



Dear VLSH Family and Friends:

We hope everyone is staying safe and taking shelter during this time. We know that there are many questions during this time. We have put together a short list of community resources that you may need in the next few weeks. This list is not exhaustive and may be subject to change at any time. Please take care!

-Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii Staff

LEGAL RESOURCES

Is Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii (VLSH) still open?

VLSH's main office is temporarily closed. However, VLSH is still able to assist clients with an intake application via telephone during normal business hours, Monday – Friday 8:00am-4:00pm. Neighborhood Advice & Counsel clinics are also still being held via telephone. You are responsible for all legal deadlines associated with your case. VLSH operates on 100% volunteer attorney power and cannot guarantee representation.

For more information, please check out www.vlsh.org or call us at 808-528-7046 if you need assistance.

Is the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (LASH) still open?

LASH's main intake hotline is still available during normal hours. Please visit the following website for the most current information:

https://www.legalaidhawaii.org/uploads/2/3/9/0/23902043/press_release_impact_of_covid-19_on_legal_aid_society_of_hawaii_statewide_services_1.pdf

Is the Hawaii Online Probono (HOP) program still active?

Yes, for those wishing to ask a simple legal question online the Hawaii Online Probono (HOP) website is still active. Please visit the following website for more information:
www.hawaiiifreelegalanswers.org

Is the Access to Justice Room open?

No; all Access to Justice Rooms across Hawaii are closed until further notice.

Can I call Lawyer Referral Service for an attorney referral?

Yes, please call HSBA – Lawyer Referral Service at 808-537-9140 Monday – Friday 8:30am-4:30pm.

What other legal resources are available during the COVID-19 crisis?

For more online legal resources, please visit the following websites:
www.lawhelp.org/hi/portal

HAWAII COURT HOUSES

What is the status of Oahu's District Courts during the COVID-19 crisis?

As of March 20th, all state courthouses are closed to the public, except for [those parties with] official court business from March 23, 2020 to April 30, 2020. Anyone with questions about any District Court case on Oahu may call 808-538-5629 or 808-538-5767.

For the most current information including the definition of "official court business," please visit the following website:

<https://www.courts.state.hi.us/uncategorized/2020/03/chief-justice-orders-courthouses-closed-to-the-public-except-for-official-court-business>

Which of Oahu's District Courts are closed?

Most traffic, criminal and civil cases are postponed until after April 30, 2020. Please visit the following website for the most current information:

https://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/2020/03/most-traffic-criminal-and-civil-cases-postponed-until-after-april-30

In a related action to stem the spread of COVID-19, Judge Melanie May, Deputy Chief Judge of the District Court, First Circuit, today issued an order completely closing the following Oahu District Court facilities from March 23 to April 30:

Kaneohe District Court: (808) 534-6300

Ewa-Pearl City District Court: (808) 534-6900

Wahiawa District Court: (808) 534-6200

Waianae District Court: (808) 954-8575

Traffic Violations Bureau (2nd floor of Honolulu District Court)

Legal Documents Branch (3rd floor of Honolulu District Court)

Anyone with questions about any District Court case on Oahu may call 808-538-5629 or 808-538-5767.

Which of Oahu's District Courts are open and what types of cases are being heard?

Essential court proceedings will be held at Honolulu District Court, including TRO hearings. Please visit the following website for types of cases still being heard as essential court proceedings:

https://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/2020/03/most-traffic-criminal-and-civil-cases-postponed-until-after-april-30

TRO filings and other documents that a party is unable to file electronically may be filed at the Honolulu District Court Information Booth which is located to the right of the main entrance.

What about the neighbor island District Courts?

The State of Hawaii Judiciary has posted all of the orders affecting all Hawaii courts at the following website: <https://www.courts.state.hi.us/covid-19-information-page>

What about the Appellate Courts?

The State of Hawaii Judiciary has posted all of the orders affecting all Hawaii courts at the following website: <https://www.courts.state.hi.us/covid-19-information-page>

STATE AND CITY ORDERS

Where can I find more information about the ‘shelter-in-place’ orders affecting my community?

State of Hawaii: <https://health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates/>

Oahu: <http://www.honolulu.gov/mayor/proclamations-orders-and-rules.html>

Kauai: <http://www.kauai.gov/COVID-19>

Maui: <https://www.mauicounty.gov/2370/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Information>

Hawaii: <https://coronavirus-response-county-of-hawaii-hawaii-county-gis.hub.arcgis.com>

EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE BENEFITS INFORMATION

The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations have put together a fact sheet in regards to benefits: https://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/files/2020/03/COVID-19-Labor-Benefits-Fact-Sheet_20200319.pdf

RENT AND MORTGAGE INFORMATION:

Senator Brian Schatz has listed a number of resources those who may need assistance in paying rent and mortgages: <https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus/assistance-for-homeowners-and-renters?fbclid=IwAR0b0dU1vs9IMeU9a476dOnWtYGfsVsgG9ErR0U8gyt62PPrnvBkzoiYtxY>

OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

For additional community resources, please visit the following website: <https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/coronavirus>