SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Depending on your legal needs, we may be able to provide you with various levels of service. Legal Aid services include:

- Providing counsel and advice about your legal needs,
- Offering informational brochures and self-help packets to help you solve your legal problems without an attorney,
- Signing you up for a legal self-help clinic or workshop on specific legal issues,
- Looking over your court forms or other paperwork,
- Making a phone call on your behalf to a state or community service agency,
- Full representation on your legal issue,
- Referral to another agency that may be better able to assist you with your problem.

MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00AM - 11:30AM OR
1:00PM - 3:30PM

OAHU: 536-4302
MAUI: 242-0724
HILO: 934-0678
KONA: 329-8331
KAUAI: 245-7580
LANAI: 565-6089
MOLOKAI: 553-3251

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii was founded in 1950 by community leaders—including Judges Sam King and Betty Vitousek. Their mission to provide equal access to justice for all Hawaii residents still guides Legal Aid today.

Legal Aid helps people with their legal problems so they can focus on improving their lives. We specialize in family, housing, employment, public benefits, and consumer rights, empowering people to: get out of abusive situations; fight illegal evictions; secure medical and financial entitlements; and handle creditors and collectors.

Each year, Legal Aid responds to up to 20,000 inquiries. Our clients are people who have incomes under 125% of the federal poverty level, or anyone who is 60 or older.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAI’I

924 Bethel Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 USA
(808) 536-4302
(808) 527-8088 fax
www.legalaidhawaii.org
How Do I Apply?

Your Basic Questions Answered

A. WHERE DO I APPLY?

• Pick up an application at your local Social Security office, call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 for an appointment, or go online at www.socialsecurity.gov.

• A claims representative will interview you and help you complete the forms.

• Parents or guardians can apply for blind or disabled children under 18.

B. WHEN DO I APPLY?

• Apply for benefits as soon as possible. You may be able to receive retroactive benefits based on the date of your application.

• If you are applying for disability benefits, then apply as soon as you become disabled. These applications usually take longer to process than other types of Social Security benefits.

C. HOW DO I VERIFY MY ELIGIBILITY?

Bring original documents to your interview, but do not leave them with SSA. Ask for a date-stamped copy of each document they copy. SSA will help you get the documents needed to show that you meet the eligibility requirements. You must prove the following things:

• Social Security Number
  Bring Social Security cards or numbers for each person applying.

• Age
  Bring a birth certificate, passport or driver’s license.

• Tax Information
  Bring a copy of your W-2 form or federal tax return for the past year.

• Living Arrangements
  Bring a deed or property tax bill; lease or rent receipts; medical assistance cards for all household members; and information about household costs, food and utilities.

• Financial Need
  (only if you are applying for SSI)
  Bring:
  1. paycheck stubs and receipts for any income you receive; AND
  2. information about your assets (bank statements, insurance policies, car registration, deeds for property you own).

C. HOW DO I VERIFY MY ELIGIBILITY? (CONT’D)

Your income determines your eligibility and your monthly benefit amount. The monthly income limit is $579 (individual) and $869 (couples). There are two types of income: earned and unearned.

Earned includes wages and net income from self employment. Unearned includes money from other sources (SSA, pensions, state disability, unemployment benefits, in-kind income, deemed income). SSA excludes the:

- first $20 of any income
- first $65 of earnings and half the amount over $65
- food stamps
- income tax refunds
- loans that are repaid to you.

The asset limit is $2000 (individual) and $3000 (couple). Assets include cash, life insurance, land, personal belongings, deemed assets, and anything you own and could convert to cash.

SSA excludes: your home, household goods, burial plots for immediate family, and one car (depending on use or value).

WHAT ARE DEEMED INCOME AND ASSETS AND IN-KIND INCOME?

When determining whether you meet the income and asset limits, SSA may count the income and assets of your spouse if he or she is not eligible for SSI, the parent you live with if you are under 18, or your sponsor if you are a qualified alien. This is called deeming income and assets. SSA may also count in kind income which is the value of non-cash items you receive like food or shelter.