

Medical-Legal Partnership ♦ Hawai'i



A Project of the William S. Richardson School of Law
(University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

Working alongside communities. . . because communities know best!

What is the Medical-Legal Partnership?

The Medical-Legal Partnership Hawai'i (MLP) is a unique collaboration between the William S. Richardson School of Law (University of Hawai'i) and two community health center sites: Kokua Kalihi Valley and Waikiki Health. At MLP, doctors and lawyers work together to address and improve the social determinants of health that impact child and family well-being. ***There are 50,000 children living in poverty in Hawai'i who need legal care to be healthy!***

After resolving a rent dispute in public housing, one father told MLP,
"Without you, my family would be homeless."



What we do:

The Medical-Legal Partnership in Hawai'i (MLP) follows a national model of engaging in three core activities:

- (1) MLP provides **Legal Advocacy Clinics** on-site at KKV health center, Kuhio Park Terrace public housing, and Waikiki Health Center. Since 2009, MLP has provided direct legal services to over 900 low-income families and reached hundreds more through "Know Your Rights" and Self-Advocacy workshops.
- (2) MLP seeks to transform legal and health practice through **professional education and training**. This includes training health professionals, law students and medical students, and community partners in social determinants of health and other access to justice issues.
- (3) MLP brings doctors and lawyers and communities together to address **systemic advocacy, including policy matters and community power**. We promote community-driven advocacy and civic engagement, such as working alongside Micronesian community leaders, students, and advocates to address local and national health policy issues.

We're on the web: www.MLPCHawaii.org



MLP Attorney Randy Compton consulting with Dr. Alicia Turlington at KKV health center.



Grand Rounds presentation for Univ. of Hawaii medical students by MLP Medical Director and Legal Director.



MLP "Know Your Rights" workshop for public housing residents and community service providers, coordinated with Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, EEOC, and others (May 2015).

Contact us at:

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Donate to MLP Hawai'i at:
www.MLPCHawaii.org

Why It works...

The Medical-Legal Partnership co-locates legal care with health care so families receive immediate legal help in a "one-stop" setting. MLP Hawai'i also hosts numerous "Know Your Rights" trainings and regularly hosts "Advocacy Academy," a series of workshops to honor and support the community knowledge and leadership skills within Hawai'i's immigrant, low-income, and public housing communities.

MLP attorneys and law students are committed to advancing community interests, always listening to how people describe their own problems, strengths, needs, and solutions. And sometimes we simply help a family to complete a "Head Start" application so their children can attend pre-school. Where is the "law" in this? By working collaboratively with the communities we serve, we have come to be embraced by low-income families in Hawai'i as "their lawyer." This is something that not many vulnerable people in Hawai'i—or America—can claim.

How you can get involved with MLP Hawai'i!

MLP Hawai'i for law students:

UH Law students participate in all aspects of MLP activities. MLP Hawai'i provides internships, paid externships, pro bono opportunities, and formal clinical experiences for law students of the William S. Richardson School of Law. MLP also employs post-graduate Law Fellows and Attorneys.



UH Law and Public Health students touring Kokua Kalihi Valley health center's Ho'oulu 'Aina Nature Preserve.



MLP Attorney Randy Compton training at KKV Pediatrics clinic with the Pediatrics team.

UH Law students working with Jojo Peter (Chuukese community leader) at healthcare outreach event for Micronesians in Hawai'i.



MLP Hawai'i for other Graduate Students:

MLPC Hawai'i hosts trainings and clinical opportunities for graduate students of the University of Hawai'i. MLP has provided interdisciplinary experiences for students of Law, Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Social Work, Education, and Public Administration.

MLP Hawai'i For Doctors:

MLP Hawai'i provides trainings and presentations about social determinants of health and legal advocacy for hospitals, health clinics and educational settings. We also provide technical assistance in starting a Medical-Legal Partnership.

MLP Hawai'i For Attorneys:

MLP Hawai'i invites licensed attorneys in Hawai'i to join us by providing pro bono services to our families and mentoring students at our legal clinic.



MLP Team with KKV health center Program Coordinator, Amenina Opet, celebrating the 2015 Liberty Award from the Hawaii State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division.