. Vitousek
Mrs. Betty M. Vitousek





MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

E lauhoe mai na wa'a; i ke kā, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke kā; pae aku i ka 'āina

Everybody paddles the canoes together; bail and paddle, paddle and bail, and the shore is reached.

The end of March began a new reality for Legal Aid. Over the course of a few days, our operations went remote and we rose to the challenge to ensure that our clients still had access to justice.

We did not stop and have not stopped providing civil legal services across the state to those most in need.

Our outreach team continued to serve our houseless neighbors, and our intake hotline continued to take calls for those in need. Our kūpuna legal services staff made social distanced home visits so kūpuna did not need to leave their homes to get vital documents completed. In the height of the pandemic, our attorneys continued to go to court to represent clients in restraining orders for protection or to keep a landlord from locking someone out.

The shutdown of our state's economy caused unprecedented demand for government services like unemployment and public assistance as well as a growing need for resources to understand the latest emergency order from the Governor as it impacted the possibility of eviction or to understand new federal programs and rules.

Uniquely situated to assist, Legal Aid staff quickly pulled together resources that explained the latest on eviction moratoriums and how to apply for unemployment. Resources were translated and made accessible to communities across the state. Our website resources, brochures, and online events helped countless residents in Hawai'i. We also advocated for language access in unemployment and spoke out on behalf of tenants facing illegal attempts at eviction.

As we look toward the future, we know that it will take time for our economy to recover and that for many facing economic hardship, eviction, debt, and family crisis, accessing safety net services like Legal Aid will be a first time experience. But, we will be here and will continue to address these issues together.

Together we have bailed and paddled, paddled and bailed, and working together we continue to work to build a just society.

Malama pono,

M. NALANI FUJIMORI KAINA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT

JOSEPH BOIVIN
PRESIDENT, VETERAN ENERGY PACIFIC, LLC

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is at the forefront of some of Hawaii's greatest challenges. Challenges such as homelessness, unemployment, evictions and foreclosures, child safety, benefits and other hardships faced by members of our communities. Every day Legal Aid helps those who have no other recourse, in order to achieve a fair and just outcome. In doing so, Legal Aid improves lives and strengthens our communities one by one, family by family.

In a typical year, Legal Aid receives over 9,000 inquiries and takes on more than 6,500 cases. But due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the number of inquiries has increased to more than 12,000, on an annualized basis, which is stretching all available resources. Legal Aid responded to this new operating environment by working longer hours, implementing flex schedules and developing new client engagement protocols and procedures to ensure the safety of those we serve and our team.

At some point, the pandemic will ease and a new normal will emerge, but there will be a lasting impact on those affected by the virus and on our communities. Thus, even after the virus subsides, the need for legal aid services is likely to remain at elevated levels for the foreseeable future.

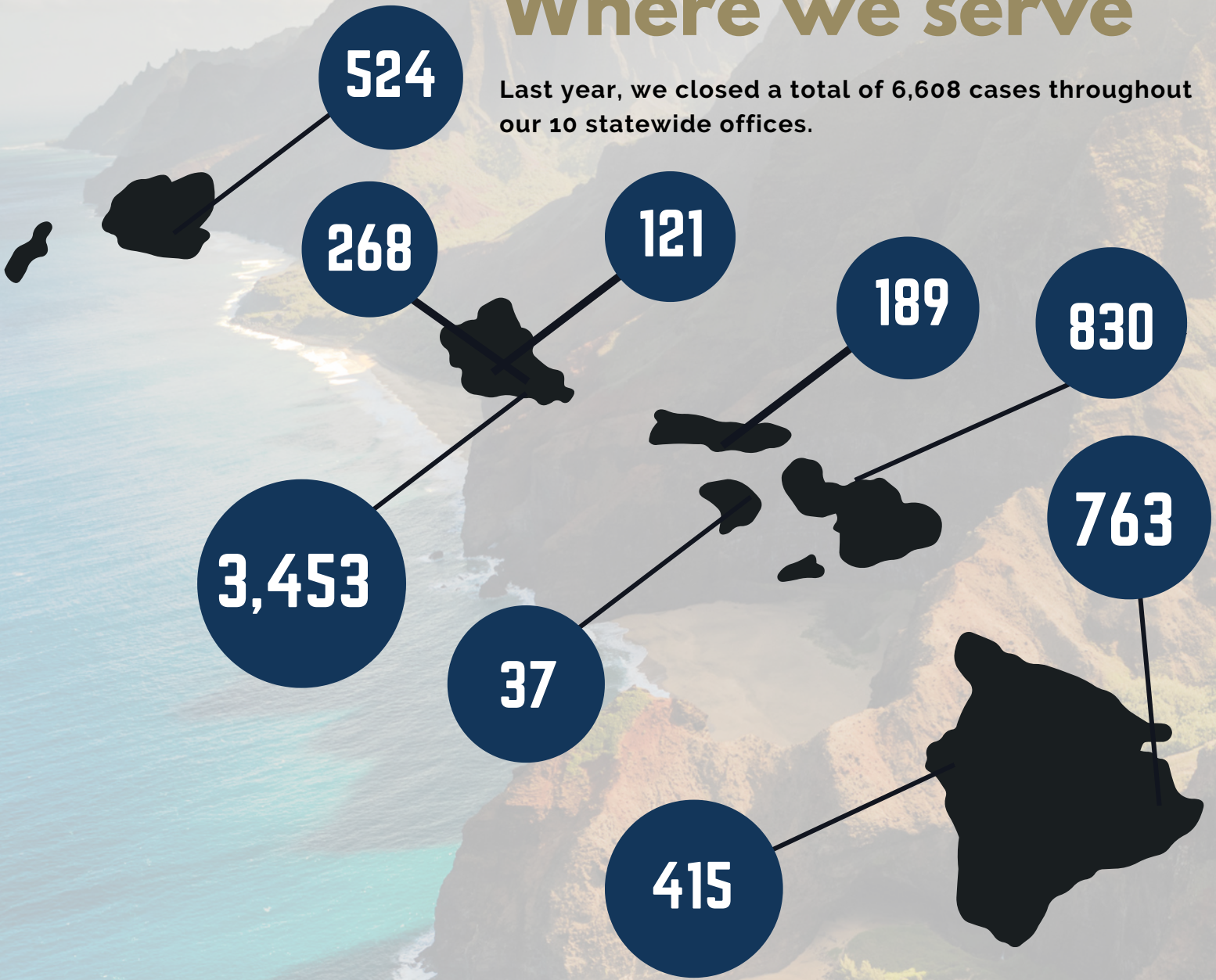
Effective client engagement practices will become even more important as will the expansion of funding sources beyond traditional state and federal grants given budgetary constraints.

"In a typical year, Legal Aid receives over 9,000 inquiries... due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the number of inquiries has increased to more than 12,000."

The economic and social health of a community is the responsibility of everyone who lives within that community. It is therefore my hope to see increased engagement by our business community to support key organizational initiatives, provide pro-bono services or make a direct charitable contribution to accelerate Legal Aid's mission.

Where we serve

Last year, we closed a total of 6,608 cases throughout our 10 statewide offices.



"As chair of the Strategic Planning and Priority Setting Committee, I work with Legal Aid to focus on having a positive impact on what the community really needs, especially for urgent and growing issues such as homelessness. One area that deeply resonates with me is Legal Aid's role in preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place. The work being done to address landlord and tenant issues and foreclosures, are all critical in keeping families off the streets."

- Naomi Fujimoto, Board Member Since 1999

Highlights

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i is committed to serving the vulnerable in our community. Over the past year, we helped to stabilize 1,805 families, 798 individuals maintain their economic security, and helped protect 939 seniors.

MORE THAN

20,000
LIVES IMPACTED

1,805
CASES

Stabilizing Families

939
CASES

Protecting Seniors

798
CASES

Maintaining
Economic Security



**"Legal Aid is there
to provide help
whenever you're
lost. I felt lost"**

- HERMELEEN AMOND

Who we serve

23.9%

Native Hawaiian

23.3%

Living with family
and friends


18.91%

Reported domestic
violence

15.11%

Homeless, living in a
homeless shelter, or in
transitional housing

Helping families.




I was overwhelmed on how I would receive help on becoming a legal guardian of my minor siblings. In 2018 we lost our older brother. In April 2019 we lost our father and our mother in December 2019. I lived in Waiānae and my siblings were living in Kalihi. All I knew was to care for my siblings.

Legal Aid helped me with the petition for legal guardianship and get court fees waived. Due to Legal Aid's help I was granted unlimited legal guardianship for my minor siblings. With set backs and many court hearings being cancelled due to Covid-19, I now can address their needs legally (medical, schooling, therapy, and etc.).

I want people to know that Legal Aid helps individuals and families like me at times of need.

J. Rosario, 34 years-old



Forever grateful.



In 1991 I separated from my first husband, and because we owned a small business and he was the talent, I was left to look for a job. Because we had no real assets to split, it should have been a quick process, but my husband was not willing to sign the divorce papers for almost 2 years.

I was struggling to provide health insurance and as much as I resisted, I was advised to apply for food stamps and Medicaid for my son.

It broke me but I did it for a few months and it helped me get on my feet. Your staff reminded me that I paid into a system that is a safety net for exactly my situation. It was humbling.

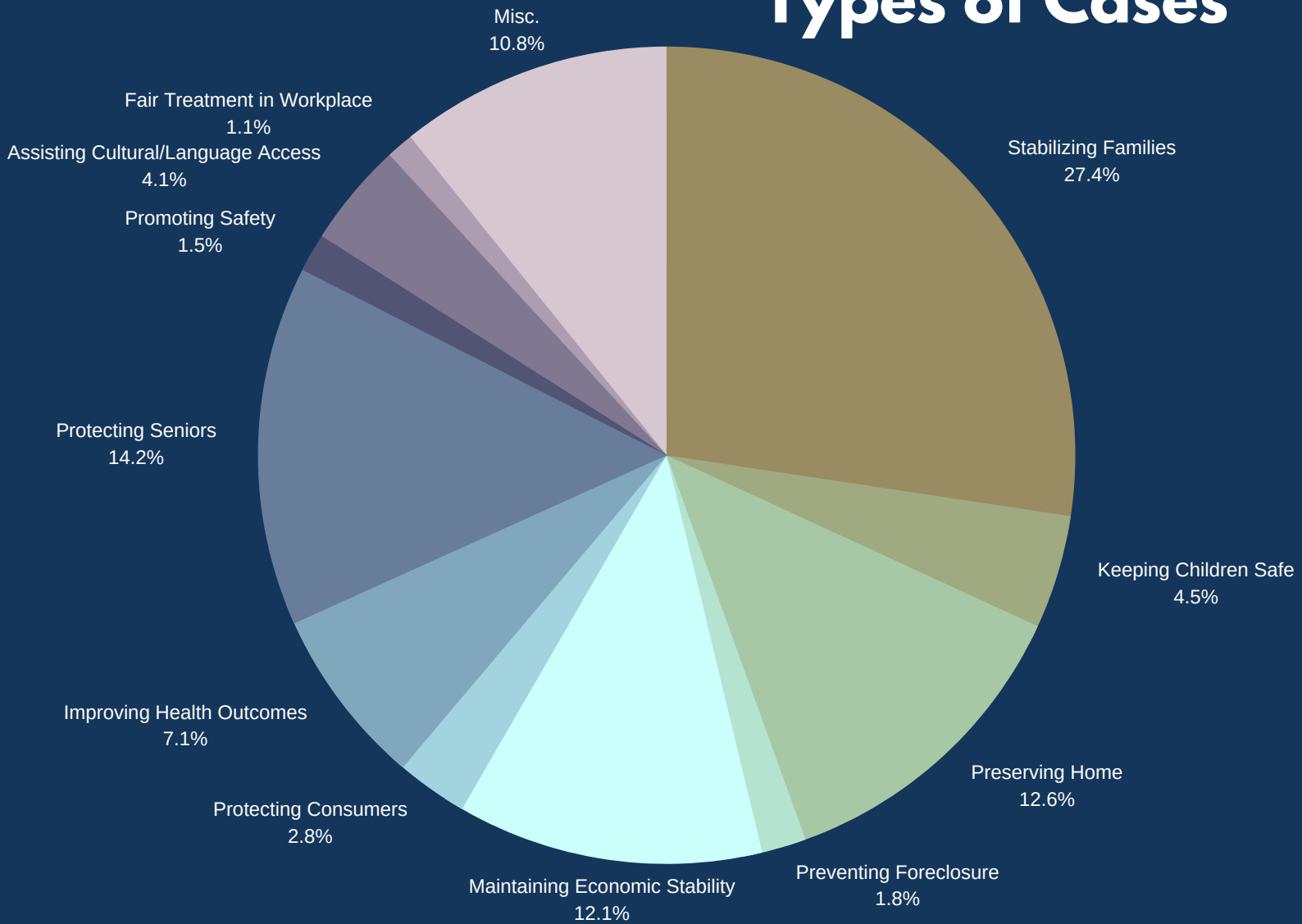
During that time I enrolled in a community college to complete my bachelors degree. I later remarried, moved to Oregon for 16 years for my husband's job, and I started a healthcare consulting business. We moved back to Hawai'i 7 years ago when we became empty-nesters. This month is my 17th year in business and I have employees in 3 states including Hawai'i.

I have referred women in domestic violence situations to seek help from your organization over the years. You are the safety net for so many. It was my pleasure to be able to donate during these trying times when DV victims need our help more than ever.

I will forever be grateful to the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i for helping me in my greatest time of need.

Julie McGovern

Types of Cases



AS OUR COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO FEEL THE DEEP IMPACT OF COVID-19 ECONOMICALLY, PHYSICALLY, AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY, THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL LEGAL SERVICES AND OUTREACH TO ENSURE THAT OUR MOST VULNERABLE FAMILIES ARE PROTECTED DURING UNCERTAIN TIMES.

OUR STAFF

100 Strong, throughout Hawai'i



"Helping people with their first step..."

The most rewarding thing about my work is helping people with their first step. Getting vital documents is one of the first steps to having an identity in this society. After the first step, people are able to apply for jobs, work, support their families, and build lives for themselves. It's inspiring.

I am driven to help others. Having been a prior service member, that aspect of being able to help others under any circumstance is something that I carry today. The feeling of seeing someone benefit directly through my service is such a great feeling. It is humbling. I know I am making a difference in the community and my life has purpose.

- Emil R.



" I have been with Legal Aid for 40 years - we help change people's lives for the better everyday."

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is really a special place. I have been working here for 40 years and have seen firsthand how our work changes people's lives for the better everyday. So many of the clients come back over the years to thank Legal Aid because they're so deeply grateful. That's what we do, that's what Legal Aid does... we help the community and make a difference in somebody's life.

- Sarah R.



"We would call her my forever client."

One of the most memorable experiences I've had was helping an elderly client on Maui with her TRO representation, consumer issues, and intervening in her grand-daughter's child welfare case. We were able to get her appointed as her grand-daughter's legal guardian, but unfortunately she passed away shortly after completing her case.

The last time I saw her, she shared that she was once married to a famous rock band member, and was writing her memoir. We would call her my forever client.

I would like the community to know that the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii - Maui office is like home. We are a tight-knit group, committed to serving those in need on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

- Yukari M.



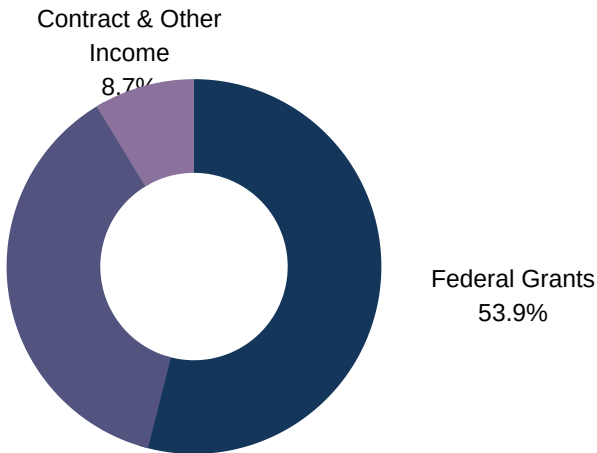
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

STATEMENT OF REVENUES

DOLLARS RECEIVED (IN 000s)

Federal Grants	\$3,968
State Grants	\$2,748
Contract and Other Income	\$640
Total	\$7,357



STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

DOLLARS SPENT (IN 000s)

Salaries - Attorneys & Paralegals	\$3,555
Salaries - Management & General	\$968
Benefits	\$1,441
Total Salaries and Benefits	\$5,964
Other Expenses	\$1,239

BALANCE SHEET 6/30/2020 (IN 000s)

ASSETS	\$6,646
LIABILITIES	\$1,412
NET ASSETS	
Without Donor Restrictions	\$4,264
With Donor Restrictions	\$970
Total Net Assets	\$5,234



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEADERSHIP

Joseph Boivin, *President*
Veteran Energy Pacific, LLC

Blaine Rogers, *Vice President*
Dentons

Regan Iwao, *Treasurer*
Schlack Ito, LLC

Naomi Fujimoto, *Secretary*
Attorney at Law

Loel Kaikuaana
Community Director

Robin Kobayashi
Hawaiian Airlines

Andrew Levin
County of Hawaii

Jake Matson
Hawaii Gas

DIRECTORS

Catherine Aubuchon
Bronster Fujichaku Robbins

Lowell Chun-Hoon
King, Nakamura & Chun-Hoon

Michael Cruise
Leavitt Yamane & Soldner

Wattie Green
Community Director

Joanne Lo Grimes
Carlsmith Ball LLP

Lea Hennessy
Community Director

K. Alohilani Hue Sing
Community Director

Ian Jung
Belles Graham Proudfoot Wilson & Chun

Aldora Kahele
Community Director

Arsima Muller
Carlsmith Ball LLP

Gary Murai
County of Maui

Kurt Murao
Hawaiian Electric Industries

Kahiolani Papalimu
Community Director

Nainoa Seitz
Community Director

Vaimagalo Seto
Community Director

Vivian Skilling
Community Director

Jan Tamura
University of Hawai`i

Jodi Shin Yamamoto
Yamamoto Caliboso

Elijah Yip
Luminate Law

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are deeply grateful to these law firms, corporations, foundations, and individuals for their support of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and our core vision to build a just society.

Law Firm and Institutional Support

Kalaeloa Partners
 Dentons US LLP
 The Cades Foundation
 Bronster Fujichaku Robbins
 Hawaii Gas
 Yamamoto & Caliboso
 Marr Jones Wang LLP
 Central Union Church
 Women's League of Central Union Church
 Law Office of Howard K.K. Luke
 Hawaii Island United Way, Inc.

Jim Gagne
 Roland Galban
 Chuck Greenfield
 Scott Gronek
 Clyde Hall
 Susan Haruki
 Geraldine Hasegawa
 Dawn Henry
 Ted Hong
 Susan Ichinose
 Eva Inada
 Lynn Inafuku
 May Izumi
 Joan Jackson
 Jan Kagehiro
 James & Nalani Kaina
 Brent Kakesako
 Donna Kalama
 Jeff Kent
 Diana Kim
 Danelle Knapp
 Joseph Kobayashi
 Elizabeth Kuioka
 Corianne Lau
 Robert LeClair
 Kurt Leong
 Beverly Look
 Melody MacKenzie
 Malachy McNamara
 Ginger Mallard & John Daniel
 Ramiro Martinez
 Melanie May
 Julie McGovern
 Moilili Hongwanji Mission
 Gary Murai
 Connie & Albert Nahale'a
 Craig Nakamura

Shawn Nakoa
 Dennis Niles
 Alan and JoAnn Oshima
 Benton Pang
 Calvin Pang
 Vina Quick
 Richard Rapoza
 Adriana Reyes-Villanueva
 Emily Rivera
 Johannette Rowley
 Judith Sampson
 Eric Shroeder
 Joyce Shenna
 Kaela Shiigi
 Roy Shishido
 Sandy Shishido
 Sara Silver
 Jody St. Joseph
 Cynthia Stoldt
 Maata Taumalalo
 Jan Tamura
 R. Malia Taum-Deenik
 Lori Teranishi
 Vickie Teves
 Judith Egusa Trust
 Mel Uchida
 Douglas & Marilyn Ushijima
 Robin Uyeshiro & Donna Leong
 Elise von Dohlen
 Ryker Wada
 Donald Wilkerson
 Leslie Wilson
 Patrick Wong
 Darlene Yamauchi
 Elijah Yip
 Keith Young
 Joanna Zeigler

Individual Supporters

Ashley Agcaoili
 Justina Acevedo-Cross
 Sergio Alcubilla
 Kristen Apruzzese
 Lynda Arakawa
 Marjorie Au
 Gail Ayabe
 Christine & Chris Barteluca
 Ashlee Drake Berry
 Teresa Bill
 Eric Bonham
 Jean Campbell
 Jade Ching
 Philip Ching
 Gail Cosgrove
 Michael Cruise
 Malia Day
 Joni Domingues
 Alejandra Duque
 Burrelle Duvauchelle
 Uson and Lani Eward
 Robert Fricke
 Muriel Fujii

OUR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated volunteers for their time in supporting the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and our core vision to build a just society.

Aaron Masser	David James Jordan	Joy San Buenaventura	Nathaniel Higa	Tracy Jones
Adam N. Miller	David Raatz	Judith A. Schevtchuk	Nelson Kinoshita	Travis M. Agustin
Al Konishi	Derek Kobayashi	Judith Pavey	Nick Kacprowski	Travis T. Moon
Alana Peacott-Ricardos	Donna Payesko	Judy Neustadter Naone	Nicole Altman	Tred Eyerly
Alana Song	Dwayne Lerma	Justin Brackett	Paul Hamano	Trent Miyashiro
Allisha F. Marotz	Edward Fetzer	Kainani Collins	Paul Sato	Veronica A Nordyke
Alyssa Segawa	Eileen C. Zorc	Kayla M. Fajota	Peter Bresciani	Vlad Devens
Amy Self	Eileen Nims	Kelly Higa	Peter Kubota	Voltaire Gansit
Andrew Kennedy	Eric Elkind	Kelly Y. Uwaine	Peter Olson	Walter Hebblethwaite
Andrew Son	EZ Smith	Kelsey S. Yamaguchi	Rachel Zelman	Wendy Hanakahi
Arlette Harada	Forest Jenkins	Kenneth G. K. Hoo	Ray Hasegawa	Wil K. Yamamoto
Ashley C. Chinen	Francis Jung	Kevin C. Tongg	Rebecca Colvin	Will Tungol
Belinda Hughes	Frederick Macapinlac	Kevin Jenkins	Rebecca Michelle Salwin	William Bagasol
Ben Acob	Gary Murai	Kimberly Taniyama	Rechelle Anna Midori Barbour	Winston Wong
Ben Creps	Gerald Garcia	Kimi Ide-Foster	Regan Iwao	Yukari Murakami
Ben Fisher	Gilbert Doles	Kristi Keiko O'Heron	Remy Kealohiokailiwi Akina	
Ben Herren	Gina Gormley	Lahela Hite	Rex Y. Fujichaku	
Ben Pittenger	Gregory K. Schlais	Lance D Collins	Rio Kwan	
Bennett J. Chin	Hermann Heimgartner	Lanson Kupau	Robert Olson	
Bill Heflin	Ikaika Brennan Rawlins	Laura Cushman	Robert Triantos	
Bill Pannell	Inia M. Yevich	Laura Ozak	Roland Talon	
Bradley Scott Dixon	Jacky Mena	Laurel E. Pepe	Ronald Federizo	
Brit Barker	Jaime Tokioka	Lauren Akitake	Ronald Hung Wai Lum, Jr.	
Brooke H. Hunter	James Biven	Lauren K. Chun	Ronald Ibarra	
Bryant Zane	James Clark Glenn, IV	Leslee Matthews	Ronald Tang	
Calvin E. Young	Janice Heidt	Lindsay E. Orman	Ryan Summers Little	
Candace Hough	Jason Braswell	Lynda Arakawa	Sabrina M. Kawana	
Carlito P. Caliboso	Jeffrey Ng	Lynne T.T. Toyofuku	Sam Shnider	
Carol Kitaoka	Jen Ng	M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina	Samantha Chan	
Caroline Peters Belsom	Jen Wharton	Madisson Heinze	Sarah Frances Yan-ling Williams	
Casey T. Miyashiro	Jen Zelko-Schlueter	Maegan A. Ruggles	Sasha A. Hamada	
Cassie Bagay	Jennifer F. Chin	Magdalena Bajon	Scot Matayoshi	
Catherine A. Taschner	Jennifer Heimgartner	Maile Osika	Sean Baz	
Cecily D. M. Kaya	Jennifer Oana	Mark Van Pernis	Sean Hartlieb	
Charles McCreary	Jenny Nakamoto	Mathew J. Terry	Selina Rose Swatek	
Charles Murray	Jeremy Butterfield	Matt Sylva	Sergio Alcubilla	
Cheuk Fu Lui	Jeremy Kyle O'Steen	Matthew Caulfield Winter	Shan Wirt	
Chloe Maxine Reiko Fasi	Jessica Domingo	Matthew Evans	Shanlyn A.S. Park	
Christopher K. Hikida	Jill Hasegawa	Megan L. M. Lim	Shimpei Oki	
Christopher P. St. Sure	Jill Raznov	Megumi Sakae	Stanley Majka	
Claudia Shockley	Jo Kim	Melinda M. Weaver	Stephanie E.W. Thompson	
Craig Masuda	Joanna C. Zeigler	Melissa Toshiko Marushige	Stephen Frye	
Damir Kouliev	Joanna Sokolow	Melody Parker	Steve Brittan	
Daniel Cheng	Joanne Goya	Mia Obciana	Steven Strauss	
Daniel Kim	Joanne Hicks	Michael Kozak	Sue Vo Hansen	
Daniel Lam	Joelle B. Yamamoto	Michelle Oishi	Sunny S. Lee	
Daniel Mistak	John Kelly	Michi Momose	Susan Kim	
Daniel Peters	John Olson	Na Lan	Thomas Berger	
David J. Hoftiezer	Jordan Kealaikalani Inafuku	Nainoa J. Watson	Tim Partelow	
		Napoleon Taylor	Tom Hughes	