



A Message from HSBF Board Officers, Rai Saint Chu and Louise Ing

In 2014, the Hawaii State Bar Foundation provided funds to legal services entities that provide critical services in the community and in so doing, helped make access to the justice system a reality.

A substantial portion of the proceeds from the HSBA's 2013 annual dinner totaling \$40,000 was designated, at the recommendation of 2013 HSBA President Craig Wagnild, as grants to 9 legal service providers, \$4,444.44 each. The follow up reports requested by HSBF are heartwarming, for they demonstrate how our funds helped many individuals with nowhere else to turn or who were on the brink of a disaster.

The Domestic Violence Action Center applied the funds to emergency assistance programs for individuals fleeing for safety from violence. Legal Aid Society aided individuals with public assistance issues, medicare and food stamps, etc. The ACLU has created a Youth Rights Guide to public school students in Hawaii and continues to advocate for "open records" and against infringements on free speech. The Elder Law program also created its "Kokua Packet" for elders and their families about resources and preparedness.

The Mediation Center of the Pacific used its HSBF grant for a Paternity Mediation Program. Of the 234 cases, 155 were managed in-house and 57 were managed on-site at Family Court with 52% of the cases resulting in written agreements. HSBF funds have supported the Volunteer Legal Services by partially funding a Pro Bono Placement Coordinator, key to matching an attorney to a qualified individual. Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and economic Justice continued to do its tremendous work in improving conditions for low-income families living in subsidized housing.

Additionally, the Hawaii Disability Rights Center and Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation were able to continue their good work through HSBF's grant. NHLC used its grant to help fund its Title Search Apprenticeship Program, designed "to ensure that the type of expertise and knowledge required to competently complete these [title]searches [from documents in the Hawaiian language] is passed down to the next generation." The grant inspired one intern to research her own genealogy, develop a college independent learning project of creating a guidebook on researching genealogy and land title, and return to NHLC as a summer intern.

HSBF is accepting grant applications until June 30 with distribution decisions to be made by July 30, 2015. Click [here](#) for a grant application.
