

2019 Hawai'i Access to Justice Conference  
"Expanding Access to Civil Justice"  
June 7, 2019

Workshop Summary<sup>1</sup>

**"Justice for All Projects to Enhance Access to Civil Justice"**

Panel Presenters:

**Nalani Fujimori Kaina**, Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i  
and State Representative **Della Au Belatti**

Nalani Fujimori Kaina and Representative Della Au Belatti discussed the Hawai'i Justice for All Project, a strategic assessment that began two years ago to identify the critical needs of the community to increase meaningful access to justice. The Hawai'i Justice for All Project is comprised of the Community Navigator Project and the Hawai'i Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable.

The presentation began with Ms. Kaina discussing the Community Navigator Project, a two-day training for members of various communities across the state. The training was developed by Connie Liu, Legal Aid Managing Attorney of Community Engagement. The goals of the Community Navigator Project were to provide community members with the capacity and skill to identify current community issues and to identify legal service providers that may be able to help the various issues the communities face. Ms. Kaina emphasized the importance of having people *from* the community talk about the issues in *their* community. The training included interactive activities, such as creating community identity charts and storyboards to identify the strengths and characteristics of the participants' communities and to identify issues they see in their communities. The training also included games to teach participants how to issue-spot. Ms. Kaina engaged workshop attendees to play one of the games, which was modeled after the game Taboo. The game demonstrated the difficulties that non-legally trained community members might have when trying to identify legal issues.

The Community Navigator Project trained over 120 Community Navigators in various communities across the State and developed a 60+ page curriculum. Community Navigators have already made referrals for community members to agencies for issues including housing, public benefits, and civil rights.

Representative Belatti shared with workshop attendees the Hawai'i Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable. The goals of the Roundtable include increasing collaboration across state agencies, identifying programs that would be more effective by adding legal services to the services already provided, and to leverage

federal funds to increase access to civil legal aid. The Roundtable members are comprised of representatives from various state government agencies, including the Department of Public Safety, the Department of the Attorney General, the Department of Health, and the Department of Human Services. Over a five-month period, the Roundtable participants met three times and held their own departmental work meetings. As a result of the Roundtable, the O'ahu American Job Center, now provides legal services. The future goal of the Roundtable is to continue to foster a better understanding of civil legal services and their value to the community and to state agencies.

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<sup>1</sup> An initial draft was prepared by Teresa Kaneakua, staff attorney at Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, and reviewed and edited by the presenters.