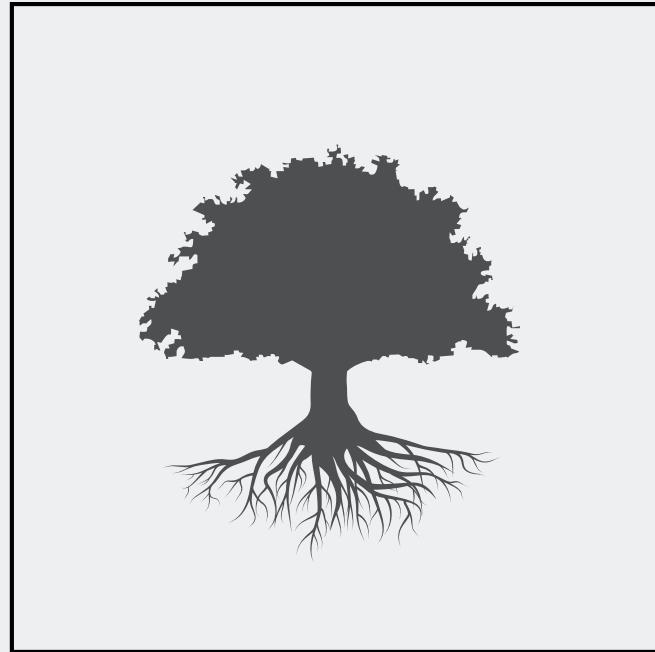




ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Firmly Rooted.



The Oak Tree

A mighty wind blew night and day.
It stole the oak tree's leaves away.
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark
Until the oak was tired and stark.

But still the oak tree held its ground
While other trees fell all around.
The weary wind gave up and spoke,
'How can you still be standing, Oak?

The oak tree said, 'I know that you
Can break each branch of mine in two,
Carry every leaf away,
Shake my limbs and make me sway.

But I have roots stretched in the earth,
Growing stronger since my birth.
You'll never touch them, for you see,
They are the deepest part of me.

Until today, I wasn't sure
Of just how much I could endure.
But now I've found, with thanks to you,
I'm stronger than I ever knew.

Johnny Ray Ryder, Jr.



*Commit
To
Growth*

A LETTER FROM THE INTERIM CEO

Dear Friends & Supporters,

Stepping into the role of interim CEO has truly been an honor for me, especially since I have been a long-time supporter and admirer of the great work that takes place at the Domestic Violence Action Center. After 34 years, DVAC continues to be a vital community service for Hawaii and an essential lifeline for survivors facing domestic abuse in their relationships. Our clients continue to share their deep gratitude for the services and support they receive from our dedicated staff of 40+, who make their safety and survival possible.

My goal has been to maintain the incredible work within our island community, while also helping the organization prepare for long-term leadership and sustainability. With serious government changes across the nation, we here in Hawaii have felt it, too... drastic budget cuts and lack of support for specific programs have made us re-evaluate our funding streams, tighten up our operations and restructure our staff. I am confident that we are now in a stable and secure position to carry the DVAC legacy forward for many more years to come. Mahalo for your continued support.

LAURIE TOCHIKI

INTERIM CEO, Domestic Violence Action Center



A MESSAGE FROM DVAC'S BOD

Aloha,

As the President of the Board of Directors, I must share how greatly impressed I am of the fearless commitment demonstrated by the DVAC team, especially during times of turmoil. They have weathered the storm and remain ever committed to their numerous clients, who rely on them for safety and security. Despite serious budget cuts, services have never paused, and survivors in crisis have been able to get the help and assistance they need. The one word I would use to describe this incredible organization is “resilient,” as they bend

and do not break. They continue to show up for their clients each and every day, helping them get through the many obstacles and challenges they face. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the Hawaii community for their great support of DVAC. Without your help, this invaluable support to survivors might not be possible. Thanks to you, the agency continues to remain firmly rooted, and will keep thriving and growing to serve our island families and to keep our community safe.

David Tumiowicz
DAVID TUMIOWICZ

Board President, DVAC Board of Directors

2025 AT A GLANCE

Growth takes time and as with any organization of DVAC's size and caliber, sometimes leadership transitions may take place to adapt to the growing needs of the company. This year, DVAC welcomed interim CEO Laurie Tochiki, who graciously took the reins while some internal changes occurred. DVAC was able to fortify its legal team, adding three new lawyers on staff. Also worth noting, many new hires filled vacant spots and DVAC is now fully staffed. All the while, support to clients never faltered and services continued.

Key achievements this year included:



Strengthen Company Culture



Enhance Organizational Structure



Rebuild the Legal Team



Maintain Financial Stability

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

We believe all persons should be treated with equality, dignity and fairness. With high quality and culturally sensitive programs, delivered with integrity and compassion we are creating safety and self-sufficiency for survivors and their children.

DVAC's Program and Services

*LIMITLESS GROWTH

ALAKA'I ADVOCACY

The Alaka'i Advocacy team collaborates with DVAC's staff attorneys to help domestic violence survivors navigate the often-overwhelming legal and welfare systems, social service agencies, schools, immigration, and more. DVAC's advocates provide this individualized, specialized assistance, and emotional support on a long-term basis, often for longer than a year.



ExPO COURT OUTREACH TEAM

The prospect of testifying against an abuser can be traumatic and heartbreak for survivors of domestic violence. The ExPO Team work at Family Court in Kapolei where they provide information and emotional support before or during court procedures. Their assistance spans civil and criminal court at both stages of the process – *ex parte* and to show cause at a hearing. The highly trained advocates can explain the court process, refer survivors to community resources, connect them with legal representation, conduct risk assessments, and create safety plans.



DVAC's Program and Services (continued)



HELPLINE

Clients often make their first contact with DVAC through its helpline, which is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Callers can seek help for themselves or someone they know. DVAC's dedicated staff conducts client intakes, provides initial counseling and agency referrals if needed, pairs survivors with an advocate, develops safety plans, and evaluates their risk of being in lethal situations.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Hale Maluhia, a 20-unit living facility for survivors of domestic violence and their children, opened in 2020 to address a critical shortage of housing for this population. Residents pay 30% of their income in rent. DVAC's staff attorneys assist residents with legal concerns, and advocates equip them with the tools, skills, and confidence to move forward and become independent and self-sufficient.

HO'OKAIKA OHANA

Ho'ookaika is a nine-month program for Native Hawaiian domestic violence survivors and their families. The program, developed in response to the large number of Native Hawaiians who have experienced domestic violence and seek DVAC services, honors the need for programs and services that are built on Native Hawaiian values to better support domestic violence survivors and their families toward healing and rebuilding. Survivors and their *keiki* (children) attend weekly group sessions where they mend relationships through *mo'olelo* (talk story), lei-making, planting and pounding *kalo* (taro), chanting, and hula dancing.

DVAC's Program and Services (continued)

LEGAL TEAM

DVAC's staff attorneys provide legal services on a sliding scale for divorce, paternity cases, restraining orders, post-decree representation, agency referrals, child support, reporting child abuse, and other needs. They also provide expert advice and legal services through individual meetings or the DVAC legal helpline. Employers, teachers, healthcare professionals, or other community professionals can also use this resource if they have questions about others who they believe need help.

PULAMA I KA OHANA (PIKO)

PIKO support groups for victims of domestic violence and their children of all ages promote healing and nurture the parent-child bond. Group leaders provide domestic violence education, and teach positive parenting, communication skills, and self-care techniques. Children play, make friends, and participate in cultural activities with their parent and siblings.



SAFE, STRONG AND SOBER (SSS)

SSS trains substance abuse treatment providers, healthcare practitioners, and other organizations that also provide domestic violence services to better understand and address the link between domestic violence and substance use. DVAC also offers support for new procedures, expert consultation for high-risk cases, referrals to local resources, and materials for providers to display or distribute.

SAFE FAMILIES ARE AT THE CORE OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

DVAC's **Teen Alert Program (TAP 808)** is one of the only of its kind in the country, which specifically seeks to celebrate healthy relationships and prevent teen dating violence. From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, DVAC reached **3,089 youth** (ages 12 to 21) statewide through its innovative, informative educational programs and workshops and provided direct advocacy to 60 youth.

TAP 808's staff continually works to expand and enhance its offerings to reach its young audience and provide them with the tools and life skills to be the best version of themselves. Earlier this year, the program held its first-ever "Be You" Conference during National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. As the school year kicks into high gear, TAP 808 is expanding into more schools, joining forces with additional community partners, and recently became advanced digital threat assessment certified to help assess and respond to threatening behaviors.



A SURVIVOR'S STORY

It started with a phone call to DVAC with a soft voice on the other line. The caller identified herself as Hannah, and asked if she could fundraise on DVAC's behalf.

It turns out that Hannah was a survivor of domestic abuse and wanted to help other women in need of support.

"About three years ago, I found myself trapped in an abusive relationship," she shared. "I lost myself and would wake up and not even recognize the girl in the mirror.

I felt weak and hopeless, and above everything else - ashamed - that I was in that situation. I didn't want my friends or family to find out and then one day it was impossible to keep hiding."

She was fortunate to come out on the other side, and felt compelled to raise awareness about domestic violence and let other victims know that they are not alone.



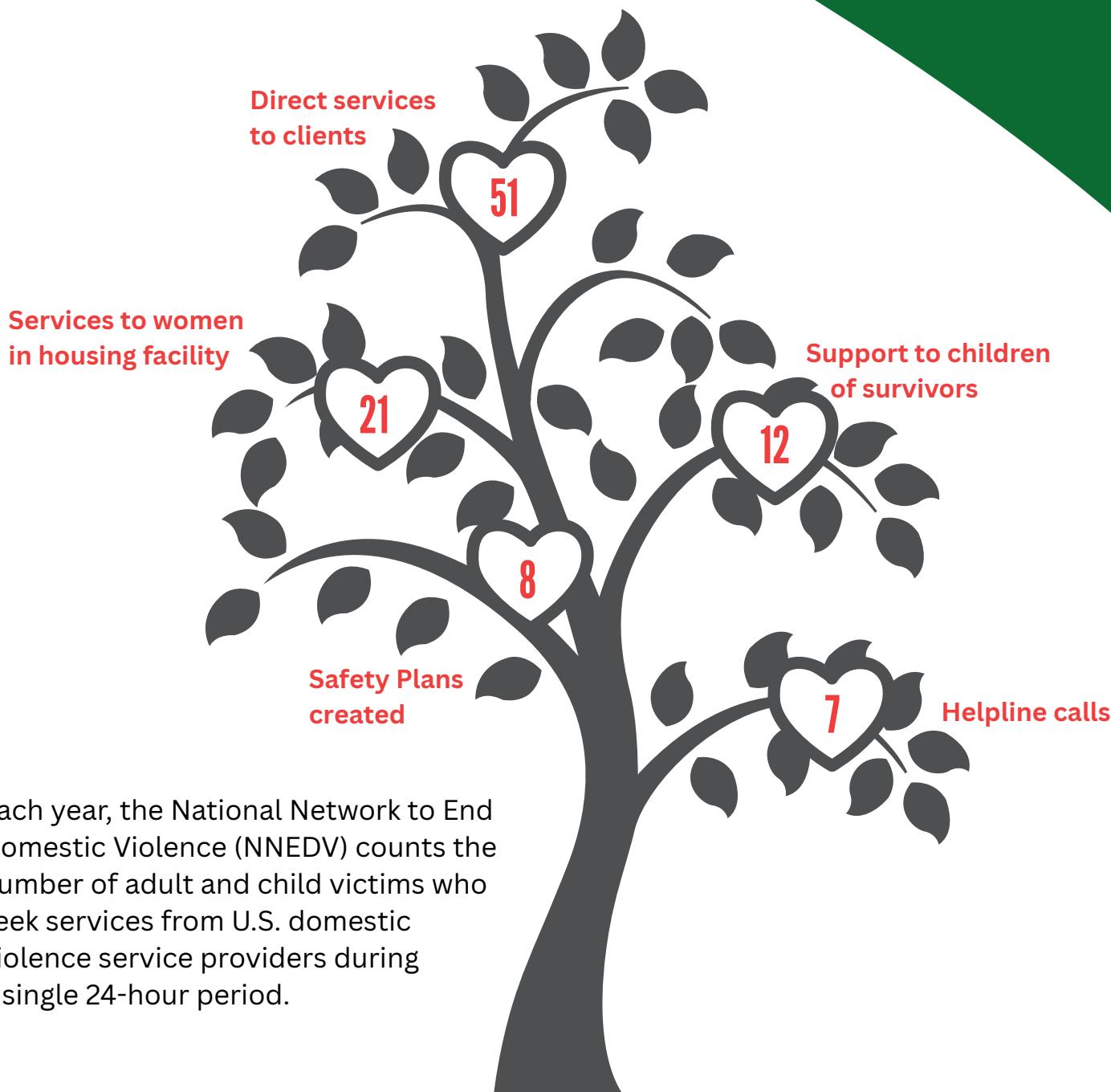
Hannah, along with three other young women, teamed up to form a competitive rowing crew called **Rowing Oceans 4 Women** and decided to compete in the Great Pacific Race. This is a grueling 2400-nautical-mile rowing race with teams of 3 or 4 members, journeying from San Francisco to Hawaii.

Choosing the Domestic Violence Action Center as their designated charity, they raised **\$15,619.62** for DVAC, and Hannah was able to share her story of survival and triumph - a victory in itself!

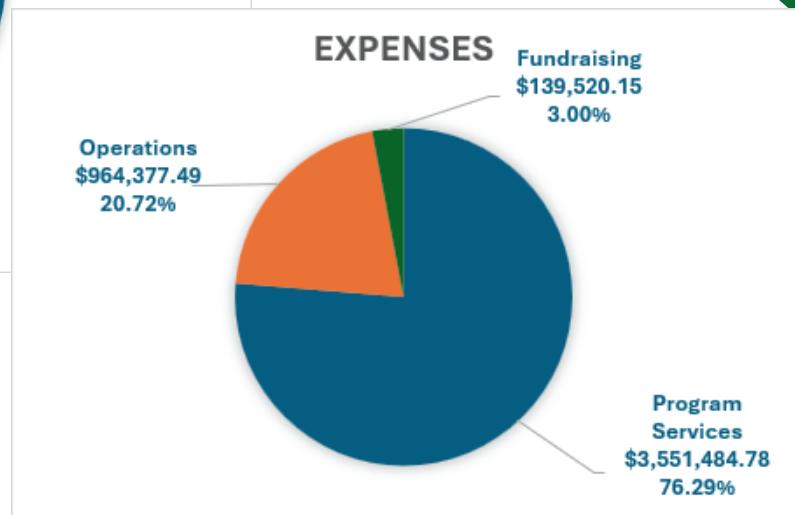
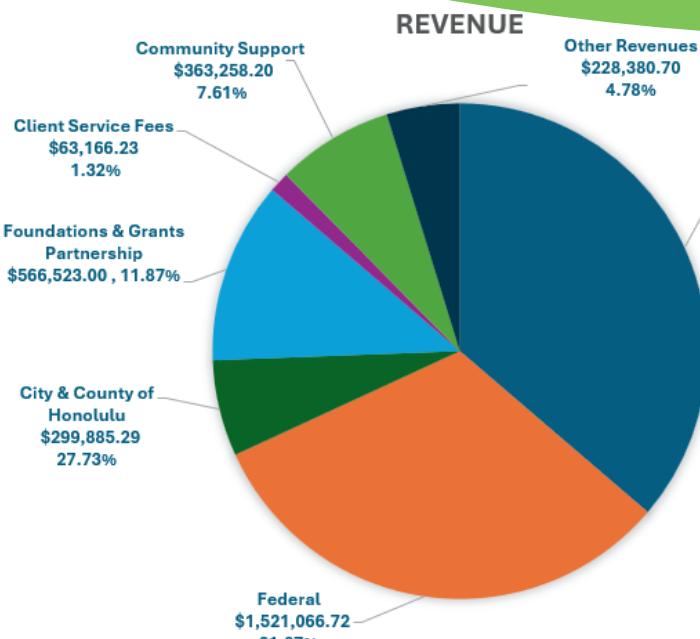
WORLD'S TOUGHEST ROW

ONE-DAY SNAPSHOT OF SERVICES

September 10, 2025



FINANCIAL OUTLOOK



During the 2025 Fiscal Year, DVAC's scope of work included:

safety plans - 2,972
risk assessments - 2,741
contacts with clients - 3,446
court appearances (with attorneys) - 78
court cases closed - 83
clients needing medical services - 176
long term adv cases closed - 667
ExPO clients served - 1,357
clients received EXPO outreach - 1,357

court accompaniments (with advocates) - 739
referrals made to community resources - 9,304
active case count - 223
4 culturally specific support groups ran
(2 COFA & 2 Ho'oiaka Ohana)
5 supports groups total
105 sessions ran
adults in support groups - 58
children in support groups - 15



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

DVAC IN OUR COMMUNITY

DVAC held its 16th Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, May 16, 2025 at the newly renovated Pearl at Kalauao with a great turnout of 144 participants. Golfers enjoyed fun games and cool treats, including sweet, shaved ice on a hot day. The golf tournament is one of DVAC's biggest fundraisers and this year over \$40,000 was raised. Special thanks to these sponsors: **HEMIC, Matson, Highgate Hawaii, CW & Associates, ILWU Local 142, Bronster Fujichaku Robbins, Hawaii Insurance & Guaranty (HIG), and John H. Connors Insurance.**

To be visible and to create community awareness, the DVAC team attended several sign-waving events and participated in several tabling opportunities. These are always good occasions to meet with people, educate them about the complex issues of domestic abuse, share resources and answer any questions that individuals might have about domestic violence.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (continued)



The **Men's March Against Violence** is an annual DVAC event that draws a huge crowd. This year, 1,000 participants took to the streets and marched around downtown Honolulu to bring attention to violence against women. Sponsors for this grand event included: **ALTRES**, **Central Pacific Bank Foundation**, **First Hawaiian Bank**, **HawaiiUSA FCU**, **Kaiser Permanente**, **Pulama Lanai**, and the **Hawaii State Department of Health**.

In addition, DVAC participated in many presentations and collaborated with other businesses and non-profit organizations to promote peace and non-violence in our community.

At the end of the calendar year, DVAC held its annual holiday fundraiser, "**Poinsettias for Peace**," raising nearly \$10,000. Mahalo to the many individuals who supported this effort during the holiday season.



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MAHALO FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We are extremely grateful for the many contributions we receive each year from our loyal supporters. We know that we simply could not do this work alone, and we are very fortunate to have the support of our growing community. Thank you.

#ITSGONNATAKEALLOFUS



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