

ABOUT LEGAL AID:

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is a non-profit law firm that provides legal assistance to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. We recognize that families above our general income guidelines also may have difficulty handling the cost of legal help for their problems; thus, we created the Affordable Lawyers Project.

Affordable Lawyers provides quality, low-cost legal services to those individuals and families who are over-income for Legal Aid's free services. A family of four can earn up to \$54,000 per year and still qualify for our services.

Community leaders--including Judges Sam King and Betty Vitousek--founded the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii in 1950. Their vision of providing equal access to justice for all of Hawaii's residents still guides Legal Aid today.

TO APPLY, CALL:

OAHU: 536-4302

MAUI: 242-0724

HILO: 934-0678

KONA: 329-8331

KAUAI: 245-7580

MOLOKAI: 553-3251

LANAI: 565-6089

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LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII



ADOPTION & GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE

**WE OFFER FREE
AND LOW COST
HELP FOR FAMILY
& FOSTER CARE
ADOPTIONS!**

What is the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii Adoption Project?



Thanks to a generous grant from the Victoria S. and Bradley L. Geist Foundation, the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is offering free legal assistance for families that wish to adopt or establish guardianships of children.

To qualify for our program, your adoption or guardianship must be "uncontested"--meaning that all parties agree. If you qualify for Legal

Aid's traditional care, there will be no legal fees (you may have to pay a filing fee or cost of publication, but these issues will be discussed with you when you call to set up an appointment).

If you do not qualify for Legal Aid's free services you may qualify for services under the Affordable Lawyers Program. For



families seeking to adopt or establish a guardianship, we offer quality legal services at a substantially reduced fee through this program.

What exactly can Legal Aid help me with?

Legal Aid will prepare the legal pleadings and forms necessary to achieve your adoption or guardianship.

We will also determine if your case is eligible for Adoption Assistance payments, which can be as much as \$1099 per month for 'special needs' children. If you are, we will help you apply.

We will also screen your case to see if your child will be eligible for Medicaid/ EPSDT or Special Education benefits--and assist you in obtaining those benefits.

We will also work with you to determine if you're eligible for Federal Tax Credits

and/or a \$2,000 "non-recurring adoption expense." If you are eligible, we will help you apply for those credits.



Who is the project designed to help?

We want to help families who wish to adopt their grandchildren, hanai children, or foster children.

If you are a foster parent and are ready to adopt, we may be able to help you!

What else must happen before Legal Aid can help me?

Most important is that your case is **uncontested**--meaning the biological parents are willing and able to sign consents to your adoption. If the children are in foster care, the biological parent's parental rights must have been or are about to be terminated and the Dept. of Human Services supports your adoption plan.