

## **Legal Service Providers and Dispute Resolution Centers**

Please find below a list of organizations that may be able to provide legal assistance or dispute resolution.

### **American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i**

522-5900 (do not leave a message)

[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

The ACLU of Hawaii provides assistance with claims that government officials or agencies committed civil rights violations. Civil liberties include the right to due process and equal protection of the law, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, religious freedom, the right of association, the right of privacy, the right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures and the right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment. For details on the types of cases we take and assistance we may provide, see: [www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org). Requests for legal assistance must be in writing:

- Letters: ACLU of Hawaii, P.O. Box 3410, Honolulu, HI 96801 (do not send any original or irreplaceable documents, letters cannot be returned).
- Email: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org) (any attached files must be in .pdf or .jpg formats only).
- Fax: (808) 522-5909.

### **Domestic Violence Action Center**

531-3771

[www.stoptheviolence.org](http://www.stoptheviolence.org)

Provides civil legal representation (divorce, restraining orders, paternity, post decree) and client advocacy (for up to one year) for victims (adults and teens) of domestic violence in the interest of safety and self-sufficiency. Additional services include legal helpline, on-site court assistance, services to special populations, and education, training and technical assistance. Staff work in court and in community on Oahu. Teen Alert provides classroom education about healthy relationships, safety planning and outreach on all islands for public and private schools, youth serving organizations and community events. Helpline assistance is statewide. Bi-lingual and bi-cultural assistance is available for Filipino, Japanese, Hawaiian, and Chinese communities. Policy advocacy and system reform initiatives are aimed at statewide improvements.

### **Hawaii Appleseed Center on Law and Economic Justice (formerly known as Lawyers for Equal Justice)**

587-7605

[www.Hiappleseed.org](http://www.Hiappleseed.org)

Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice (LEJ) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) law firm created to advocate on behalf of low income individuals and families in Hawaii on civil issues of statewide importance and to compliment the assistance provided by existing legal services programs in the state. In addition the program represents veterans in claims from the Veterans Administration for service related disability benefits and disabled individuals seeking Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits in cases where the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i cannot provide representation.

### **Hawai'i Disability Rights Center**

949-2922

[www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org](http://www.hawaiidisabilityrights.org)

The Hawaii Disability Rights Center is the protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities providing outreach, education, training, individual case advocacy and legal representation. We protect the legal, civil and human rights of persons with disabilities. There are no financial eligibility requirements, but the legal issue must be based upon the person's disability.

### **Hawai'i State Bar Association Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS)**

537-9140

[www.hawaiilawyerreferral.com](http://www.hawaiilawyerreferral.com)

Email: LRIS@hsba.org

The Hawai'i State Bar Association's lawyer referral line provides referrals to attorneys in private practice by area of law. Panel member attorneys are able to assist clients in a wide range of areas of law such as: bankruptcy, child custody & support, divorce, foreclosures, employment & labor, criminal, traffic, wills, social security, discrimination, and copyright & patent. The referrals are free and clients are encouraged to contact the attorneys referred to find out whether they are able to assist with the legal issue, and terms and costs.

### **Hawai'i State Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division, Legal Line**

537-1868

[www.hsba.org](http://www.hsba.org)

Email: yld@hsba.org

Volunteer attorneys host a telephone hotline every Wednesday evening from the hours of 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., only. They are available to provide free legal information to the public. This one-hour weekly program assists members of the public who may not have access to an attorney and need general information.

### **Kauai Economic Opportunity**

245-4077

[www.keoinc.org](http://www.keoinc.org)

Provides mediation and dispute resolution services that are affordable and accessible to resolve all types of matters including but not limited to: divorce, custody & visitation; landlord/tenant; workplace; civil rights; special education and more.

### **Kauai Seniors Law Program**

246-8868

The Kauai Seniors Law Program provides limited civil legal services and counseling on the island of Kauai to socially and economically needy older persons who are 60 years of age or older. Areas of practice include Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, Landlord-Tenant, Pension, Elder Abuse, Estate Planning, Age Discrimination, and Real Property deeds with regard to Medicaid issues. Program services are limited and no court representation is available.

### **Ku'ikahi Mediation Center (Hilo)**

935-7844

[www.kmchilo.com](http://www.kmchilo.com)

Ku'ikahi Mediation Center is a non-profit community mediation center that provides professionally trained mediators to assist people in finding solutions to their disputes through a private, respectful and well tested process. The services are very affordable and accessible. Ku'ikahi's mediators are skilled in many types of disputes including divorce, landlord-tenant, workplace issues, property disputes, collections, foreclosures, civil rights claims, homeowners' association conflicts and more. Ku'ikahi is located at The Hilo Lagoon Centre, 101 Aupuni St. Suite 1014B2, Hilo, HI. Email our case manager [caroline@kmchilo.com](mailto:caroline@kmchilo.com) for further information.

### **Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i**

536-4302 (1-800-499-4302)

[www.legalaidhawaii.org](http://www.legalaidhawaii.org)

Legal Aid provides legal assistance for low-income clients in the areas of basic need, including, but not limited to family, housing, public benefits, consumer issues, and immigration issues. Services are provided through ten offices on Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, and Hawai'i. Clients must be under 125% of the federal poverty guidelines (for 2012, \$2,761/month for a family of four) to qualify for free legal assistance, however there are some programs with higher income limits (tax, housing discrimination, services for families and children, foreclosure and eviction defense). Legal Aid also runs an Affordable Lawyers Program which provides low cost legal assistance for those between 125% - 250% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Intake hours are from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. every day. Eligible callers will receive legal counsel and advice on their problem and in some cases, will be referred to paralegals and attorneys for assistance in a pro se clinic or for representation. Over 100 brochures on a variety of legal issues can also be found at [www.legalaidhawaii.org](http://www.legalaidhawaii.org).

### **Maximum Legal Services Corporation**

808-585-0920

[www.maxcorp-hi.org](http://www.maxcorp-hi.org)

Maximum Legal Services Corporation (“MaxCorp”) is a Hawaii-based nonprofit law firm that fills the role as conservator and/or trustee for various individuals. The court will appoint MaxCorp as a conservator for an individual who cannot make or communicate decisions regarding his or her finances. MaxCorp serves as a trustee on special needs trusts, supplemental needs trusts, and revocable or irrevocable trusts. Many banks will not manage a trust holding less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00). The Circuit Court’s Small Guardianship & Estate Division will manage funds of less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00). Typically, MaxCorp serves the group in the middle -- the “gap group” not otherwise served.

### **Mediation Services of Maui**

808-244-5744

[www.mauimmediation.org](http://www.mauimmediation.org)

Mediation Services of Maui provides professional conflict resolution services to all counties in Maui and handles a wide array of disputes. Mediation is an effective and affordable way to resolve a dispute quickly. It is a voluntary and confidential process in which two or more people meet face to face to work out a mutually acceptable solution to their issue. Participants are assisted by a third party neutral called a mediator. Mediators receive specialized training in conflict resolution, negotiation, and communication skills. They work with parties to develop options, consider alternatives and come to a win-win solution. Mediators do not give advice, counsel or decide who is right or wrong. Mediations can be scheduled at a time that is convenient for all parties, and fees are based on a sliding scale based upon annual income.

### **Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation**

521-2302

[www.nhlchi.org](http://www.nhlchi.org)

The Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public interest law firm which asserts, protects and defends Native Hawaiian rights to land, natural resources, and related entitlements, offers direct legal representation in substantive areas encompassing quiet title to land, natural resources, customary and traditional practices, public trust land entitlements and related areas. Services also include:

- Information and Referral. Depending upon the type of legal problem, applicants receive brief counsel and advice and, where appropriate, referral to another legal services provider, human services agency, or private attorney.
- Counseling Services. NHLC provides brief counseling services as appropriate.
- Land Title Research. When and where needed, NHLC staff perform “long” Land Title Searches; i.e., title searches that trace the conveyance history of a parcel from the date it became private property and up to the present time. A thorough Title Search integrates relevant conveyance, genealogical and legal research to arrive at an accurate history of the subject land. Land Title research is generally performed only in conjunction with and in support of an accepted Quiet Title case.
- Genealogical Research. When and where appropriate, NHLC also performs research for all cases in which a right by inheritance is asserted, including Land Title cases, cases in which traditional and customary practices within the family must be documented, and cases in which Native Hawaiians encounter difficulties documenting their blood quantum eligibility for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Kamehameha Schools and similar programs.

**University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program**

956-6544

<http://www.hawaii.edu/uhelp/>

The University of Hawaii Elder Law Program (UHELP) is located at the William S. Richardson School of Law and provides limited civil legal services and counseling on the island of Oahu to socially and economically needy older persons who are 60 years of age or older. It also provides counseling and legal information to caregivers of older persons on Oahu. UHELP does not handle criminal or traffic violation cases, commercial or income producing cases, nor does it handle personal injury, malpractice or other fee-generating cases.

**The Mediation Center of the Pacific, Inc.**[www.mediatehawaii.org](http://www.mediatehawaii.org)

521-6767

The Mediation Center of the Pacific (Mediation Center) provides high quality mediation and dispute resolution services that are affordable and accessible. With the assistance of impartial mediators, people in conflict are able to talk and negotiate customized agreements that meet their specific needs. Mediation is a confidential process that can be used to address a broad array of issues such as divorce, custody and visitation, employment matters, civil rights complaints, landlord/tenant disputes, foreclosure, neighbor conflicts, family matters about elders and more. Mediation sessions are scheduled at a time and day that is convenient to the participants.

**Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i**

528-7046 (1-800-839-5200)

[www.vlsh.org](http://www.vlsh.org)

Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii provides civil legal services through volunteer attorneys. Individuals and families applying for services must meet low-income eligibility guidelines. Qualified applicants are scheduled for 30-minute consultation with a volunteer attorney, either face-to-face or by telephone. Volunteer Legal also offers self-help workshops for uncontested divorce and Chapter 7 bankruptcy. In some cases, Volunteer Legal will attempt to secure a volunteer attorney for full-representation. Volunteer Legal charges administrative fees that range from \$25 to \$90, depending on the type of service.

**West Hawaii Mediation Center**

808-885-5525

[www.whmediation.com](http://www.whmediation.com)

West Hawaii Mediation Center provides Mediation, Facilitation and Conflict Resolution Education to the West Hawaii Community. Mediation is a confidential process that provides Individuals, families and businesses with an effective, lower cost process for resolving a full spectrum of disputes. A neutral mediator guides the process and assists parties in creating productive and mutually satisfying agreements. Our Facilitation services assist community groups and organizations by providing a neutral party to conduct focused and productive meetings.