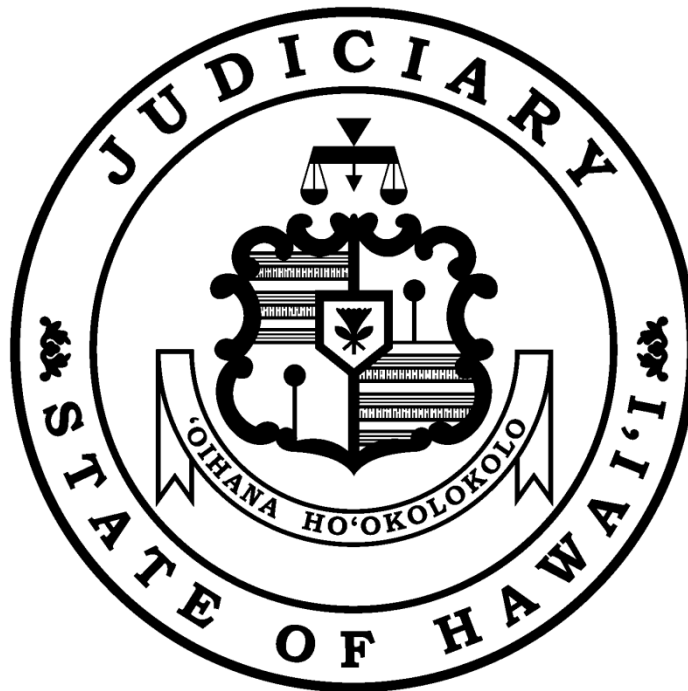


REPORTS TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SUBMITTED BY

THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII



DECEMBER 2013

REPORTS TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS
THE JUDICIARY, STATE OF HAWAII

DECEMBER 2013

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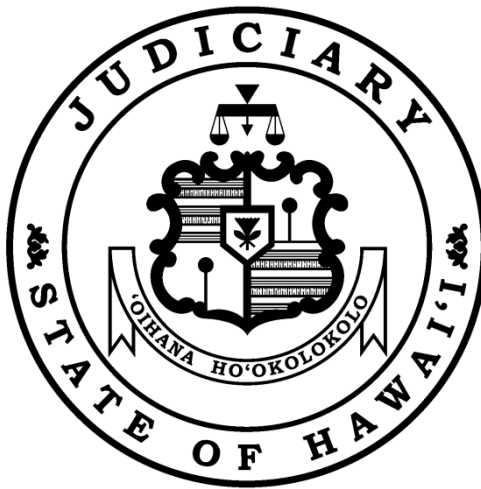
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

ON

ACT 40, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2004

HRS §601-21

**A Report on Statewide Substance Abuse Treatment
Monitoring Program**



Prepared by:

**Adult Client Services Branch, First Circuit
The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

December 2013

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
ON
ACT 40, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2004
HRS § 601-21**

**A Report on Statewide Substance Abuse Treatment
Monitoring Program**

HRS § 601-21 requires the following of the Judiciary: (a) to collect data in accordance with section 321-192.5 from any circuit court, adult probation, and any provider of substance abuse treatment that provides substance abuse treatment to persons served through public funds administered by the judiciary; (b) to include in the contract with any treatment provider all criteria established by the department of health pursuant to section 321-192.5 to determine whether the treatment provider is achieving success in treating individuals with substance abuse.

The Judiciary's efforts to comply with the above-referenced statute are outlined below.

- The Judiciary continues to include language in its Requests for Proposals and existing contracts with substance abuse treatment providers to hold programs accountable for complying with Department of Health (DOH) criteria to determine success in treating individuals with substance abuse.
- The Judiciary received available data taken from the Web Infrastructure for Treatment Services (WITS) information system. Reports from WITS are attached. It is noted that some of the Judiciary's contracted providers were not providers of the DOH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD), thus numbers were taken for these programs from Caseload Explorer (CE), the Judiciary statewide Adult Client Services Branch (ACSB) case and management information system for probation. These statistics must be considered preliminary as ACSB still needs to ensure that all program data is entered on a timely manner.

It is noted that the data provided by ADAD is based on information provided by treatment providers. Some of this information does not match that contained in CE, and WITS administrators are currently taking steps to clarify data fields to ensure that data is accurate. ACSB is also working to increase increase data entry accuracy for probationers by ensuring that data is entered and interpreted in a consistent manner.

The DOH's ADAD/WITS reported data in the tables shown below. The tables do not provide all the data requested by Act 40. However, the reports indicate that efforts are being made to collect information. Both ADAD and the Judiciary have experienced funding cuts that have limited staff time to maintain the data bases. Similarly, training opportunities are minimal. The Judiciary desires to make enhancements to CE to more fully provide required reports, but the lack of funding has hampered work in this area.

ACSB statewide, however, is willing to work with ADAD to more effectively pursue compliance with the reporting requirements of HRS § 601-21.

The following FY 13 statewide probation data was also obtained from CE:

- 631 unduplicated adults entered 644 programs with 718 admits in FY 13. The higher number of admits reflects clients being admitted to treatment more than once during the year.
- 3,367 offenders were active in treatment during the same year.
- Of the 3367 offenders, 2630 were males and 737 were females.
- Treatment services include assessments, education, motivational enhancement, outpatient, intensive outpatient, day and residential care, with continuing care following core treatment. Special needs, including those for pregnant and parenting women and individuals with co-occurring (mental health and substance abuse) disorders have been addressed by treatment programs.
- Clients from the Neighbor Islands did travel to O'ahu or Hawai'i Island for residential type placements, reflecting the need for higher levels of substance abuse treatment on all islands.
- Through the efforts of the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions, programs have been evaluated using the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC) to determine how much in alignment programs are with the application of effective practices in working with offenders. Most programs are beginning to look at their programming and are working toward adopting and adapting to these principles.
- The CPC evaluation team is actively attempting to support the vendors as they begin to implement some of these practices, by providing opportunities for greater interaction between programs and the criminal justice system through increased meetings with vendors. Probation officers are now more consistently transmitting Level of Services Inventory-Revised data which provide vendors with the risk (to recidivate) classification of referred offenders to address dosage and treatment placement.

1. Admissions by Family Drug Court, Judiciary/Probation, and Judiciary/Drug & Other Special Courts Referral – FY13

Table 1.1 No. of Clients Enrolled by Agency by County

Agency Name	City & County of Honolulu	Hawaii	Kauai	Maui	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawai'i, Inc	515		1		516
Aloha House, Inc.				495	495
Big Island Substance Abuse Council	35	849			884
Bridge House, Inc.		10			10
CARE Hawai'i, Inc.	121	69		35	225
Child and Family Service			5		5
Family Drug Court 1	77	27	2	15	121
Hale Ho'okūpa'a				15	15
Ho'omau Ke Ola	51				51
Institute for Family Enrichment LLC	1				1
Ka Hale Pōmaika'i				4	4
Kline-Welsh Behavioral Foundation	188				188
Kū Aloha Ola Mau		47			47
Mālama Recovery Services	15				15
Mālama Nā Mākua A Keiki				289	289
Maui Youth and Family Services, Inc.	2			135	137
'Ohana Makamae, Inc				6	6
Pō'ailani, Inc	37				37
Salvation Army Family Treatment Services (FTS)	49				49
The Queen's Medical Center	62				62
The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)	562				562
Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu	4				4
TOTAL ENROLLMENTS	1,640	975	6	555	3,176

Table 1.2 No. of Clients Enrolled by Agency by Gender- FY13

Agency Name	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawai'i, Inc	110	406		516
Aloha House, Inc.	78	417		495
Big Island Substance Abuse Council	217	667		884
Bridge House, Inc	3	7		10
CARE Hawai'i, Inc.	57	167	1	225
Child and Family Service	5			5
Family Drug Court 1	59	32		91
Hale Ho'okūpa'a	2	13		15
Ho'omau Ke Ola	29	22		51
Institute for Family Enrichment LLC		1		1
Ka Hale Pōmaika'i		4		4
Kline-Welsh Behavioral Foundation	42	146		188
Kū Aloha Ola Mau	12	35		47
Mālama Recovery Services	11	4		15
'Ohana Makamae, Inc		6		6
Pō'ailani, Inc	7	30		37
Salvation Army Family Treatment Services (FTS)	45	4		49
The Queen's Medical Center	18	44		62
The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)	79	483		562
Young Men's Christian Association of Honolulu		4		4
TOTAL	715	2,460	1	3,176

2. Clients Admissions Funded by Judiciary Adult Client Services – FY13

Table 2.1 No. of Clients Enrolled by Agency by County

Agency Name	City & County of Honolulu	Hawai'i	Maui	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawaii, Inc	49			49
Ho'omau Ke Ola	14			14
Kū Aloha Ola Mau	1			1
Mālama Recovery Services	12			12
Salvation Army Family Treat Services (FTS)	16	1		17
The Queen's Medical Center	13			13
The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)	29		1	30
Total	133	1	1	135

Note: In addition to agencies reported by DOH-ADAD above, Judiciary Case Explorer (CE) recorded the admissions at:

Care Hawai'i IOP	26
Lokahi Treatment Center	1
Kū Aloha Ola Mau	62
Wai'anae Coast Comp. Health Ctr/ Mālama Recovery Services	8

Table 2.2 Number of Clients Enrolled by Agency by Gender – FY13

Agency Name	Female	Male	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawaii, Inc	8	41	49
Ho'omau Ke Ola	7	7	14
Ku Aloha Ola Mau		1	1
Mālama Recovery Services	9	3	12
Salvation Army	13	3	16
The Queen's Medical Center	6	7	13
The Salvation Army	6	23	29
TOTAL	48	85	133

Table 3 No. of Clients Enrolled by Agency by Ethnicity- FY13

Agency Name	American Indian	Black/African American	Caucasian	Chinese	Filipino	Hawaiian	Japanese	Mixed - Not Hawaiian	Mixed - Part Hawaiian	Other	Other Asian	Other Pacific Islander	Portuguese	Samoan	Tongan	Unknown	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawai'i, Inc			4		9	3	2	2	23	1		1	1	2	1		49
Ho'omau Ke Ola			2	1	1				7	1			2				14
Kū Aloha Ola Mau									1								1
Mālama Recovery Services			2			3		1	3			2		1			12
Salvation Army			4		1		2	1	8								16
The Queen's Medical Center	2				2		1		6				1			1	13
The Salvation Army	1	2	2		7			2	12		1		1	1			29
TOTAL	3	2	14	1	20	6	5	6	60	2	1	3	5	4	1	1	133

Table 4 No. of Clients Enrolled by Agency by Employment Status – FY13

Agency Name	Disabled	Full-time, 35 hours/week or more	Homemaker	Inmate of institution	Not in labor force-other	Part-time, less than 35 hours	Retired	Student only	Unemployed/looking for work in past 30 days/layoff	Unknown	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawai'i, Inc	3	6		7	10	3			20	1	49
Ho'omau Ke Ola	1	1		2	10						14
Kū Aloha Ola Mau											1
Mālama Recovery Services		1	1		2				6	2	12
Salvation Army Family Treatment Services (FTS)				3	6						16
The Queen's Medical Center	10				2	1					13
The Salvation Army	1	2		19	4	1			2		29
TOTAL	15	10	1	31	34	5			28	3	133

Table 5 No. of Clients Enrolled by Agency by Primary Substance –FY13

Agency Name	Benzodiazepines	Alcohol	Cocaine/Crack	Heroin	Marijuana/Hashish/THC	Methamphetamine	None	Other Opiates and Synthetics	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawai'i, Inc		9	2	1	6	32			49
CARE Hawai'i, Inc.		6			17			1	24
Ho'omau Ke Ola		1			4	9			14
Kū Aloha Ola Mau									1
Mālama Recovery Services		1	1		2	8			12
Salvation Army Family Treatment Services (FTS)		1			1	7	7		16
The Queen's Medical Center		2	1	1		9			13
The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)		3	1			24		1	29
TOTAL		23	5	2	30	88	7	2	157

Table 6 Adult Clients Admissions Information Recap – FY13

TOTAL ADMISSIONS STATEWIDE	10,636
TOTAL NO. FUNDED BY ADAD (DOH)	3,694
TOTAL NO. FUNDED BY JUDICIARY (Adult Client Services)	135
TOTAL NO. FUNDED BY OTHER SOURCE	6,807

Table 7 No. of Discharges by Agency by Discharge Type –FY13

Agency Name	Client Left Before Completing Treatment	Completed Treatment. No Substance Use	Completed Treatment. Some Substance Use	Incarcerated	Program Decision to Discharge Client for Non-Compliance with Program Rules	Referred to Outside Agency for Continued Services	Transfer to CDS Program Within Agency for Continued Services	Transfer to Non-CDS Program Within Agency for Continued Services	Total
Alcoholic Rehabilitation Services of Hawai'i, Inc	5	26	1	3	13	1	6	1	55
Ho'omau Ke Ola	1	8	2	1	4	1			17
Mālama Recovery Services					1				1
Salvation Army Family Treatment Services (FTS)	1	8			2		1		12
The Queen's Medical Center		5		1	1				7
The Salvation Army Addiction Treatment Services (ATS)	7	18		1	3	3			32
TOTAL	14	65	3	6	24	5	7	1	124

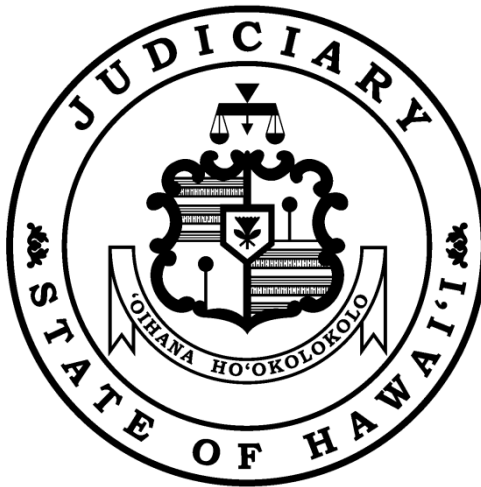
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

ON

ACT 162, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2002

HRS § 577-7.5

A Report on Parental Preferences in Government Contracts



Prepared by:

**Financial Services Department
Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts
The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

December 2013

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
ON
ACT 162, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2002
HRS § 577-7.5**

A Report on Act 162, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2002

Act 162, SLH 2002, HRS § 577-7.5, provides that Judiciary contracts, programs, and services shall not favor one parent over the other in terms of child rearing and that the Judiciary provides annual report to the Legislature.

We report that the Judiciary program administrators, program specialists and contracting officers are continuing to monitor their contracts to insure compliance with this act. In addition to using standard contract boilerplates, our Judiciary staff attorney assures compliance with all applicable laws by reviewing these contracts prior to finalization. None of our policies and procedures in the contracting of individuals or groups providing contractual services to the Judiciary has ever reflected in the past, nor will they ever reflect in the future, any parental preference.

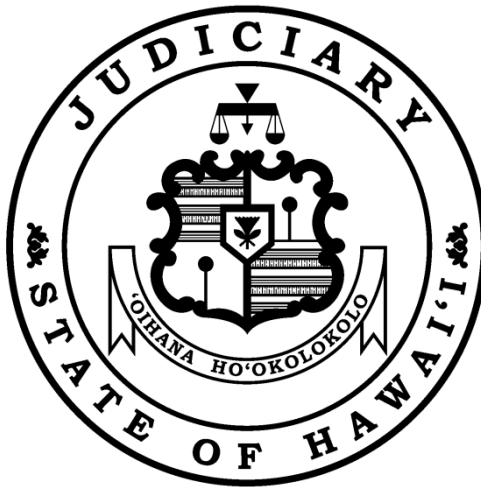
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

ON

ACT 274, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 1997

HRS §607-5.6

A Report on the Parent Education Special Fund



Prepared by:

**Family Court, First Circuit
The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

December 2013

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
ON
ACT 274, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 1997
HRS § 607-5.6**

A Report on the Parent Education Special Fund

Act 274, Session Laws of Hawai'i, 1997, HRS § 607-5.6, requires the Judiciary to submit a report on the Parent Education Fund.

The Parent Education Special Fund was established by the 1997 Legislature, State of Hawai'i, through Act 274. On May 2, 2003 HRS 607-5.6 was amended to increase the Fund's surcharge to \$50 for family court matrimonial cases and to add the surcharge to paternity actions.

The Purpose of the Fund

Parents attending the Kids First parent education programs in Hawai'i are encouraged to refocus on their children's needs and to see how continued fighting negatively impacts their family. The families are given island-specific parent handbooks containing resources for counseling, domestic violence, parenting classes, and anger management classes. They watch the award winning Purple Family video, and are encouraged to mediate rather than litigate their custody conflicts. The program assists children ages 6 – 17 cope with their parents' separation. Children learn that they are not the cause of their parents' divorce, that parents do not divorce their children, and that their family is not the only one going through a separation. Through mock trials teens learn about the court system. They are given resource materials and encouraged to seek counseling. A new website was created for 24/7 information www.KidsFirstHawaii.com.

Current Programs

Each Circuit has a parent education program for separating and divorcing parents and their minor children (ages 6 – 17).

Judicial Circuit FY13	Adults Attending	Children Attending	FY13 Total
First (O'ahu)	3,054	1,613	4,667
Second (Maui)	405	272	677
Third (Hilo)	238	160	398
Third (Kona)	146	106	252
Fifth (Kaua'i)	298	145	443
Total:	4,141	2,296	6,437

Never-married parties contesting custody or visitation are also included in the Kids First program to teach them co-parenting skills. In FY 2013 on O'ahu 4,156 new marital actions (divorce) were filed, half included families with minor children. Additionally 1,388 paternity (unmarried parents) petitions were filed.

Approximately 42% of O'ahu's paternity cases involve contested custody or visitation issues. The remaining cases are filed by the Child Support Enforcement Agency seeking child support reimbursement. The O'ahu program alternates the program weekly between the Honolulu First Circuit Court and the Ronald T.Y. Moon Kapolei Court Complex.

The percentage of divorce filings in each Circuit mirrors each island's population. The vast majority of the state's cases are on O'ahu where 75% of the divorces and 69% of the paternity cases are filed. During FY13, the O'ahu Kids First divorce program assisted 4,667 individuals (3,054 adults and 1,613 children).

The paternity calendar consisting of unmarried families with children continues to expand. Currently in Hawai'i, over 41% of children are born to unmarried parents; this is comparable to the national average. In Hawai'i, 51% of mothers under age 30 are unmarried. Of the 1,388 paternity cases filed last year on O'ahu, 570 were private (non-CSEA cases). These cases involve child custody or visitation disputes.

Statewide, 100 parent education sessions were held, serving 4,131 adults and 2,295 children (total attendance 6,426). Statewide revenue decreased \$3,000 (60 fewer families paid the surcharge) and interest decreased \$857. Total expenses increased \$9,900 over the prior year.

On O'ahu, approximately 12% of families attending have active restraining orders and over one-third of all divorces are filed by military personnel.

All parents are told:

- Children will thrive if they live in safe homes and are loved by both parents.
- Family violence is never appropriate and is extremely harmful to children.
- The court takes into account the safety of victims and children in making custody and visitation decisions.

Judicial Circuit FY12	Census Population	Population %	Divorces # Filed	Divorce %	Paternity # Filed	Paternity %
First (O'ahu)	963,607	70	4,156	75	1,388	69
Second (Maui)	156,674	11	549	10	200	10
Third (Kona, Hilo)	186,738	14	738	12	367	18
Fifth (Kaua'i)	67,701	5	210	3	58	3
Total	1,374,720	100%	5,653	100%	2,013	100

The Parent Education Special Fund began collecting filing fee surcharges and donations on July 1, 1997. The attached financial report reflects the sixteenth year of collections. The Parent Education Fund continues to support all five of the Judiciary's parent education programs.

**THE JUDICIARY
PARENT EDUCATION SPECIAL FUND
FY 2012-2013**

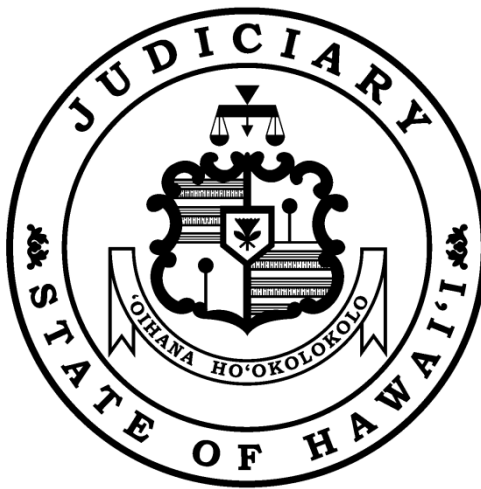
OBJECT CODE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNTS				
		FIRST CIRCUIT	SECOND CIRCUIT	THIRD CIRCUIT	FIFTH CIRCUIT	TOTAL
	REVENUES					
0288	INTEREST	798				798
0763	SURCHARGE	107,100	13,250	12,100	4,600	137,050
	TOTAL REVENUES	107,898	13,250	12,100	4,600	137,848
	OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES & ENCUMBRANCES					
2021	IMPOSED CONTRIBUTIONS	1,692				1,692
2023	PER DIEM JUDGES	4,073				4,073
2902	SECURITY SERVICES	11,375	3,615		2,435	17,425
3204	DUPLICATING SUPPLIES	1,400				1,400
3209	OTHER STATIONERY AND OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,490				2,490
3301	FOOD SUPPLIES	6,003			945	6,948
3430	OTHER MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	287				287
3501	DUES	203				203
3701	POSTAGE	649				649
3901	PRINTING AND BINDING	921				921
4102	CAR MILEAGE	737				737
4401	TRANS OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	1,946				1,946
4402	TRANS OUT OF STATE - OTHERS	884				884
4501	SUBSISTENCE OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	5,933				5,933
4502	SUBSISTENCE OUT OF STATE - OTHERS	1,342				1,342
4601	HIRE OF PASSENGER CARS - EMPLOYEES	154				154
4602	HIRE OF PASSENGER CARS - OTHERS	76				76
5503	OTHER RENTALS (PARKING PASS)	100				100
6619	OTHER PUBLIC SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE	3,371				3,371
7131	INTERPRETER FEES	2,354				2,354
7198	OTHER SERVICES ON FEE BASIS	48,432	15,000	23,438	4,600	91,470
7204	SPECIAL FUND ASSESSMENT (ACT 34, SLH 1964)	6,902				6,902
7205	TRAINING COSTS AND					
7205	REGISTRATION FEES	4,210				4,210
7722	PROJECTORS	1,167				1,167
	TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSES	106,699	18,615	23,438	7,980	156,732

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

ON

**ACT 232, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 1994
HRS §601-3.6**

A Report on the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account



Prepared by:

**Circuit Court, First Circuit
The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

December 2013

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
ON
ACT 232, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 1994
HRS § 607-3.6**

A Report on the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account

This report is respectfully submitted pursuant to Act 232, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, HRS § 601-3.6, which requests a report on the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account.

In 1994, the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account, placed in the Judiciary, was created by the Legislature, State of Hawaii, for the purpose of developing and/or expanding new and existing programs. The scope of the Judiciary's Special Account may include, but is not limited to, grants or purchases of services which support or provide domestic violence or child abuse intervention or prevention, as authorized by law, as well as staff programs.

The Judiciary's Special Account is financed through a portion of the monies collected by the Department of Health from the issuance of birth, death, and marriage certificates. In addition, any fines collected pursuant to HRS Chapter 586-11 (Violation for an Order of Protection) and contributions from state tax refunds are deposited into the Judiciary's Special Account.

Programs and Activities Funded Through the Spouse and Child Abuse Special Fund

Monies from the Judiciary's Special Account continue to provide funding for a broad range of programs, projects and activities statewide, which addressed interventions in domestic violence and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The process of determining which services, programs and activities received funding involved internal planning and collaboration within the Judiciary, as well as coordination with private and public stakeholders in the community.

The following programs, projects and activities were funded by the Judiciary's Special Account in Fiscal Year 2013:

1. Purchase of Service Programs

The following nonprofit organizations named below received funding to provide or supplement their contracted services with the Judiciary:

- Child and Family Service/Turning Point for Families (Hawaii Island)
Funding was used to restore some of the core domestic violence services which had been significantly reduced due to budget cuts. The specific services funded included the following:

- Victim support counseling
 - Youth support counseling
 - Domestic violence interventions for persons convicted of a domestic violence offense
 - Assistance in preparation of temporary restraining orders
 - Advocacy for victims
- Child and Family Service/Developing Options to Violence (O'ahu)
The Developing Options to Violence program provided specialized domestic violence intervention services to adolescents on the island of O'ahu. The adolescents had been adjudicated in Family Court for the abuse of a household or family member, or a related charge, such as intimate partner violence. Services were also extended to family members of the juveniles.
 - Domestic Violence Action Center (O'ahu)
The following advocacy services for victims of domestic violence were provided by the Domestic Violence Action Center:
 - Advocacy and support services for victims filing temporary restraining order
 - Civil legal services
 - Hotline services (information and referrals)
 - Case management
 - Island of Hawai'i YMCA
Supervised child visitation and exchange services were provided for families involved in domestic violence and/or high conflict cases by the Family Visitation Center. Services were provided to families from East Hawai'i. The majority of referrals was from the Family Court and included parents with temporary restraining orders, or orders of protection.
 - Parents and Children Together/Family Peace Center
Funding was provided to the Family Peace Center on O'ahu to supplement services to victims of intimate partner violence. The specific services provided the following:
 - Advocacy and support groups
 - Counseling
 - Counseling for children exposed to violence
 - Information and referrals
 - Case management
 - Parents and Children Together/Family Visitation Center
Supervised child visitation and exchange services were provided to court referred families on the islands of O'ahu and Kaua'i. On O'ahu, the Center serviced families in Honolulu and Waipahu, and on Kaua'i, the Center operated in Kapa'a. The majority of referrals involved temporary restraining order cases; however, other referrals involved divorce, child custody and paternity cases.

The Center in Kapa'a is the newest visitation center in the state and is minimally staffed. During FY13 the Center provided visitation services to a total of 26 families involving 35 children. A total of 322 visits and 54 exchanges were completed.

- YWCA of Kaua'i/Domestic Violence Intervention Alternatives to Violence Juvenile Program

Funding of this program allowed the provision of services to 31 juveniles referred from the Family Court for FY13. The program also worked with family members and the juvenile's probation officers on behalf of the juveniles when needed.

Several of the juveniles in treatment have displayed increased understanding and empathy of others, increase in self-awareness, development of interpersonal skills and academic improvement.

2. Federal Grant Projects

Matching funds from the Judiciary's Special Account were used for the federally funded Judiciary grant projects listed below:

- State Access and Visitation Program Grant

This formula grant is awarded to the Judiciary annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement, to provide supervised child visitation and exchange services in a safe setting. The federal grant funds and matching funds from the Special Account were used to provide these services on the islands of O'ahu and Hawai'i. Priority was given to those cases involved in domestic violence, or other high conflict situations. Although the grant, in the amount of \$100,000 required a 10% match (equivalent to \$11,000), \$55,000 in matching funds from the Special Account were allocated in response to the high volume of referrals on both islands. The two non-profit agencies receiving purchase of service contracts were Parents and Children Together/Family Visitation Center on O'ahu and the Island of Hawai'i YMCA in East Hawai'i.

- STOP Violence Against Women Act Grant/"Improving Judicial Response"

Matching funds from the Special Account were used to provide training to the Judiciary's language translators on the islands of O'ahu and Maui on understanding domestic violence and sexual assault. Approximately 50 persons on O'ahu and 35 persons on Maui attended training, which also required the translators to participate in practice sessions involving domestic violence and/or sexual assault cases. The training was collaboratively sponsored and conducted through the First Circuit Court and the Judiciary's Office on Equality and Access to the Courts.

3. Trainings, Meetings, Other Expenses

Funds from the Special Account supplemented federal funding for a training of probation officers throughout the state assigned to domestic violence cases. The “Advanced Supervision of Domestic Violence Offenders” training was also extended to statewide officers from the Hawai’i Paroling Authority as well. This training was followed by a second day which focused on “Enhancing Officer Safety in Domestic Violence Cases”. Probation and parole officers were taught how to conduct home visits and office appointments with clients to ensure their own personal safety. The interactive training was very well received and selected officers have now trained other co-workers who were not able to receive the training.

Other trainings which were funded in FY13 by the Special Account included the following:

- “Virtual Visitation” training for Judiciary contracted service providers statewide who supervise child visitation and exchanges of court referred clients. The majority of cases are referred from the Temporary Restraining Orders and Divorce dockets.
- “Collaborative Symposium on Child Death Reviews” was held in collaboration with the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and Shriners’ Hospital. National and state experts discussed “Medical/Legal Investigations of Child Abuse Injuries”.
- Special Account monies were used to send Judiciary staff to a national conference, held in Honolulu, entitled “Investigation and Prosecution of Child Fatalities and Physical Abuse”. This conference was sponsored by the National District Attorneys Association.
- Training on “National Domestic Violence Fatality Reviews” was sponsored by the Judiciary and Shriners’ Hospital, and featured Neil Websdale, Ph.D., Executive Director of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative. Dr. Websdale provided his services to the Judiciary and the state free of charge. Video conferencing was made available to neighbor island participants.
- Training on “Trauma and Addiction: A Gender-Responsive Approach for Working with Youth and their Families” was partially funded through the Special Account, in conjunction with the Department of Health.
- “Advanced Training for Group Facilitators” presented by the Boston-based Emerge Program was co-sponsored by the Judiciary, Parents and Children Together and Child and Family Service. Service providers statewide who specialized in group treatment service for domestic violence offenders and selected probation staff participated in this two day training.

- The SAFE curriculum, “Stopping Abuse of Everyone”, was co-sponsored by Child and Family Service and the Judiciary for service providers of domestic violence offender treatment and selected probation staff. This new curriculum, developed by the Change Companies®, demonstrates the use of cognitive behavioral treatment to effect behavioral and attitudinal changes in offenders.
- The Family Court Annual Symposium was funded by the Special Account and other Judiciary resources. Among the topics covered in the Symposium which was attended by Family Court judges and administrative staff statewide were: Understanding Child Sexual Abuse Allegations, Virtual Visitation, Vicarious Trauma, and Extended Care for Foster Youth in Hawai‘i.

Special Fund Assessment (Act 34, SLH 1964)

The Special Fund Assessment fee for FY 2013 was \$21,963.

Summary

The Judiciary’s Spouse and Child Abuse Special Account continues to enable the Judiciary to develop, implement and maintain a proactive stance in responding to domestic violence and child abuse and neglect in the state of Hawai‘i. One of the major strengths in the establishment of the Special Account has been the discretion given to the Judiciary, which has encouraged and allowed funding for a comprehensive range of services and activities, which would have not been possible otherwise. As a result, services for victims of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect have been maintained and improved, and appropriate intervention and effective practices for programs working with domestic violence offenders.

The opportunity for training of judges, Judiciary staff, service providers and other community partners on a wide range of important and inter-connected dynamic issues relating to domestic violence and abused and neglected children continues to be possible.

The Judiciary remains committed to the responsible use of monies from the Special Account to promote the safety and well being of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect victims, family members, and the community at large.

THE JUDICIARY
SPOUSE & CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND
EXPENDITURES & ENCUMBRANCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

PERSONAL SERVICES

2003	ORDINARY OT - PERM	0
2004	ORDINARY OT - NON-PERM	0
2021	IMPOSED CONTRIBUTIONS	1,480
2023	PER DIEM JUDGES	3,564

TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	<u>5,044</u>
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OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES

3204	DUPLICATING SUPPLIES	37
3206	DATA PROCESSING SUPPLIES	57
3209	OTHER OFFICE SUPPLIES	286
3301	FOOD SUPPLIES	14,272
3430	OTHER MATERIAL AND SUPPLIES	0
3502	SUBSCRIPTIONS	401
4201	TRANSPORTATION, INTRA-STATE - EMPLOYEES	1,149
4202	TRANSPORTATION, INTRA-STATE - OTHERS	0
4301	SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE, INTRA-STATE - EMPLOYEES	2,874
4302	SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE, INTRA-STATE - OTHERS	548
4401	TRANSPORTATION, OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	0
4402	TRANSPORTATION, OUT OF STATE - OTHERS	2,928
4501	SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE, OUT OF STATE - EMPLOYEES	0
4502	SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE, OUT OF STATE - OTHERS	1,157
4601	HIRE OF PASSENGER CARS - EMPLOYEES	291
4602	HIRE OF PASSENGER CARS - OTHERS	327
4801	OTHER TRAVEL	10
5503	OTHER RENTALS OF LAND BUILDING	6,599
5701	OTHER RENTALS	0
6609	PURCHASE OF SERVICES CONTRACTS	502,433
7198	OTHER SERVICES ON FEE BASIS	8,225
7204	SPECIAL FUND ASSESSMENT (ACT 34, SLH 1964)	21,963
7205	TRAINING COSTS AND REGISTRATION FEES	3,000
7215	OTHER MISC CURRENT EXPENSES	309
7300	INTEREST	7

TOTAL OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	<u>566,873</u>
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SPOUSE & CHILD ABUSE SPECIAL FUND, CONTINUED
EXPENDITURES & ENCUMBRANCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

EQUIPMENT

7712	DESKS	0
7713	FILES AND CABINETS	0
7721	CAMERAS AND VCR'S	735
7725	OTHER OPTICAL EQUIPMENT	0
7730	RECORDERS	530
7739	OTHER ACOUSTICAL EQUIPMENT	0
7751	DATA PROCESSING SOFTWARE	0
7752	DATA PROCESSING HARDWARE	0

TOTAL EQUIPMENT	<u>1,265</u>
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TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>573,182</u>
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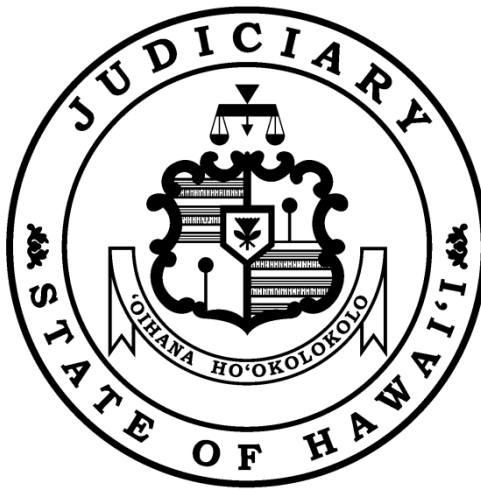
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

ON

ACT 103, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2013

HRS § 571-

**A Report on the Number of Complaints Against
Court-Appointed Child Custody Evaluators**



Prepared by:

**Family Court, First Circuit
The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

December 2013

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

ON

**ACT 103, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2013
HRS § 571**

**A Report on the Number of Complaints Against
Court-Appointed Child Custody Evaluators**

This report is respectfully submitted pursuant to Act 103, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013, HRS § 571, which requires that the Judiciary submit an annual report regarding the number of complaints against court-appointed child custody evaluators that are processed through the referral process.

No complaints against court-appointed child custody evaluators were received or processed through the referral process between the effective date of July 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013. The report for the entire fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 will be published in 2014.

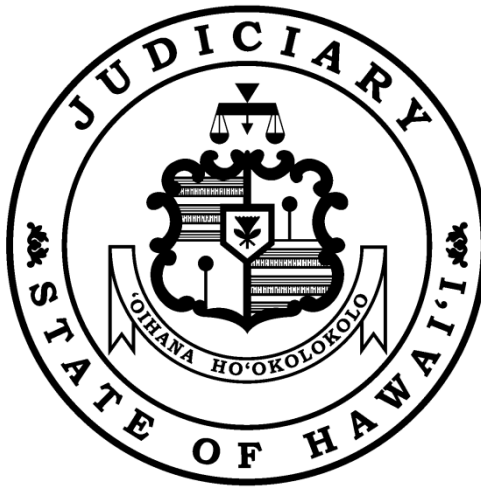
REPORTS TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

ON

ACT 180, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2011

HRS §607-5.7

A Biennial Report on the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF)



Prepared by:

The Hawai'i Justice Foundation

and

**Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts
The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i**

December 2013

**REPORTS TO THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
ON
ACT 180, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2011
HRS §607-5.7**

A Biennial Report on the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF)

- SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY RECOMMENDING CONTINUATION OF ILAF**
- SECTION II: ILAF FUNDING AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS**
- SECTION III: PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE TO ENSURE ACCURACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
- SECTION IV: REMAINING CHALLENGES FOR THE ILAF PROGRAM AND THE PARTICIPATING LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**
- SECTION V: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**
- APPENDIX: LETTERS FROM ILAF SERVICE PROVIDERS OUTLINING ILAF'S IMPACT ON THE DELIVERY OF LEGAL SERVICES TO INDIGENT POPULATIONS**

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY RECOMMENDING CONTINUATION OF ILAF

The following report has been prepared for the Judiciary by the Hawai'i Justice Foundation, which serves as the Fund Administrator for the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund, pursuant to contract with the Judiciary, State of Hawai'i.

The Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF) was created pursuant to Act 305, Session Laws of Hawai'i 1996 (hereinafter Act 305) and codified as Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) § 605-7. Act 305 created a special fund that receives surcharges collected on selected types of civil cases filed in Hawaii's various state courts. These surcharges are then distributed to qualifying organizations that provide direct civil legal services to those in Hawai'i whose income does not exceed 125% of federal poverty guidelines or who are eligible for free services under the Older Americans Act or Developmentally Disabled Act.

ILAF was further amended by Act 180, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2011 (hereinafter Act 180) by extending the types of cases for which surcharges are collected and providing step increases in the amount of the indigent legal fees. Act 180 also required the Administrative Director of the Courts, or the contractor administering the fund pursuant to contract with the Administrative Director of the Courts, to review ILAF on a biennial basis to determine whether it is meeting the civil legal needs of indigent persons, and to report its findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of the legislature in each even-numbered year beginning with the regular session of 2014.

Findings and Conclusion: The Hawai'i Justice Foundation (HJF), serving as fund administrator for ILAF, pursuant to a contract with the Judiciary, has reviewed the effectiveness of ILAF and recommends that ILAF be continued in its current format. ILAF has positively affected the organizations receiving funds under this special fund, and each of these organizations has been effective in delivering requisite legal services to qualifying clients. The hard reality is that funds distributed under ILAF are not sufficient to fully fund any of the organizations. There still remains a need for other funding sources, including but not limited to federal and private foundation funding, private charitable contributions, and continued legislative grants-in-aid. The ILAF program is an excellent example of the partnership between the Judiciary, HJF, and the ILAF legal service providers. The Hawai'i State Legislature is to be commended for its creation and continued support of ILAF and for its positive actions increasing the surcharges through Act 180, SLH 2011.

ILAF, as amended by Act 180 is an acknowledgment of the serious need for legal services for those of low-income. Current national and local economic conditions remain very unstable and uncertain. Legal needs of people are higher than ever, due to these economic conditions. Low-income legal service providers have experienced cuts in governmental funding sources and reduced contributions from private donations, which makes it critical that ILAF be continued. With the increased surcharges resulting from Act 180, funding to qualifying organizations has increased from about \$330,000

per year to potentially \$1,400,000 in FY 2014. Prior to FY 2014, the amount that could be expended from the ILAF was limited to its legislatively designated ceiling of \$550,000. With the increase in fees and revenues attributable to Act 180, the Judiciary requested and the Legislature authorized a ceiling increase to \$1,550,000, effective July 1, 2013. Although ILAF funding cannot supplant all required funding sources for participating organizations, it has become a vital and essential source of stable funding for qualifying organizations. As further outlined in this report, ILAF has an extensive application and reporting process that ensures that organizations receiving ILAF funds are providing requisite services to qualified clients. On behalf of all of those people in Hawai'i who have received legal services under ILAF, it is respectfully requested that the Hawai'i State Legislature continue ILAF in its current form.

SECTION II: ILAF FUNDING AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS

HRS § 605-7 sets forth the operating details for ILAF, and these requirements are rigorously followed by the Judiciary, HJF, and all the participating organizations. The statute sets out the amount of surcharges and the types of cases for which surcharges apply. The Judiciary collects the surcharges when cases are filed, and funds collected during a particular fiscal year are largely distributed in the following fiscal year. Act 180 expanded the types of cases to which the surcharges were applied and also provided for step increases in the amount of surcharges, with the final step increase taking effect on January 1, 2014. While the financial impact of the January, 2014 final step increase is not yet known, significant additional distributions have already been granted to civil legal service providers based on the January, 2012 step increase.

The Judiciary has annually contracted with HJF to serve as the ILAF Fund Administrator. Pursuant to HRS § 605-7, HJF manages the annual application process. Any organization that meets the eligibility criteria mandated by statute is allowed to participate in ILAF. The amount received by each organization is determined by that organization's pro rata share of the eligible expenses for its provision of direct legal services. Each organization has the opportunity to appeal any decisions regarding its pro rata share or other issues relating to its application, but no appeals have been made within the last decade.

It should be noted that the formula by which funds are distributed has remained unchanged from the inception of ILAF in 1996, other than the minor language corrections contained in Act 180. The statutory provision regarding the formula for distribution reads as follows:

(k) Funds shall be distributed on a pro rata basis to organizations that meet the criteria in subsection (i), based upon the portion of their total budget expended in the prior year for civil legal services to indigent persons as compared to the combined total expended in the prior year for legal services by all qualifying organizations

applying for funding. An applicant that provides services other than civil legal services to indigent persons may establish its proportionate entitlement to funds based upon financial statements that strictly segregate the portion of the organization's expenditures in the prior year that were devoted exclusively to the provision of civil legal services for indigents. (Act 180, SLH 2011; H.R.S. § 605-7)

Prior to the impact of Act 180, the amount distributed each year to eligible ILAF organizations was approximately \$330,000. Act 180 has had a very positive impact upon the amount of funds distributed. The amount distributed from ILAF was \$513,000 in FY 2012 and \$472,039 in FY 2013. The amount scheduled for initial distribution from ILAF in current FY 2014 is \$1,000,000, as detailed below.

Domestic Violence Action Center	\$125,202
Hawai'i Disability Rights Center	\$129,345
Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, fka Lawyers for Equal Justice	\$28,773
Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i (includes Hawai'i Immigrants Justice Center)	\$572,900
Mediation Center of the Pacific	\$16,561
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation	\$92,659
University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program	
Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i	\$34,560
Total	\$1,000,000

* It is anticipated that additional funds will be paid pro rata to these organizations for the 3rd and 4th quarters of FY 2013-14, but the final amount has not yet been determined.

** Please note that in FY 2013-14, the University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program did not apply for ILAF funds. It is anticipated that this program will rejoin the ILAF recipients in FY 2014-15.

The estimated amount for distribution for FY 2015 is \$1,400,000; however, the actual amount is not yet known since the last step increase of Act 180 takes effect January 1, 2014. Amounts distributed in years after FY 2015 will be a function of the amounts collected from the cases upon which surcharges are collected. Case filings vary each year, but it is clear that Act 180 has had a very positive impact upon the amount of ILAF distributions, making ILAF an essential element for stable funding for Hawai'i's legal service provider organizations.

SECTION III: PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE TO ENSURE ACCURACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The ILAF Program has procedural safeguards to ensure accuracy and accountability. All organizations receiving funds under ILAF are strictly monitored by HJF. Quarterly reports and a yearly summary report are required of each organization

and are reviewed by HJF prior to submittal to the Judiciary for its review. Each February, formal notice is provided in the Honolulu Star Advertiser announcing that applications for ILAF funds are being solicited, with a deadline set for early April. The application process is quite extensive, with thorough documentation required. The application includes an attestation clause which requires the Executive Director of each organization to attest to the truthfulness of the application. State unemployment reporting forms are used for verification of each employee, and individual signed statements are received from each employee attesting to the veracity of the percentage of time spent by that person providing qualified direct legal services to ILAF-eligible clients. Using this information, the pro rata percentage for each qualifying organization is calculated by HJF to 1/1000th of a percent. After the Judiciary reviews HJF's percentage recommendations, the Judiciary sends letters of award percentages to each applicant that meets ILAF requirements and qualifies for fund distribution.

Each organization has the opportunity to appeal any decision regarding its pro rata share or other application issues, but no appeals have been filed for more than a decade. Once the current fiscal year has closed and the Judiciary has determined the total amount of funds that are available for distribution, the percentage allocation for each qualifying applicant is applied against the total available funds to determine each organization's yearly dollar award. These awards are then distributed quarterly, with HJF reviewing all invoices and the required quarterly and year-end reports. Quarterly checks are processed by the Judiciary to an organization only after that organization has submitted all required paperwork to HJF.

Prior to accepting applications for FY 2014, HJF worked with each organization to ensure that the organization had in place effective methods for: a) screening potential clients for ILAF eligibility; b) generating accurate and complete information regarding cases handled under ILAF; c) using the organization's "client grievance policy"; and d) developing tighter mechanisms for demonstrating that ILAF funds were being effectively utilized. For FY 2014, contract revisions were made to place additional duties upon participating organizations to work closely with HJF and/or the Judiciary if so requested, should it appear that a specific organization might need to improve its ILAF screening or reporting process.

At the end of the Fiscal Year, each organization must submit a final report, which includes detailed information on the number of cases handled under ILAF. The case numbers are not set forth here, since the missions of the various ILAF organizations vary greatly. Comparison of number of cases handled is not an accurate means of determining the "efficiency" or "effectiveness" of any specific ILAF legal service provider. For example, some of the organizations do a great deal of information and referral, while other organizations handle a higher percentage of court cases. All of the ILAF organizations provide different but essential parts of meeting the needs for legal services, but their missions and approaches do and should vary greatly.

For many years, ILAF has operated smoothly and without complaints regarding accuracy or accountability from the Judiciary, HJF, or the ILAF legal service providers.

The ILAF Program is an example of how mutual cooperation and competency can produce an effective process that works for the betterment of Hawai'i's people.

SECTION IV: REMAINING CHALLENGES FOR THE ILAF PROGRAM AND THE PARTICIPATING LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

ILAF is a very solid program, with strong relationships and cooperation between the Judiciary, HJF, and the legal service providers. However, there is still a substantial unmet need for legal services. In order to ensure the need is being met in the most effective way possible, current efforts are focused upon developing more comprehensive statistics on the results from ILAF. These efforts include determining the initial objectives of the client and then determining whether those initial objectives were ultimately achieved. This effort is a difficult one, since the initial objective stated by the client may be unclear or may not be the ultimate objective of the client. The goal of ILAF is client representation, and this is no guarantee that the client will "win." There also exists an ongoing tension between the desire for more extensive statistics and the need for the organizations to provide the services without expending significant amounts of staff time compiling data.

It would be highly desirable to be able to determine more precisely what percentage of existing legal needs are not being met. The last formal study undertaken in Hawai'i was the 2007 Assessment of Civil Legal Needs, which found that four out of five low-income Hawai'i residents do not have their legal needs met and that legal service providers are able to assist only one in three persons who contact them for assistance. National studies contain similar figures regarding percentage of legal needs being met. However, it is very difficult for any ILAF organization to provide accurate data on unmet legal needs, since the organizations do not have any contact with people who have legal needs but do not contact the organizations for help.

The ILAF legal service providers are facing serious challenges. The need for legal services continues to increase, due to poor economic conditions and the expanding percentage of the population who are below 125% of federal poverty guidelines. At the same time, total funding for legal service providers has decreased. Many ILAF organizations have had to reduce staff hours and reduce intake of cases. Additionally, throughout Hawai'i and the rest of the country, legal service providers have been forced to move from "full-representation" cases to primarily giving information and advice or to providing basic legal information in group situations in various community locations. The Judiciary, in conjunction with the Hawai'i State Bar Association and legal service providers, has now established Self-Help Centers in each Judicial Circuit. Hawaii's legal community is working together to help meet the serious legal needs, but the situation remains a daunting one.

It is indeed ironic that at the time legal needs are at an all-time high, the total available funding for legal service providers is shrinking. Community support for pro bono and low-income legal services is extremely strong, but the fact remains that a large proportion of legal needs go unmet for those in Hawaii's low-income population.

SECTION V: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

HJF has reviewed the effectiveness of ILAF and recommends that it be continued in its current format. Monies received from ILAF have had a positive effect upon all of the legal service providers that received funds, and each of these organizations has effectively delivered requisite services to qualifying clients. The hard reality is that funds distributed under ILAF are not sufficient to fully fund any of the organizations and there still remains a need for other funding sources, including but not limited to federal funding, private foundation funding, private charitable contributions, and continued legislative grants-in-aid. The ILAF program is an excellent example of the partnership between the Judiciary, HJF, and the ILAF legal service providers. The Hawai'i State Legislature is to be commended for its creation and continued support of ILAF and for its positive actions increasing the surcharges through Act 180, SLH 2011.

APPENDIX:

This Appendix contains letters from each of the participating legal service providers. Review of these letters clearly illustrates the positive impact of ILAF upon each of the participating legal service providers.

- Domestic Violence Action Center
- Hawai'i Disability Rights Center
- Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, formerly known as Lawyers for Equal Justice
- Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i (includes Hawai'i Immigrants Justice Center)
- Mediation Center of the Pacific
- Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation
- University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program
- Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i



TO: Hawaii State Legislature
FROM: Nanci Kreidman, MA
Chief Executive Officer

As a member of the Legal Services Provider Consortium, the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) actively works with our community's legal service agencies -which are few in number- to collaborate in the delivery of effective and responsive programs to the many low income families and individuals in desperate need of a voice in the justice system. The support we receive from the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Hawaii State Bar Association is significant, meaningful and deeply appreciated. The work done to pass Act 180, by the 2011 legislature, is a success that cannot be overstated..

The potentially life threatening and complex issues faced by the clients of the Domestic Violence Action Center are not well understood by the community at large. However, it has been a great benefit to have the support and understanding of our colleagues in positions of elected and appointed leadership to assist us in making our specialized services available to as many people as possible. We strive to meet the demand, and seek to continue imaginative and innovative service delivery because domestic violence is a grave and costly problem that impacts all of us.

The Indigent Legal Assistance Fund is a revenue stream DVAC has relied on to stabilize its budget as the economics of providing specialized programs for this constituency is dynamic and dependent on funding from many sources. These past several years have been enormously challenging with threats to funding. Budget shortfalls have resulted in the loss of staff and cutbacks in program services. Where will low income victims turn if not to the Domestic Violence Action Center and its allies and community leaders. Fortunately, with the wisdom and voices of community leaders, beneficiaries of program services and the organizations themselves, a formula was arrived at that helps to direct funding to sustain essential services.

Domestic Violence Action Center, in FY 2013, reports the following: telephone contact with 28,834 callers, 542 requests for legal representation, opening 348 legal cases and closing 415 cases. Agency attorneys made 500 court appearances and 1,278 cases were opened by the on-site EXPO court outreach program. Domestic Violence Action Center



staff are well trained and well supervised; this is not work that can be done by anyone. The unending challenges faced by clients in a hostile, violent relationship are brought to staff for resolution.

The need for adequate counsel, which everyone is entitled to, is the foundation upon which ILAF relies. It is our belief that the purposes of ILAF are being met and the practices and procedures are in place for the continued proper use of these public dollars. The Domestic Violence Action Center remains enormously appreciative of the support of our legislators allowing us to serve the community.



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

1132 Bishop Street, Suite 2102, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone/TTY: (808) 949-2922 Toll Free: 1-800-882-1057 Fax: (808) 949-2928

E-mail: info@hawaiidisabilityrights.org Website: www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org

November 2013

To The Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center wishes to express its utmost gratitude for your support of the passage of Act 180, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011. This measure greatly increased the amount of funds available for distribution from the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund.

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is the state designated protection and advocacy system. We have been designated by the Governor of Hawaii in Executive Orders No. 77-3, 82-4, 89-2 and 94-06 to provide advocacy services to individuals with disabilities, in accordance with various federal laws. See 42 U.S.C. § 15001, 42 U.S.C. § 10801, and 29 U.S.C. § 732. Hawaii law, at Section 333F -8.5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, expressly recognizes the obligation of the state to provide advocacy services to individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness in order to receive federal funds. The federal statutes require, as a condition of funding services provided by a number of state agencies, that a protection and advocacy agency be established by the State. In requesting federal funding for various state projects, every Governor has provided assurances to the federal government that federal funds distributed to HDRC do not supplant funds that are available from state and local sources.

From 2004 until 2010, the state gave HDRC at least \$165,505 each year under a purchase of services contract. Since July 2010, that state funding for HDRC has been eliminated. Additionally, federal funding has plateaued over the past several years, and been further reduced as a result of sequestration. Expenses, in the meantime, have continued to increase. Fundraising opportunities for a legal services corporation like ours are very limited, and they would force us to compete with other legal services providers for the same donors. For that reason the monies we have received from the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund have truly been a blessing.

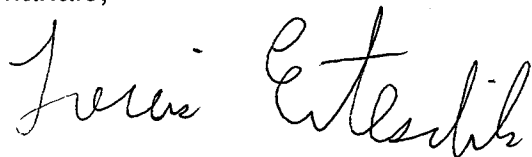


The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is a small, efficient agency that serves thousands of individuals each year with legal issues surrounding their various disabilities. It is estimated that approximately fifteen percent of the individuals within the state (two hundred and ten thousand) may have a disability. Most of those individuals are also among the poorest in our state. We effectively utilize our resources and keep our administrative costs to a minimum. Thus, without the additional funds we received from ILAF, we would have been forced to substantially reduce our activities, cut staffing, and provide fewer services to the most needy, vulnerable population in our state at a time when their needs are increasing.

We are grateful to the Judiciary and the Hawaii Justice Foundation for their leadership and exemplary efforts to ensure the smooth, efficient functioning of this program. We have worked closely with them on its implementation and we hope that the legislature will continue to fund the ILAF program in the upcoming budget and in the years ahead. Your continued support will enable us to address the needs of the population we serve. Your assistance will be so much appreciated by our clientele.

Thank you again for everything.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louis Erteschik".

Louis Erteschik, Esq.
Executive Director



Susan M. Ichinose, Esq.
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Members of the 2014 Hawaii State Legislature
From: M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Executive Director and Susan Ichinose, Board President
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013
Re: Act 180

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i ("Legal Aid") wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature for their passage of Act 180, which increased funding to the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund ("ILAF"). As the largest and oldest legal service provider in the state, Legal Aid each year receives the largest percentage of ILAF funds. We are a Statewide organization --- the only law firm that has offices located on, and able to deliver legal services to, Oahu, Kauai, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i through locally based staff. With the assistance of ILAF, in FY13, Legal Aid closed over 7,300 cases providing assistance to indigent persons and seniors 60 years of age or older throughout Hawai'i.

Legal Aid's principal mission is aims to substantially improve the lives of our clients by providing civil legal representation on crucial issues affecting their well-being. This includes removing clients and their children from abusive situations; fighting illegal evictions which can lead to homelessness; counseling and representation of those facing foreclosure; helping clients receive critical health benefits; helping families access programs such as unemployment compensation, Federal Supplemental Security Income, general assistance and food stamps; assisting with family reunification; and ensuring safety after human trafficking. The critical support we receive from ILAF helps us to provide this assistance.

The increase in ILAF support has become of vital importance to Legal Aid in the last two years. Sequestration, a Census downward adjustment in funding, and Congressional budget cuts have resulted in a reduction of approximately \$380,000 to our Legal Services Corporation grant. That grant is the largest source of our federal funding. We also saw the end of a number of Stimulus-funded grants, and a \$400,000 reduction in our State grant-in-aid for FY14. These decreases have significantly and detrimentally impacted Legal Aid's finances. ILAF has helped to bridge some of the financial gaps that have resulted. Without ILAF funding, Legal Aid would have had to close offices and lay off staff, which would have led to a decrease in our ability to serve indigent individuals and families throughout Hawai'i.

ILAF also helps to leverage more federal funding for legal services. ILAF currently provides a match for our AmeriCorps, Low-Income Tax Project, and our intake hotline. Funding also supports our front-line staff in our branch offices throughout the state who work directly with and represent clients from Pahoia to Hanalei. The increase in ILAF monies has also provided greater stability and predictability in financial planning for legal services programs.

Legal Aid remains committed to providing quality legal assistance for low-income individuals and those eligible for free services under the Older Americans Act. We understand that ILAF monies are public dollars, and we take commensurate care to spend these funds properly and wisely to increase access to justice for our clients. Legal Aid prides itself on providing high quality work. We believe the assistance we provide greatly impacts the lives of our clients. One measure of our success is feedback received through client satisfaction surveys. On average, our clients rate our services as good or excellent in 80% of all cases, and the vast majority agrees that Legal Aid's services have helped to improve their lives.

As one client has shared, before she came to Legal Aid she was "shattered, broken down, afraid and lost. I never thought my voice, my child or I mattered." As a result of Legal Aid's help she says she can "breathe, feel protected, even dance. I have full physical and legal custody of my daughter. We do matter! My words were heard. Now we can work on healing." This client's words illustrate the great impact our assistance has upon clients' lives. Through ILAF funding, Legal Aid can continue to ensure that we meet the needs of Hawaii's low-income population.

We thank you again for your support.



To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: 2014 Report on the positive impact of the ILAF program

Dated: November 13, 2013

We want to begin by thanking the legislature for all of the support it has shown to legal services for the poor by modification of Act 180 of the 2011 session. Through this action as well as other forms of financial assistance provided by the Legislature for some of the legal services programs that provide direct assistance to those in need of critical legal representation, the Hawaii Legislature has shown its support for equal access to our judicial system for all.

Please accept this annual report on the activities of the Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice for the 2013 calendar year:

Education (School Breakfast Program): We are working with the Hawaii Department of Education and two elementary schools on Oahu to increase student participation in the federally funded school breakfast program. Hawaii's participation rate among students eligible for free or reduced-price meals has dropped to the 44th lowest in the nation. The two school-based demonstration projects are intended to identify models of action plans that can be used statewide to expand participation in the school breakfast program, particularly in schools located in high-needs communities. We are also in discussion with several charter schools about the possibility of including them in the demonstration project. The legislature appropriated \$85,000 in a Grant in Aid during the 2013 session to support the costs of food in schools participating in the pilot projects.

Education (School Discipline and Bullying Issues): We are working in partnership with coalitions of parents and programs to create more positive school environments and greater student success through improving the school discipline practices and responses to bullying. Currently, Hawaii has some of the highest rates of suicide planning and attempts among school-aged children, with the teen suicide rate doubling in the last five years. In addition, current discipline practices appear to have a significant disparate impact on students in predominantly Native Hawaiian communities. Hawaii Appleseed has identified and is exploring with its community partners a number of successful models that have increased safety in schools and have improved student behavior and success.

Affordable Housing: We continue to analyze the multiple barriers to creating affordable rental housing for those with low and very low incomes and to develop practical solutions to reduce housing costs. Currently, 75% of families living in poverty spend more than half of their income on housing. In 2012, Hawaii Appleseed authored a report suggesting a variety of building methods and materials that could be used to significantly reduce

housing construction costs. The report achieved a high level of visibility in print, radio, and television media and helped stimulate discussions about finding creative solutions to housing people transitioning out of homelessness and increasing the number of affordable rentals. We are preparing several report for release in November and December of 2013 suggesting options for removing barriers to building affordable low-income rental housing, including addressing land acquisition and utilization issues; reducing infrastructure costs; overcoming NIMBYism; and developing the necessary political will to make real progress. We are also participating in the development of the coalitions that will be necessary to make increased affordable housing a reality.

Tax Policy: Hawaii Appleseed has begun advocating for state tax policies that recognize the economic challenges faced by low-income families in Hawaii and that reflect a more equitable state tax structure. Currently Hawaii is one of only 10 states that tax those earning only minimum wages and our poorest workers pay more taxes than workers in all but four other states. We will be issuing a report suggesting specific legislative changes that will increase the income available to low wage earners, including the elimination of taxes for wage earners below the poverty level and creating a state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Education of Future Public Interest Advocates: Hawaii Appleseed has partnered with two private practitioners in offering a clinic in "Public Interest Lawyering" at the University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law. This course is highlighting the work that can be done to serve individuals with limited incomes and other worthy community groups and the students are for the most part working on projects that are being supervised by the staff of Hawaii Appleseed as well as the two instructors. One of the goals of this course is to help identify and train the next generation of public interest lawyers, or at least to encourage these students to become citizen advocates for a more just and equitable society.

Litigation Activities:

Hawaii Appleseed has achieved a number of important legal victories for poor communities in Hawaii and continues to pursue litigation where it is the most appropriate course of action when low income families or other disadvantaged groups have no other viable recourse to obtain fair and equitable treatment. The following are examples of important litigation we have undertaken:

Food and Nutrition: Hawaii Appleseed and its co-counsel resolved a class action against the state Department of Human Services for its failure to process food stamp applications within the federally required 30-day period after application. The Department's delays in processing applications denied basic food to thousands of Hawaii's poorest children, individuals and families each month. Hawaii Appleseed is currently monitoring compliance with the court order and is pleased with the DHS efforts to meet the 30 day requirement. As of August of 2013, DHS is making their decisions regarding applications within the 30 day period on 95% of the applications

Low income Housing: Pending cases include a lawsuit to recover significant rental overcharges for tenants from a private owner of a 144 unit Section 8 project in Waipahu. The case has recently been settled with about 250 households receiving average rent rebates of approximately \$1300.

The need for increased legal assistance to those low income individuals and families is well established. The Hawaii Appleseed Center recognizes the responsibility it has to use public funding as efficiently and effectively as possible to make a real difference in the lives of our clients. To this end we will continue to work in a close partnership with the judiciary and the Hawaii Justice Foundation in meeting the needs of our clients while ensuring full compliance with the requirements of the ILAF program.

In closing, we want again to thank the members of the legislature for their support for the modifications in the ILAF program made during the 2011 session and their historical support for legal services for the poor throughout Hawaii. The ILAF program has done much to make the need for assistance by our most impoverished and believe the ILAF program is being well utilized for this purpose.

Aloha,


Victor Geminiani
Executive Director



Susan M. Ichinose, Esq.
President, Board of Directors

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Esq.
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Members of the 2014 Hawaii State Legislature
From: M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina, Executive Director and Susan Ichinose, Board President
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013
Re: Act 180

The Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i ("Legal Aid") wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature for their passage of Act 180, which increased funding to the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund ("ILAF"). As the largest and oldest legal service provider in the state, Legal Aid each year receives the largest percentage of ILAF funds. We are a Statewide organization --- the only law firm that has offices located on, and able to deliver legal services to, Oahu, Kauai, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, and Hawai'i through locally based staff. With the assistance of ILAF, in FY13, Legal Aid closed over 7,300 cases providing assistance to indigent persons and seniors 60 years of age or older throughout Hawai'i.

Legal Aid's principal mission is aims to substantially improve the lives of our clients by providing civil legal representation on crucial issues affecting their well-being. This includes removing clients and their children from abusive situations; fighting illegal evictions which can lead to homelessness; counseling and representation of those facing foreclosure; helping clients receive critical health benefits; helping families access programs such as unemployment compensation, Federal Supplemental Security Income, general assistance and food stamps; assisting with family reunification; and ensuring safety after human trafficking. The critical support we receive from ILAF helps us to provide this assistance.

The increase in ILAF support has become of vital importance to Legal Aid in the last two years. Sequestration, a Census downward adjustment in funding, and Congressional budget cuts have resulted in a reduction of approximately \$380,000 to our Legal Services Corporation grant. That grant is the largest source of our federal funding. We also saw the end of a number of Stimulus-funded grants, and a \$400,000 reduction in our State grant-in-aid for FY14. These decreases have significantly and detrimentally impacted Legal Aid's finances. ILAF has helped to bridge some of the financial gaps that have resulted. Without ILAF funding, Legal Aid would have had to close offices and lay off staff, which would have led to a decrease in our ability to serve indigent individuals and families throughout Hawai'i.

ILAF also helps to leverage more federal funding for legal services. ILAF currently provides a match for our AmeriCorps, Low-Income Tax Project, and our intake hotline. Funding also supports our front-line staff in our branch offices throughout the state who work directly with and represent clients from Pahoia to Hanalei. The increase in ILAF monies has also provided greater stability and predictability in financial planning for legal services programs.

Legal Aid remains committed to providing quality legal assistance for low-income individuals and those eligible for free services under the Older Americans Act. We understand that ILAF monies are public dollars, and we take commensurate care to spend these funds properly and wisely to increase access to justice for our clients. Legal Aid prides itself on providing high quality work. We believe the assistance we provide greatly impacts the lives of our clients. One measure of our success is feedback received through client satisfaction surveys. On average, our clients rate our services as good or excellent in 80% of all cases, and the vast majority agrees that Legal Aid's services have helped to improve their lives.

As one client has shared, before she came to Legal Aid she was "shattered, broken down, afraid and lost. I never thought my voice, my child or I mattered." As a result of Legal Aid's help she says she can "breathe, feel protected, even dance. I have full physical and legal custody of my daughter. We do matter! My words were heard. Now we can work on healing." This client's words illustrate the great impact our assistance has upon clients' lives. Through ILAF funding, Legal Aid can continue to ensure that we meet the needs of Hawaii's low-income population.

We thank you again for your support.



THE MEDIATION CENTER OF THE PACIFIC, INC.

Bringing People Together to Talk and Resolve Their Differences

245 N. Kukui St. # 206, Honolulu, HI 96817 Tel: 521-6767 Fax: 538-1454 Email: mcp@mediatehawaii.org

November 9, 2013

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To: The Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

From: Tracey S. Wiltgen, Executive Director
The Mediation Center of the Pacific
245 N. Kukui Street Suite 206
Honolulu, HI 96817

The Board of Directors and staff of the Mediation Center of the Pacific are grateful to you for your support of increasing access to justice through the passage of Act 180 in the 2011 Session. The increase in the Indigent Legal Assistance Funds (ILAF) that occurred as a result of the amendment of H.R.S. §605-7, has enabled the Mediation Center of the Pacific and other civil legal service providers, to strengthen and grow services to members of Hawaii's indigent population.

The Mediation Center is one of the organizations that currently receives funds through ILAF to support the civil legal needs of Hawaii's low income population. The Mediation Center is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation that was founded in 1979 to provide Hawaii's people with high quality mediation and dispute resolution services that are affordable and accessible.

Over the past twenty years, the use of mediation has grown and is now in the forefront as a preferred process for helping parties resolve a broad array of disputes quickly and cost effectively. The Mediation Center is the only organization on Oahu that offers mediation and dispute resolution services for people in the low income population.

The Legislature's efforts to increase the ceiling for ILAF has allowed the Mediation Center to better serve the indigent population. Over the past five years, while funding to support the work of the Mediation Center declined, the number of cases managed by the Mediation Center increased by approximately 24%. In 2012, the Mediation Center managed 1,599 mediations involving 4,693 people. 37% of those individuals were in the low income population working out issues such as: divorce agreements;

co-parenting plans; evictions; transition plans for elders; and more. 52% of the mediations overall, resulted in final agreements, eliminating the need for additional legal or court intervention. In some specific areas, the impact was even greater. For example, 71% of the sixty-one unmarried couples who participated in mediation at the Mediation Center were able to reach agreements on time-sharing and co-parenting arrangements for their children. This past fiscal year, the number of unmarried couples using the Mediation Center's services more than doubled, with similar positive outcomes.

In addition to serving more clients, the additional funding is helping to strengthen the Mediation Center's programs to meet community needs and ensure that quality services are provided to clients. For example, this past year, the Mediation Center's staff recruited and trained new mediators for the divorce and paternity mediation programs and is currently developing an adult guardianship mediation program to assist with some of the hundreds of cases that are currently pending at Family Court in the First Circuit. These cases involve the elderly and their families who are in conflict regarding the needs and care of the elderly family member. Without the additional funds, we would not be able to initiate this important program.

Again, the Board of Directors and staff of the Mediation Center are grateful to the Legislature for your support. ILAF has provided critical financial resources that enable the Mediation Center to strengthen and grow quality programs to assist members of Hawaii's indigent population. We are committed to continuing to grow these services by partnering with the other organizations who serve Hawaii's poor, as well as the Judiciary and the Hawaii Justice Foundation, and ensure that this quality program continues to operate smoothly and efficiently.

Sincerely,



Tracey S. Wiltgen
Executive Director



NATIVE HAWAIIAN LEGAL CORPORATION

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1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1205 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 521-2302 • Fax (808) 537-4268

November 15, 2013

TO: Members of the 2013 Hawaii State Legislature

FROM: Moses K. N. Haia, III
Executive Director
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

RE: Indigent Legal Assistance Fund & legal services provided by the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

Aloha Lawmakers:

Mahalo nui loa for your kokua in strengthening the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund. Your decision in 2011 is bearing fruit as the amount of funding to the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC) has almost doubled since Act 180 was passed two years ago.

Within that period NHLC has been able to hire one more staff attorney and respond more quickly and effectively to requests for help ranging from preventing families from losing their ancestral lands to proving their blood quantum to qualify for a lease from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. This has also helped NHLC increase by 51% the number of cases closed in a timely manner within two years. This has allowed us to take on and represent clients that we would have been forced to reject based on caseload and capacity.

As you well know legal representation is costly for many people but for the poor it is a make or break proposition – the difference between becoming homeless or hanging onto a Hawaiian Homestead residential lease. The safety net at this end of the economic spectrum is not as sturdy as one may think. It is especially frayed for Native Hawaiians as more than a century's worth of dispossession and marginalization has bred a level of distrust in the "western legal system".

But this is the landscape upon which NHLC has built its hale and it is very grateful to the Legislature for the opportunity to serve its clients with more resources. The impact of the support is direct and simultaneously widespread. For example, in one of NHLC's land title cases on Maui, NHLC successfully prevented the forced sale of some of the land at issue. The judge held that "cash was no substitute for land" and ordered the plaintiff to provide appropriate legal notice to 158 Hawaiian individuals who were found to be co-tenants with the plaintiff based on NHLC's research. In another matter, two women who had recently lost their husbands

Services made possible with major funding from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

came to NHLC because they were being threatened with eviction by the state since their leases in Kahana Valley were in the names of their late husbands. NHLC was able to prove that the lease provisions allowed the women to succeed to their husband's leases. The women said there were four other families facing similar situations but now knew that their situation was not hopeless and could follow the path laid down before them by NHLC.

Increased ILAF funding has directly helped NHLC is in the area of title and genealogical research. NHLC employs two of a handful of title searchers/genealogists on Oahu who can perform "long intensive" searches - delving into maps, deeds and documents that are archived in the original Hawaiian language. They painstakingly but swiftly piece together a multi-pieced puzzle to confirm interest in land or the existence of a traditional practice. Their work has been invaluable. Through increased ILAF funding, NHLC has been able to retain and reward these valuable employees with salary raises, the first in approximately four to five years. Notwithstanding the above, NHLC's title searchers/genealogists believe it is their kuleana to do the work they are doing for their people and it has been a gratifying experience to be able to pay them at a level that is closer to what a private title searcher or genealogist earns at a private for profit law firm.

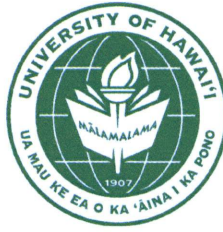
As NHLC approaches its 40th anniversary in 2014, it is very grateful to the Legislature for having the foresight and courage to provide much needed assistance to the poor. We at NHLC do not take your generosity for granted and are committed to working cooperatively with the Judiciary, fellow legal services providers and the Native Hawaiian communities to strengthen the future for our people. Please call me or email me if you have any questions.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Moses Haia, III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Moses Haia, III
Executive Director

(808) 521-2302
Moses.haia@nhlchi.org



November 19, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hawai'i State Legislators

SUBJECT: Impact of Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF)

The University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program (UHELP) is an integral part of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and is proud to serve our community on a year-round basis. UHELP provides direct legal services to socially and economically needy older persons while it helps to serve the education and training needs of the next generation of lawyers. We have two goals that closely mesh with each other. At the law school we educate law students in elder law by providing experiential law related experiences through UHELP and its elderly clients. In turn our needy elderly clients benefit from the legal services that the UHELP staff and law students under the supervision of UHELP's staff provide.

While we do not receive any direct appropriations from the state, we are thankful for the funding for the university and for the positive assistance in Act 180 of the 2011 session with respect to the ILAF funding. This fiscal year we were not a recipient of ILAF funds but we are grateful for past support and we are hopeful for the future. Currently UHELP receives its main funding from a grant under Title III of the older Americans Act which is administered through the Elderly Affairs Division of the City and County of Honolulu. Through this grant, we are able to enhance, protect and preserve the autonomy and independence of our elders. This year we plan to provide direct legal services, referral and advice to approximately 450 qualified elders as well as provide educational outreach and informational support to approximately 350 caregivers and their elderly care recipients.

With ILAF funding we hope to sustain and grow our legal services to socially and economically needy elders and to expand with civil legal services to needy older veterans. We feel that we have been utilizing public funding in an efficient and equitable manner to these two rapidly growing populations and it is our hope that with increased funding we will be able to address more of the unmet needs of this deserving part of our community.

We will continue to work cooperatively with the Judiciary and the Hawaii Justice Foundation to ensure a smooth and efficient operation at UHELP. Thank you again for your support of access to justice for low-income residents through ILAF funding.

Most Respectfully,

James H. Pietsch
Professor of Law and Director, UHELP

University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program
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Executive Director

November 8, 2013

Hon. Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hon. Joseph M. Souki
Speaker of the House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Indigent Legal Assistance Fund

Dear President Kim and Speaker Souki:

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii is grateful for the 2011 Legislature's passage of Act 180, which raised the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (ILAF) surcharge to increase funding for legal service providers.

Volunteer Legal's ILAF grants have been applied to operating costs that support the organization's mission to serve Hawaii's low-income population through pro bono attorneys. With state grants-in-aid supplementing ILAF funds, Volunteer Legal has been able to target the legal needs of Hawaii's underserved populations. In Fiscal Year 2013 staff and pro bono attorneys provided 1,397 services to 1,362 clients across the Hawaiian Islands: 934 from Oahu; 225 from Hawai'i County; 51 from Kauai; 142 from Maui; 9 from Molokai; and one from Lanai.

Volunteer Legal values its working relationship with the Judiciary and the Hawaii Justice Foundation. In administering ILAF, they require accountability while minimizing the administrative time imposed on ILAF recipients.

The Legislature's continuing support of ILAF is greatly appreciated by Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and clients.

Sincerely,

L. Dew Kaneshiro
Executive Director