DVAC, a 501 (c) not-for-profit organization, is a community based, non-residential program.

DVAC is the only agency of its kind, with unduplicated programs key to the community’s response to domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Action Center fulfills this need with its legal and advocacy expertise spanning almost 30 years.
The Domestic Violence Action Center is committed to addressing domestic violence and other forms of harm through leadership, unique services, legal representation, 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 STATS**

- 2,352 contacts with clients
- 935 safety plans completed
- 190 Helpline calls answered
- 62 chats
- 543 legal information offered
- 560 referrals to other community agencies
- 30 awards of financial assistance

77% increase in website hits**
68% increase in calls to Helpline**

*Data compiled from March 30 to April 24, 2020*
**Data compiled from mid-February 2020*
DVAC clients reflect Hawaii’s multi-cultural population

University of Hawaii students sit together to show the ethnic differences of Hawaii’s population in 1948.

Eliot Elisofon/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

Quick Facts-Statistics

Based on the most recent estimates released by the US Census, we estimate the 2018 population of Hawaii at 1.43 million

Foreign born population 17.9% compared to 12.9% nationally
Per census estimate 2012 - 2016
Population by race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Compared to National Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population by race/ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Compared to National Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latino/Hispanic</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two of the fastest growing groups in Hawaii are the Hispanic and COFA
There are many forms of abuse that create risk and danger in love relationships. Physical violence, verbal abuse, psychological tactics—including intimidation and degrading someone, and sexual assault, are the most obvious ways one person in a relationship establishes power over their partner. The abuse is intended to maintain control and limits the ability of the victim to make personal choices, have access to family resources or assets, or have self-determination.

Our Approach to Trauma-Informed Care
Create safe and supportive spaces

Accessible to all
Confidential
Respectful and trusting relationships
Validation
Empowerment

Possess a deep understanding of the effects of trauma

- Recognizing that people have different responses
- Acknowledging the role trauma may play in one’s life
- Working with, not working on
- Avoiding re-traumatization
### Possess knowledge of cultural responses

- Staff mirror the ethnicities and cultures of our diverse community
- Be an ally: seek out education, practice cultural humility, and use ability to help
- Incorporate culture into interventions
  - Understand how historical, intergenerational, and/or a cultural trauma

### Collaborate

- Providing education and information
- Choice to receive service
- Provide opportunities to give feedback about their experience with the service delivery
- Provide opportunities to enhance program and services
Support Groups

Provide a safe and comfortable way for survivors, children, and their families to learn, heal, and grow.

Storytelling...

Teaches us about our history
Passes down traditions
Educates and Informs
Empowers
Heals
Stories help people connect

Stories build community and support

Break down language barriers
Incorporate cultural traditions and practices
There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

Culturally Adaptive Work

- Pilipina Rural Project (PRP): Rural Grant
- Consortium for Health Safety and Support (CHSS): (OWH)
- Project Connect with the native Hawaiian Health at Queens Medical Center
- Hoʻoikaika ‘Ohana and Pulama I Ka ‘Ohana Program (FVPSA)
- Japanese (Japanese Consulate)
- LGBTQ (VOCA; GIA)
- Korean and FSM communities (VOCA)
Best Practices & Lessons Learned
Research & Design

- Survivors making specific connections to the program from the very start
- Incorporating culture into service delivery
- First meeting impressions motivating interests
- Knowledge and understanding of culture demonstrated by staff
- Easy access to services
“By attending this program, I realized I am not the only one and that it’s okay to speak out. Sharing and talking helped me a lot.”

“Until I came to this program, I thought I was the only one on the island that has these issues. I talked to a counselor but counselors can’t talk about other people, so I thought I was the only one. This made me feel my husband was right: I was to blame. (Culturally), I used to not tell my problems to friends. But here (at PIKO) I learned people do (discuss) problems with friends and I started to do so and got some feedback. I no longer keep this to myself which is hard for Japanese.”

“A big factor is someone to talk to in Hawaii. I am Christian and I go to church and talk to the people there, but you don’t understand unless you have the same experience. So I am happy that here (at PIKO), I can share my experience with people who have similar experience.”
Self-Care
Take time to rest and care for yourselves

Mahalo
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