



*Access to Justice for Older  
Adults in Hawai`i:*

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*Legal Services and Advocacy at  
the University of Hawaii School of  
Law—a potential template for  
small but effective legal programs  
in the U.S. and Canada.*

Hawaii's experience is relevant in Toronto and other like cities.



# Hawaii in the middle of the ocean



# Isolated



# The “island edge of America”



Older adults in Hawaii face many of the challenges experienced by their counterparts in the continental United States and in Canada.



While Hawaii has a long history of protecting vulnerable groups since the time of Kamehameha the Great, dramatic changes dictated a new approach to access to justice for the elderly population.



Thirty years ago key stakeholders saw the wisdom of establishing and maintaining a small, specialized program capable of providing direct legal services as well as education, research and advocacy to address the needs of older persons, caregivers and families.



This was the genesis of the University of Hawaii Elder Law Program (UHELP), an integrated and multi-disciplinary experiment at the intersection of law, aging and health care.

UHELP meets the rapidly changing legal needs of older persons, the "new" baby boomer client and the challenges of a stressed economy.





UHELP has expanded the base of lawyers and health care providers educated and trained in elder law topics.

UHELP has continued to advocate for more protection for the older population, how technology has expanded its reach globally, and how it has increased its ability to provide quality education and legal services to older persons even though, effectively, financial resources have steadily declined.

# University of Hawai`i Elder Law Program (UHELP)

## ■ Courses

- Law School: Elder Law (Law Aging and Medicine), Bioethics, Elder Law Clinic, Advanced Elder Law Clinic
- Medical School: Legal Topics for Geriatric and Geriatric Psychiatry Fellows

## ■ Direct Legal Service

## ■ (Pro Bono Program)

Resource:  
[www.hawaii.edu/uhelp](http://www.hawaii.edu/uhelp)



## Deciding "Who Cares?"

A Legal Handbook for Hawai'i's  
Caregivers, Families and Older Persons

By  
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University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program

All Counties of Hawai'i Edition

# Framing Diversity





QUESTIONS?



