

What Steps are Recommended for Prevention of Abuse?

- **REDUCE** stress by asking for assistance. Physicians, nurses, health care providers, and social workers can provide information on where to go for help.
- **JOIN** community support groups that deal with the challenges associated with caring for individuals with conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse.
- **PROVIDE** nursing and care home staff with information on how to meet your family's needs.
- **VISIT** a facility before your family member enters it and call the long-term care ombudsman at (808) 586-0100 with any concerns about the care provided.
- **OBTAIN** information about available resources in your community.

Department of Human Services Adult Protective Services

Report adult abuse and neglect by calling Monday through Friday between 7:45 am and 4:30 pm. (Leave a message after hours.)

Oahu	832-5115
Kauai	241-3337
Maui / Molokai / Lanai	243-5151
Kona / Kau / Kohala / Kamuela	327-6280
Hilo / Hamakua / Puna / Volcano	933-8820

Visit our website at:
www.humanservices.hawaii.gov/ssd/
In an emergency, call **911**.

Additional Resources

Hawaii Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for information on services for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and family caregivers. Call 643-ADRC (**643-2372**) or visit the website at: www.hawaiiadrc.org

Aloha United Way (AUW) 2-1-1 is a confidential, toll-free help line for anyone in Hawaii in need of information and referrals. Call **2-1-1** or visit the website at: www.auw211.org

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Vulnerable Adult Abuse & Neglect in Hawaii



What is Adult Protective Services?

Adult Protective Services (APS) is a program that 1) receives and investigates reports of vulnerable adult abuse, and 2) provides short-term services to protect the personal health, safety, and welfare of vulnerable adults who are abused, neglected, or financially exploited. APS also provides services when the adult is in danger of abuse if immediate action is not taken.

Chapter 346, Part X, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to Adult Protective Services authorizes the Hawaii State Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide Adult Protective Services.

Who is a Vulnerable Adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person 18 years of age or older who, because of mental, developmental or physical impairment is unable to:

- Communicate or make responsible decisions to manage one's own care or resources; or
- Carry out or arrange for essential activities of daily living; or
- Protect oneself from abuse.

A vulnerable adult is one who has suffered abuse or is in danger of abuse if immediate action is not taken.

What Are Some Indications of Abuse & Neglect?

PHYSICAL ABUSE: Non-accidental injury, pain, or impairment, such as from hitting, slapping, improper physical restraint, or poisoning.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE: Threats, insults, harassment, humiliation, provocation, or intimidation that profoundly confuse or frighten the vulnerable adult.

SEXUAL ABUSE: Sexual contact or conduct including pornographic photographing without consent.

CAREGIVER NEGLECT: Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, protection from abandonment, physical care, health care, supervision, or failure to carry out responsibilities as an assumed, legal, or contractual caregiver.

SELF-NEGLECT: Failure to care for oneself, thereby exposing oneself to a situation or condition that poses an imminent risk of death or risk of serious physical harm.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION: Wrongful taking, withholding, appropriation, or use of a vulnerable adult's money, real property, or personal property.

Reporting Vulnerable Adult Abuse & Neglect

State law requires certain professionals to report vulnerable adult abuse and neglect:

- Any licensed or registered professional of the healing arts and any health-related occupation.
- Employees or officers of any public or private agency or institution that provides social, medical, hospital or mental health services, including financial assistance.
- Employees or officers of any law enforcement agency.
- Employees or officers of adult residential care homes, adult day care centers, or similar institutions including community care foster family homes.
- Medical examiners and coroners.
- Licensed social workers and non-licensed persons employed in a social worker position.

In addition, Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 412:3-114.5 requires financial institutions to file reports of financial abuse or exploitation of elders 62 and over to their respective County Adult Protective Services (APS) and County Police Department.

Everyone is encouraged to report abuse and neglect. The reporter may remain anonymous and is immune from any liability for making the report.

All reports are confidential.