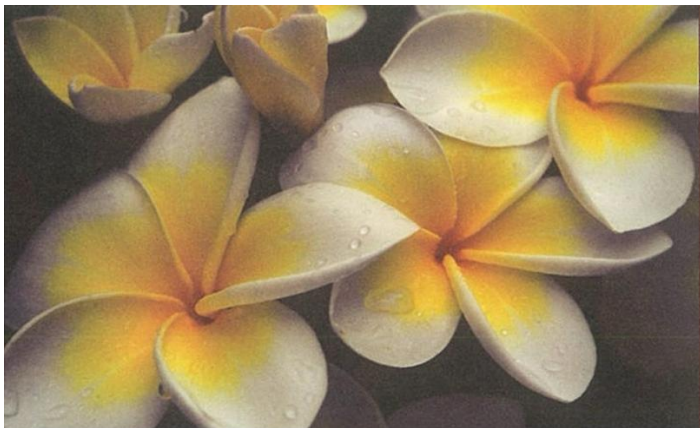


What Steps are Recommended for Prevention of Abuse?

- **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 members' needs.
- **VISIT** a facility before your family member enters it and call the long-term care ombudsman Statewide toll-free Helpline at (888) 229-2231 with any concerns about the care provided.
- **OBTAIN** information about available resources in your community.



Department of Human Services Adult Protective Services

To report suspected abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult:

- **Complete the online DHS 1640 WEB “Report Form for Vulnerable Adult Abuse”** at: <https://apsreport.hawaii.gov>

To review the “Tips on Navigating the Online Report Forms” for mandated or non-mandated reporters, visit our website at: Adult Protective and Community Services Branch – Social Services

For anonymous reporting or to speak to the APS Adult Intake Unit call:

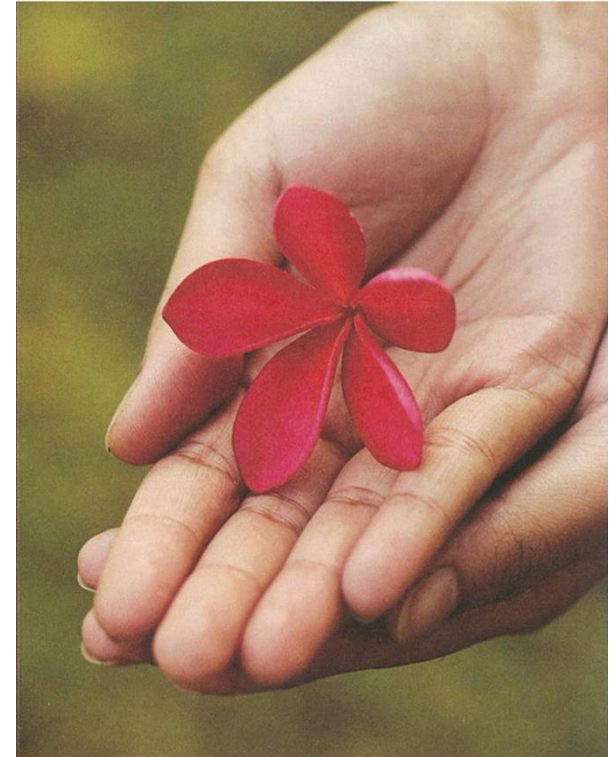
- Statewide APS Reporting Line at (808) 832-5115 Monday through Friday between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (leave a message after hours)

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 (808) 643-ADRC (808-643-2372) or visit the website at: <https://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: <https://auw211.org>



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 vulnerable adult is in danger of abuse if immediate action is not taken.

Department of Human Services Adult Protective Services are authorized by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 346, Part X.

HRS §346-227 INVESTIGATION: Upon receiving a report that abuse of a vulnerable adult has occurred or is in danger of occurring if immediate action is not taken, the department will begin an investigation as it finds appropriate.

Who is a Vulnerable Adult (VA)?

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.

Refer to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §346-222 for complete definitions of abuse, vulnerable adult, physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, caregiver neglect, self-neglect and financial exploitation.

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: The vulnerable adult is unable to care for oneself, appears to lack understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions, and appears to be in danger of immediate risk of death or 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

HRS §346-224 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, although financial institutions are not mandated reporters per APS statutes, HRS§ 412:3-114.5 requires financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse of elders aged 62 and over to their respective County Police Department and APS.

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.