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Forum Summary - Legal Aid Society of Hawaii: Hawaii Self-Help Forms Project & Court Self-Help Centers

On October 9, Sergio Alcupilla, Director of External Relations and Elise von Dohlen, Director of Grants Management, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, presented a forum, *Hawaii Self-Help Forms Project & Court Self-Help Centers*. They reviewed the history, vision, mission, and services provided by Legal Aid as a context for the current self-help programs. Alcupilla explained that because legal language may be daunting, two Access to Justice Rooms on Oahu have been established to provide legal advice and short term legal services. The four Court Self-Help Centers on the neighbor islands help bridge the gap between need and service by offering legal information. Assistance offered at these sites supports clients as they navigate an unfamiliar process. By partnering with libraries, Legal Aid has expanded access to resources to even more clients in need of services.



Next, von Dohlen demonstrated the Hawaii Self-Help Interactive Forms project. The user-friendly program includes forms for divorce, security deposit demands, advanced health care directives, and identity theft. An avatar asks the user a series of questions in an interactive interview. Upon completion of the interview, the document is automated. The user may save answers to add information at a later time or edit the document. Links to legal information brochures are offered during the interview as resources. Legal Aid also provides a Live Help chat feature on select days to support the technology. The interactive forms may be accessed through the *self-help court forms* tab at the [Judiciary website](#), the [Hawaii State Public Library electronic resources page](#), and through a link on the [Legal Aid website](#).

“One of the best ways to persuade others is with your ears — by listening to them.” —
Dean Rusk

We welcome your input: Please send us ideas for topics that you would like to have discussed in upcoming forums and issues of the *ADR Times*. We also welcome your insights from your experiences in mediation, facilitation, negotiation, and other ADR processes so we may share them with our readers. We look forward to hearing from you and to providing a forum for the exchange of ideas.
