Who We Are

The Domestic Violence Action Center has been serving survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) for thirty years. DVAC’s mission is a commitment to addressing domestic violence and other forms of harm through leadership, unique services, legal representation, housing, survivor and system advocacy, community education and social change work. DVAC has been dedicated to addressing the issue of family violence on O’ahu since 1991. What began as a two-person part time staff is now a full staff of nearly 50 inspired professionals, deeply involved in advocacy, service and outreach. DVAC serves (adult and child) survivors of family violence through a comprehensive array of inclusive, client-centered services, unduplicated in the community, including: HELPLINE assistance, long-term advocacy, crisis support, court outreach, teen outreach, support groups, training opportunities, legal consultations and representation, and specific, specialized services for adolescents, immigrants, non-English speaking survivors, LGBTQ+ individuals, Native Hawaiian survivors, and child witnesses and their non-offending parent.

What We Do

DVAC’s multilingual and multicultural staff assist survivors in overcoming barriers presented by economics, system weaknesses, lack of training, professional bias, limited resources and the unrelenting pursuit by perpetrators. DVAC’s executive team has a combined 93 years of work advocating for survivors. DVAC is part of the Hawai’i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Fatality Review Team, Access to Justice Commission, Hawaii Children’s Trust Fund, Early Childhood Action Strategy, the Violence Against Women Planning Committee, Unite Hawaii, and the Legal Service Provider Consortium, and works with Women’s Legislative Caucus and Partners in Care, O’ahu’s continuum of care for homelessness. The agency has been instrumental to the birth, growth and success of the Men’s March Against Violence on O’ahu.

How We Do It

During the COVID-19 crisis, DVAC has been a force in the community regarding the increased risk of harm to survivors forced to shelter in place with their abusers or maneuver custody and visitation. DVAC has led numerous public awareness initiatives during the crisis, including media interviews, government testimony, and agency collaboration. DVAC increased its public awareness with the following initiatives: numerous sign waving opportunities including downtown Honolulu, Ward Avenue, Kalihi and at the State Capitol; increased social media presence with daily posts on DVAC’s Instagram accounts and a steady stream of followers (1,456); DVAC produced five new Public Service Announcements which aired on local TV stations throughout the year; DVAC submitted testimony to the Hawai’i State Legislature about the FY 2021 state budget; and DVAC participated in the first House Majority Talk Story, moderated by House Majority Leader Representative Della Bellati.

The Domestic Violence Action Center is committed to addressing domestic violence and other forms of harm through leadership, unique services, legal representation, housing, survivor and system advocacy, community education and social change work.
Grantors

**Government Funding**
Consulate-General of Japan
United States Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Children and Families
United States Department of Justice – Office on Violence Against Women
Hawai‘i Department of the Attorney General – Crime Prevention and Justice Assistance Division
Hawai‘i Department of Health
Hawai‘i Department of Human Services – Social Services Division
Hawai‘i State Judiciary
City and County of Honolulu

**Corporate/Foundation Support**
Alexander & Baldwin
Aloha United Way
Atherton Family Foundation
Cades Foundation
The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation
The Freeman Foundation
First Hawaiian Bank Foundation
Friends of Hawai‘i Charities
GIFT Foundation of Hawai‘i
H.T. Hayashi Foundation
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Hawai‘i Community Foundation
Hawai‘i Justice Foundation
Hawaii Women’s Legal Foundation
The Healy Foundation
Kaiser Family Foundation
The Keith and Judy Swayne Family Foundation
McInerny Foundation
Realtors Care Fund
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
Sophie Russell Testamentary Trust
Stupisk Foundation
Target Foundation
Teresa F. Hughes Trust
Thomas and Sumie McCabe Foundation
The TJX Foundation
Women’s Fund of Hawai‘i
Adjustments to program services continued to be necessary through the first half of the fiscal year. New hardware had to be procured, and staff working remotely had to be outfitted with access to the secure agency network. These were not small efforts; with no spare change, and the prevailing imperative, it still had to be done. The agency convened reflective and strategic planning retreats for Leadership Team and Board of Directors. The executive management team also joined in Retreat to review accomplishments and challenges and set goals.

Considerable effort by the agency Operations Team was undertaken to equip direct services staff with the necessary tools to work virtually, serve virtually and engage with community virtually. Team meetings, training and participation in community discourse were facilitated through digital formats.

Staff were provided with the early opportunity to receive vaccinations as the agency was designated as essential services at the outset of the pandemic.

DVAC’s CEO, Nanci Kreidman, received the Institute for Violence Abuse and Trauma Lifetime Achievement Award.
Teen Alert (TAP808) is the agency program whose focus is youth. Young people 13 – 22, who are students, participants in youth serving programs and those experiencing relationship violence. The incomparable team revised their in-person content to digital format, incorporating breakout rooms, videos and polls. The program began using Constant Contact (online newsletter) to send email blasts to let schools and community know that we were ready to bring this information STILL, ANYWAY, to young people who were learning remotely, from home. It was a masterful conversion, and the feedback from teachers and schools was glowing. TAP808 worked with After School All-Stars to offer My Story, and added a 10-12 week after school program. The program also facilitated TalkStory with the youth at DVAC’s Hale Maluhia apartment complex for survivor families. The team made 2 presentations to cohorts of Girls Talk Back. A 30-second commercial was produced for broadcast, featuring the voice and experience of young people and educators. For the fiscal year, despite the obstacles, TAP808 was able to offer 203 presentations aimed for youth audiences with 2,161 participants attending.

During the fiscal year, Survivor Advocacy Services programs worked with inspiration and devotion to support survivors in a variety of ways. 10,048 safety plans were devised or reviewed with survivors who faced risk. Attorneys made 179 court appearances; of 231 legal cases (opened and closed during this time frame) 35 survivors were immigrants and an additional 45 clients with immigration status issues received assistance. 143 survivors who needed this help had advocacy guidance improving their access to medical care; Niu Health provided DVAC with 90 subscriptions for telehealth. For those survivors who identified housing needs at the time of intake with DVAC, 249 received responsive support to address those needs – in addition to those living safe and supported at Hale Maluhia (DVAC’s housing program with 20 apartment units). 772 long term advocacy clients met their goals, reached a measure of stability and self-sufficiency and gained capacity to use their voice on their journey moving forward. EXPO onsite court program assisted 2,944 survivors seeking restraining orders and protection orders at Family Court. We participated in an invitation-only training, “Best Practices and Approaches for Family Related Mediations” coordinated by the Mediation Center of Hawaii, which affirmed this agency’s rejection of mediation as a practice for resolving partnership conflict when there has been domestic violence.

Soon after the pandemic restrictions were imposed, all DVAC staff participated in a training series of 4 Sessions focused on Trauma Informed practice; this was initiated to strengthen staff capacity to respond to survivors who had experienced such serious sustained abuse as a prisoner of their abuser.

Ensuring access to services for all survivors in our community is an organizational commitment. DVAC is focused on living with a sound cultural understanding of appropriate strategies for working with diverse ethnic communities. Specialized advocacy support is available by Japanese advocate, COFA advocate, Korean advocate, native Hawaiian advocate, Filipina advocate and LGBTQ advocate.

The bi-cultural bi-lingual presence is an imperative for making services meaningful and aligned with community norms.

DVAC works tirelessly to reform a system that is not as effective as it needs to be.
Pulama I ka Ohana continued its good work, serving children and their non-offending survivor parent in a rich variety of ways. 48 families participated in support groups; 10 support groups were convened (161 Sessions) – of which 4 were culturally specific: Korean, Japanese, Filipino and LGBTQ. Survivor families in the PIKO program benefited from advocacy – 119 adults and 244 children received specialized long term advocacy. Participants in the program on average reported having experienced domestic violence for almost a decade; one third (40%) reported experiencing domestic violence for more than 10 years (Omnitrak).

Omnitrak conducted evaluation of the work and found that survivor participant’s personal agency and attitude about feeling hopeless decreased after their work with PIKO. The statement “At times I feel hopeless” decreased (meaning positive outcome) with a 27% increase in participants selecting “untrue” and “somewhat untrue for me”.

During the fiscal year, DVAC endeavored in its pursuit of new housing opportunities for survivors. There is an unceasing need for specialized housing, so that safety and healing can be achievable in one setting. DVAC received a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to purchase a property to create a new housing program for survivor island families. Hale Wahine joins Hale Maluhia in partnership with Housing Solutions Incorporated (HSI). These program partnerships has HSI serving as the property management company, while DVAC provides supportive program services to the island families who are tenants. Housing Manager and Housing Advocate are on site to meet the changing and complex needs of families in transition. becoming stable, single parenting, complying with court orders for visitation and adjustments needed in response to the ongoing pandemic circumstances demanded a lot from everyone. The staff had 3,056 contacts with the tenants addressing different challenges; throughout the year there was 649 safety planning reviews and adjustments. The families have benefited from generous community support which included gift cards for the children’s birthdays, produce from St. Francis Healthcare System, household goods, gently used clothes and toys.
Hale Maluhia: A Journey To Safety
Client is working from home and taking care of her 14-year-old son who has Asperger’s Syndrome. During her marriage she suffered from physical abuse, gaslighting, isolation and psychological abuse. Her husband moved the family to the continent when he obtained a job; this detached her from her support system here in Hawaii. Survivor had seizures, passed out and woke up with bruises on her body. Abuser went to the doctor with her and doctor acknowledged the injuries resulting from the abuse in front of her abuser and offered no assistance or intervention. She finally told her family and received their support. Once she returned home, she became a tenant of Hale Maluhia, paving the way for a safe, stable future where she now lives.
One-Day Snapshot

- 67 legal consultations
- 120 texts with clients
- 35 client benefitting agency calls
- 3 family court accompaniments
- 64 minor children affected
- 73 calls with clients
- 6 support group participants
- 1 support group
- 65 safety plans
- 0 family court appearances
- 59 emails with clients
- 10 motion filed
- 0 teen alert workshops
- 59 referrals
- 0 accompaniments to other agencies
- 21 in-person client contacts
- 23 chats with clients
- 18 helpline calls
- 3 helpline texts
- 5 helpline chats
- 67 legal consultations
The Domestic Violence Action Center is persistent in its work to strengthen the system of support for survivors and advance social justice through membership in local, statewide, and national committees and task forces. These include: the Violence Against Women Planning Committee, the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Women’s Legislative Coalition, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Hawaii Access to Justice Commission, Unite Hawaii (facilitated by Kaiser Permanente) Hawaii Children’s Trust Fund, Legal Service Provider Consortium, Delivery of Legal Services Committee of the Bar and the Family Law Section of the Bar.

During the year staff participated in statewide training of City and County Employees, Consuelo Foundation Strategic Planning, Evaluation of the Chief of the Honolulu Police Department, the review and potential revisions of the Batterer Intervention Standards (which is the guiding standard for all contracted programs working with abusers) and scheduled Informational Briefings in partnership with Child and Family Service for elected leaders and appointed leaders. DVAC was invited to submit a plan for programs and funding through the American Rescue Act Plan, with live testimony to the City Council elucidating the needs.

DVAC also participated in the NNEDV (National Network to End Domestic Violence) annual census with programs and communities across the country capturing the work done on that one day. Members of the management team were invited by Futures Without Violence to serve as mentors to a second cohort of grantees receiving Family Violence Prevention Services grants in the Specialized Services for Abused Parents and their Children category. DVAC was selected to facilitate 3 sessions at the bi-annual National Health Conference on Domestic Violence, coordinated by Futures without Violence. CEO participated in a Society of Human Resource Professionals training on Domestic Violence in the Workplace and Pandemic Impact on Survivors. DVAC management team members featured agency programs on an AlohaCare network training webinar.

Visibility remained an important agency commitment. Survivors and potential supporters need to know we are here, and we are here in service to the community. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month (October) DVAC participated in the production of several broadcast productions: Hostage at Home, Man. Kind. (since the annual Men’s March had to be postponed to a year with no restrictions on crowd size), Peace for Everyone and several segments of Living808. Two segments of What’s the Law with Coralie Matayoshi aired on KHON. CEO participated in a PBS Insights broadcast. We worked with Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Liliuokalani Trust and Kamehameha Schools to publish an IPV Brief about Domestic Violence in Native Hawaiian Families.

Summit Media made their studios available for production of radio commercials and PSA’s.

During this fiscal year several new initiatives were begun. Let Love Bloom: designed to celebrate safe love at Valentine’s Day; Penny’s collaborated with DVAC and made beautiful orchids affordable for supporters. For Easter, DVAC was selected to receive Easter Baskets for clients from the Women’s Legislative Caucus.

Mahalo to Moms was conceived to provide a gift to each mom working with agency programs; survivor moms are hardworking, undervalued and misunderstood often. We wanted to honor moms who are making the journey to safety for themselves and their children. The community rose and contributed generously to make it possible for every mom to receive a gift. Lanikai Bath and Body collaborated with DVAC making a contribution of many home grown gifts. For fathers, #HawaiiRadDad was coordinated the week before Father’s Day to recognize those men who are good fathers.

Calendar year 2021 stood up as the 30th Anniversary of the agency. What started as a two-person operation in 1991 is now a thriving organization with...
nearly 50 employees, offering specialized services to women, men and children. DVAC is well-recognized for its unique and unduplicated trauma-informed, inclusive, survivor centered multi-cultural programs. Training and education, technical assistance and community building, direct services, public awareness campaigns, technical assistance and media commentary are commitments the agency sustains in service to the people of Hawaii.

We started the Anniversary year with a **downtown sign-waving** and media attention to recognize the milestone.

**30 Ways to Peace** was posted on the social media platforms for the first month of the anniversary.

In March, **30 Voices of Survivors** was posted to social media platforms. The community must hear the challenges, the obstacles and the triumphs survivors live.

A **Council of Allies** was formed to generate the capacity to extend the agency reach farther out into the community. A welcome gratitude lunch was hosted to enroll the Allies in the work and the ways they could assist DVAC in raising awareness. (See Allies list on page 13). Council members each authored an Island Voices column published in the Sunday edition of the Star Advertiser.

Breakfast or Lunch Briefings were hosted to engage the network of the Council member. Other resources were made available through the relationship building.

**Our organizational culture honors an inclusive, trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach to working in the best interests of children, youth and adults harmed by abuse.**
Internal Landscape

Living in a community based organization is a dynamic environment. The intensity is real and more pronounced during these times, but DVAC has never lacked active change. This year our Deputy Director relocated to California and the organization structure was reviewed for efficacy and strength. A new position was created in its place, Vice President of Community Services. This position resembled similar leadership over the previous 10 years, prior to a Deputy Director. We said aloha to our Finance Manager, and welcomed a new one. We created an Operations Manager position to assist with the multi-faceted responsibility of a large organization with several locations where program services are offered. Technology was examined and upgrades were made to hardware and software. Staff from every department participated in training (880 hours this year) to elevate their awareness and maintain the EXPERT status DVAC has earned. Through the expertise DVAC has developed opportunities to collaborate, innovate and communicate about this pandemic impacting business, academia, justice systems, health care practitioners and spiritual institutions are abundant.

Airtime was purchased multiple times to broadcast messaging about the availability of the agency’s multi-cultural programs and the availability of support to make good decisions in the face of danger. Devices for communication and distance learning were purchased and distributed to survivors and island families. Hawaii Community Foundation Resilience grant and CARES Act monies were received, along with support from the Department of Health to meet changing client and organization needs. DVAC remains engaged in it commitment to housing, through purchase, with CDBG funds, of a house for conversion into permanent supportive housing, making this the third housing program-beginning to close a gap for survivors who need to escape, with few real community options for change.

Board of Directors and Leadership teams each met in Retreat to strengthen relationships, reflect deeply on the present and continue visioning for the future.
Financial Results

**REVENUE**

- State of Hawaii: $1,536,396 (36%)
- Federal: $1,043,280 (24%)
- Foundations & Grants: $679,786 (16%)
- Client: $7,388 (0%)
- Other Income: $27,758 (1%)
- Community Support: $326,935 (8%)

**EXPENSES**

- Program Services: $3,135,228 (80%)
- Operations: $744,921 (19%)
- Fundraising: $34,695 (1%)

Total Expenses: $3,914,844
The Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) Council of Allies is an esteemed collection of influential leaders from various sectors who have graciously agreed to partner with us in celebrating our 30 years of service and support in Hawaii. Through this collaborative effort, each Council member will reach out to their networks to further raise awareness about domestic violence and to garner both financial and community support for our work.

Each Member will champion one month in 2021 to share our message of hope and healing. DVAC will support the effort with all of the materials and background needed. Through email, social media and connecting with established business networks, the goal is to reach 30 other people of influence, in honor of our 30th year.

Ann Botticelli  
Communications

J.J. Niebuhr  
Restaurateur

David Lassner  
President, University of Hawaii

Diane Paloma  
President and CEO, Hawaii Dental Service

Andrew Rosen  
President, SummitMedia Corporation

Senator Brian Schatz  
Senior United States Senator

Loretta Sheehan  
Attorney, Partner at Davis Levin Livingston

Maya Soetoro-Ng  
Consultant, Obama Foundation  
Faculty Specialist at the Spark M Matsunaga Institute for Peace & Conflict Resolution, UH Manoa

Alexandra Sueda  
Physician, Kaiser Permanente

Cori Weston  
Senior Vice President, Bank of Hawaii

Jack Wong  
CEO, Kamehameha Schools
Training Topics

July 2020 – June 2021
Total STAFF Training Hours 879.5

Abuse: Frequently Utilized, Difficult to Identify
Accessing Emergency Housing Vouchers
Active and Indigenous Survivors in Transitional Housing
Beyond the Shock Accepting & Leveraging
Body-Focused Intervention as Tmt for PTSD
Building Resiliency as a Foundation for Person
Building Solidarity Across Movements
CVCC HAD Crime Victim Advocacy Program
CVCC HPA Crime Victim Advocacy Project
Divorce Law
DV101 Legal Training
Dynamics of DV, Perpetrators, DV and Child Development
Economic Justice and DV: Making the Case
Eliminating Barriers to Healthcare for Immigrant
Emotional Safety for Children
Healing from Trauma: Centering the Survivor
Healing through Connection: Cultural Practices for Families and Communities Moving Beyond Trauma
Healthy Communication + Modeling Boundaries
Justice: Exploring the Intersectionality
Kuleana & Community
LGBTQ+ Webinar
Mental Health America
Navigating Hawaii’s Child Care Subsidies
Navigating Housing for Survivors
Navigating when a Survivor is in crisis
Opioid Use Disorder Treatments
Policies and Practices that Promote Safety
Positive Mindset for the New Normal
Post-Conviction Victim Advocacy on Parole
Post-Conviction Victim Advocacy Program
Preventing Sexual Grooming
Preventing Trauma and Youth Suicide During COVID-19 and beyond
Safety Planning
SAS - P&C Case Review
Sexual Assault Survivor Services
Spiritual and Cultural Abuse 101
Supporting Children through Trauma
Supportive Services Available to Survivors of Sexual Assault in the Military - Community -
- Based Collaboration Expert Q&A
Survivor Crisis
Trauma Informed Care
Tribal Justice System & Victim Rights
Understanding the Dimensions of Substance Use and why Survivors may continue the use substance
Understanding the Roll of Resiliency
Victim Service during the Pandemic
Victims Centered Strategies
Violent Extremism
Virtual Summit: Tech Safety
WSCADV Against Domestic Violence
Youth on Engaging Youth Virtually
Donors

Wina Ababa
Jayson Ababa
Jill Abbott
Kristi Adachi
Jean Adair-Leland
Carolyn Adler
Carol Ak
Thelma Alane
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Unyong Nakata
Dan Nakata
Kayla Nakayama
Kimi Nam
Joshua Nam
Claudia Namoca
Jack Naqvi
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Svetlana Natarov
Anabel Neal
Hillary Newman
Dale Ng
Sally Nhomi
Linda Nichols
Sheryl Nicholson
Lisa Noguchi
Andrew and Nora Nomura
Uzoamaka Ogbodo
Thomas Oh
Clarice Ohara
Pauline & Lowell Ohlendorf-Chun
& Chun
Armi Oliver Farinas
Vernon Omori
Patricia Onogi
The Osorios
Brigitta Osterholt
Jill Otake
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