



Happy New Year! 2018 is off to a very busy and productive start for Hawaii Women Lawyers. We kicked off the year by completing a joint community service project with the Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation for the Domestic Violence Action Center. We have also been busy testifying on a number of bills before the Hawaii State Legislature, and planning new community service and education projects. Over the next few months, we will also start a new round of mentoring circles, and present our findings on a sexual harassment survey of our members.

Plans for our 2017-2018 Annual Awards Reception are also underway! We are extremely pleased and humbled to present our awards to such high caliber individuals this year. Please join us in honoring their accomplishments.

In this newsletter, you will find information regarding:

- Women In Leadership Speaker - Brigadier General Suzanne Vares-Lum (March 22)
- Mother's Day Project (deadline March 23)
- HWL Annual Awards Reception (April 12)
- Legislative Outreach Updates
- ...and much more!

The months ahead will be action packed, and as always, we encourage your active participation as members. Mahalo!  
- **Mihoko Ito, HWL Board President**

## ***HWL Annual Awards Reception***

***Thursday, April 12, 2018***

***The Plaza Club, Main Dining Room  
900 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu***

You are invited to attend Hawaii Women Lawyers' 2018 Annual Awards Reception! Please join us in honoring the outstanding work and contributions of five distinguished individuals!

**Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year**  
**Jennifer Solidum Rose**

**Distinguished Service Award**  
**Avis Aokele Kalama**

**President's Award**  
**Senator Rosalyn Baker**

**Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award**  
**Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald**

**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
**Vanessa Chong**



Doors open at 5:15pm with the awards ceremony starting at 6:00pm.  
Heavy pupus will be served.

Individual tickets (unreserved seating) are \$45 each. Reserved tables of 8 are available for \$360 each. Online registration available [here](#). Table sales will only be available through April 5th, so please act quickly!

Please contact HWL at [hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com) with any questions

# HWL Annual Awards

## Bios

### Outstanding Woman Lawyer of the Year

#### Jennifer Solidum Rose



Named one of “Honolulu’s Most Inspiring Women” by the Honolulu City and County’s Committee on the Status of Women, Jennifer Solidum Rose has worked for over 25 years as an attorney and advocate to address the intersections of gender-based violence, cultural and linguistic access and immigrant rights. She is a trainer and frequently called upon as an authority on the utilization of legal and advocacy strategies to combat sexual harassment and violence against women.

Jenn currently serves as the Director of the University of Hawaii Office of Institutional Equity, which coordinates and oversees the University’s system-wide policies and initiatives related to Title IX and VAWA. Since OIE’s inception in 2015, Jenn has served as a chair in the Act 222 state legislative task force that assisted in passing legislation requiring Title IX training for UH System students and employees and confidential advocates for all UH campuses. Additionally, under Jenn’s leadership, UH launched accessible, online and live Title IX (TIX) training for University employees and students, developed important community partnerships and conducted a system-wide climate survey on sexual harassment and gender based violence.

From 2007 to 2015, Jenn served as the Gender Equity Specialist at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, a faculty position she held for over eight years, providing advocacy and case management services and strengthening institutional responses to Title IX and sex discrimination. Since 2005, she has taught the Family Law Clinic at the William S. Richardson School of Law, a course on domestic violence and civil remedies and was twice recognized as the “Adjunct Professor of the Year Award” for her teaching. At Richardson, Jenn was named the inaugural recipient of the “Advocates for Public Interest Law Faculty Award”.

Jenn has also received numerous awards for her advocacy work on behalf of women and marginalized populations. In 2012, she was recognized by the Patsy Takemoto Mink Education Foundation, the Hawai’i State Senate and Hawaii State House of Representatives for her work on Title IX issues. In 2011, the Hawaii Bar Association’s “Champion for Social Justice Award”, a distinction given to an attorney who advocates for social justice in the face of controversy. In 2006, Ms. Rose received the Hawai’i Women Legal Foundation’s “Rhoda Lewis Award” for outstanding public interest work.

As a consultant for Futures Without Violence, Jenn was a contributing author for a publication for universities entitled, “Beyond Title IX: Guidance for Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence in Higher Education.” As an educator, she co-authored a chapter in the textbook, *Social Work with Immigrants and Refugees: Legal Issues, Clinical Skills and Advocacy* (2008). Prior to becoming faculty at UHM, she worked for ten years at the Domestic Violence Action Center in Hawaii as a managing attorney and their first director of community engagement, developing programs toward increasing access to services for immigrant survivors and other underserved populations.

Active in the legal community, Jenn served on the board of Hawaii Women Lawyers for ten years and served on numerous committees of the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Hawaii Commission on Access to Justice, with a focus on increasing gender equity and language access within court systems. For many years, she has served on advisory of the National Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Gender Based Violence and, more recently, on the Hawaii Advisory of the Joyful Heart Foundation.

In her mind, Jenn’s greatest accomplishment is raising her two daughters, Jordyn and Jisella, to become compassionate and socially conscious young individuals.

## **Distinguished Service Award**

### ***Avis Aokele Kalama***



Avis Aokele Kalama is the Executive Director of the Windward Spouse Abuse Shelter (“WSAS”) and, since the early 1990s, has been the driving force behind its existence and success. Avis originally served as a member of the Windward Spouse Abuse Coalition and then became one of the founding board members of Windward Spouse Abuse Shelter, Inc. in 1992. She also served in Hawaii’s State House of Representatives. In 2003, she stepped off the WSAS board to take over as executive director of the organization and become its shelter manager.

WSAS was established in the early 1990’s as a result of a coalition of concerned members of the windward community, including churches and Castle Hospital emergency room employees who got together to do something to protect women from their abusers. This movement originated when the employees of Castle Hospital emergency room petitioned members of the Women’s Caucus of the State Legislature about the light court sentence received by the husband of Cathie Carvalho. Cathie was kidnapped, tortured and abused by her husband over several days. When she arrived at Castle emergency, she was barely recognizable and considered dead. Castle fought to save Cathie but she passed away soon thereafter. Outraged by the light criminal court sentence in that case, the Windward Spouse Abuse Coalition was formed. The Coalition worked with the Women’s Legislative Caucus to change laws and worked with the windward community to raise money to purchase a facility to shelter women who needed protection from their abusers. This facility, called “Hale Ola” (“house of life or healing”), has been a safe place of healing for women and children, providing a pathway to Independence since 1992.

Hale Ola has seen over 5,000 women and children go through its doors since Avis took over as its shelter manager. Avis has created a comfortable, safe, and nurturing “home” for these women and their children, helping them through the initial stress and trauma of their past situation, steering them toward the future and giving them hope. In addition to her work with shelter clients, she also speaks to countless groups to educate people about domestic violence and ways people can help, while also being responsible for all the community assistance WSAS receives.

Avis is also a mother, a grandmother, and a survivor.

## **President’s Award**

### ***Senator Rosalyn Baker***



Senator Roz Baker can pinpoint the defining moment that sparked her interest in government policy. It started first as a college student and then as an advocate in the youth franchise movement to lower the voting age to 18. Witnessing the impact of policy change inspired her to serve in public office and continues to motivate her today.

A former small business owner, Roz has represented the people of Maui County in the Hawai`i State Legislature for over 25 years in a variety of leadership positions. She currently represents the 6th Senate District (South and West Maui) and chairs the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health. Roz has successfully championed bills to increase access to health care through telehealth, insurance reform and by strengthening our hospitals, community clinics and trauma systems. She has added her voice to the fight for equal rights for all, as well as the prevention of domestic violence and sex assault. Roz took the lead on landmark mortgage foreclosure reforms to help keep residents in their homes. Since 2002, Senator Baker has had a pivotal role in developing health policy for the State by championing Hawai`i’s Clean Indoor Act, increasing cigarette taxes, assisting a revitalized UH Cancer Center receive its NCI designation and raising the age to 21 to possess or smoke cigarettes and e-cigarettes. She has been recognized for her leadership in health policy by organizations including the American Cancer Society (Hawai`i-Pacific and nationally), Hawai`i Primary Care Association, Healthcare Association of Hawai`i, Hawai`i Psychological Association, the American Heart Association, the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawai`i and AARP. From 2007-2008, Senator Baker served as Chair of Ways and Means, crafting a balanced two-year biennium budget and helping pilot the Senate’s successful paperless project – moving the Senate and committee processes into the digital age.

Besides her work on State legislative committees, Roz has also served on several national committees including the Subcommittee on Pediatric Emergency Care of the Institute for Medicine. A cancer survivor, Roz has been a longtime volunteer leader for the American Cancer Society.

Prior to moving to Hawai`i in 1980, Roz was a lobbyist for the National Education Association in Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University at San Marcos) with a BA in political science and speech and a secondary teaching certificate. She did her postgraduate studies at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette (now University of Louisiana Lafayette).

**Outstanding Judicial Achievement Award**  
**Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald**



Mark E. Recktenwald was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on September 14, 2010. He joined the Supreme Court as an Associate Justice on May 11, 2009, and previously served as Chief Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals beginning in April 2007. Prior to his appointment to the Intermediate Court of Appeals, Recktenwald served as the director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Hawai'i, and as an attorney in private practice. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his law degree from the University of Chicago.

**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
**Vanessa Chong**



In 2018, Vanessa Chong, longtime executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union Hawaii chapter, retired. Chong first joined the ACLU staff in 1981 and became the organization's executive director in 1984. Under her leadership, the affiliate has grown in size, effectiveness, and influence statewide. During her first year as executive director, ACLU filed its first class action lawsuit in partnership with local and national ACLU lawyers, to challenge the conditions in Hawaii's prisons. During her tenure, the local ACLU has proven itself a tireless advocate and key partner on issues such as ensuring the equal protection of the law for racial, ethnic and religious minorities, protecting reproductive rights, securing marriage equality for same-sex couples, encouraging fair treatment of homeless individuals, and ensuring free speech and

protest rights for all points of view.

The ACLU of Hawaii is an affiliate of the nationwide ACLU, the country's premier organization dedicated to protecting civil liberties and civil rights since 1920. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, the local ACLU has more than 4,000 members and donors, a staff of seven and an annual budget of more than \$1 million. The mission of the Hawaii affiliate of the ACLU is to protect the civil liberties contained in the state and federal constitutions through litigation, legislative and public education programs statewide. The ACLU is funded primarily through private donations, does not accept any government funds, and offers its services at no cost to the public.

**Please join us on April 12th as we honor the outstanding work and contributions of these five distinguished individuals!**



## Upcoming Events



### Women in Leadership - Brigadier General Suzanne Vares-Lum

Thursday, March 22, 2018

Co-Sponsored by Hawaii Women Lawyers & Hawaiian Airlines

Hawaiian Airlines

5:30pm (light refreshments), 6:00pm Start Time

On March 22, 2018, HWL and Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.'s Women in Aviation Employee Resource Group are proud to sponsor a special event about how women can play key roles in leadership. Brigadier General Suzanne Vares-Lum is a local girl who holds a key role in Pacific Command's effort to shape and maintain regional security by developing diplomatic, economic, and military relationships throughout the Pacific region. She also oversees activities in Women, Peace and Security, which is a peacekeeping effort led by women and works to protect women from sexual violence, protect human rights, and increase access to justice and eliminate discrimination. As a female who rose through the ranks of the U.S. Army and National Guard, General Vares-Lum provides a unique and insightful perspective into how women can be effective leaders in their careers and community. We hope you can join us for this exceptional event!

There will be light refreshments served at 5:30pm with the speaking event to start at 6:00pm at Hawaiian Airlines' Corporate Headquarters located at 3375 Koapaka Street, Suite G-350.

Please RSVP [here](#) by March 16, 2018 so that you can receive directions to the event, as well as parking information.

### Hawaii Women Lawyers/Hawaii Women's Legal Foundation

## 2018 Mother's Day Project

Please help us to continue our tradition of helping hundreds of deserving children say "Happy Mother's Day" with a pretty gift for a special person!

#### PLEASE DONATE:

New, gift-quality, hand and body lotions, toiletries, cosmetics, and cosmetic bags!

#### DONATION DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

##### Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing

ASB Tower, 1001 Bishop St., 18th Floor  
Cori Lau

##### Cades Schutte, LLLP

Cades Schutte Bldg., 1000 Bishop St., 12th Floor  
Rhonda Griswold

##### Ashford & Wriston, LLLP

999 Bishop St., 14th Floor  
Lynne McGivern

##### Hawaii Opera Theatre

Hawaii Opera Plaza, 848 Beretania St., Suite 301  
Courtney Coston

##### Rush Moore, LLP

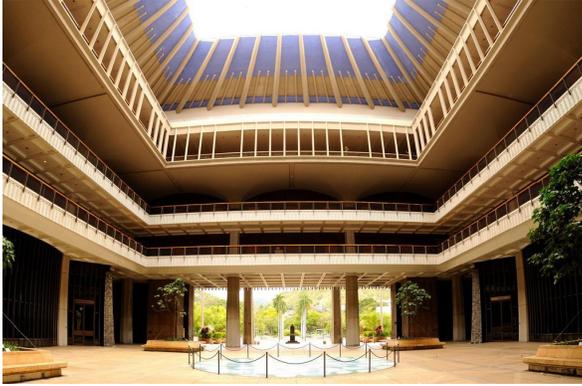
Pacific Guardian Center - Mauka Tower  
737 Bishop St., Suite 2400  
Irene Anzai



**Deadline**  
**Friday,**  
**March 23, 2018**



# Legislative Outreach Update



The mission of Hawaii Women Lawyers is to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all. As part of this mission, Hawaii Women Lawyers monitors legislation at the State level that may impact the lives of women and families, and provides testimony relating to such legislation. For the 2018 legislative session, Hawaii Women Lawyers has or will be submitting testimony in support of the following bills:

**HB 1857 – Relating to Gestational Surrogacy.** This bill establishes requirements for gestational surrogacy contracts that are executed between a gestational surrogate and a commissioning couple.

**HB 2524/SB 2633 – Relating to In Vitro Fertilization Insurance Coverage.** This measure establishes the In Vitro Fertilization Insurance Coverage Study Group to examine health insurance policies and current statutes and to make policy recommendations to the Legislature prior to the convening of the 2019 legislative session.

**HB 2126/SB 2340 – Relating to the Codification of the Affordable Care Act into State Law.** This measure serves to codify provisions of the Affordable Care Act (“ACA”) into state law, as well as prohibiting health insurance companies from imposing a preexisting condition exclusion and health insurance entities from using an individual's gender to determine premiums or contributions.

**HB 2131/SB 2345 – Relating to the Rape Kit Backlog.** This measure creates the Hawaii Sexual Assault Response Team to address the manner in which sexual assault evidence collection kits are processed and tracked, and to ensure that victims of sexual assault are informed of their rights under the law.

**HB 2132 /SB 2346 SD1 – Relating to Address Confidentiality.** This measure would establish an address confidentiality program to help survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking to relocate and keep their addresses confidential, as well appropriating funds to establish the program.

**HB 2134/SB 2348 – Relating to Revenge Porn.** This measure expands the offense of violation of privacy in the first degree to specifically include disclosure of “revenge pornography,” as well as establishing that violation of privacy of a minor, including disclosure of “revenge pornography,” is a felony offense.

**HB 2136/HB 2597/SB 2350 – Relating to a Family Leave Insurance Program.** These bills take steps towards establishing a family leave program which would require employees and employers to make contributions into an insurance fund to provide employees with family leave benefits in order to care for family members.

**HB 2137/SB 2351 – Relating to Equal Pay.** This measure prohibits employer actions regarding wage disclosure and applicant wage histories in addition to prohibiting enforced wage secrecy and retaliation or discrimination against employees who disclose, discuss, or inquire about their own or coworkers' wages.

**HB 2139 HD1/SB 2353 SD1 – Relating to Title IX.** This measure amends the Hawaii statute that prohibits discrimination by state agencies or any program or activity receiving state financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of sex, including gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation.

## DVAC Conference Room Revamp Project

As a community service project, the HWL and HWLF Boards of Directors worked to upgrade a conference room for the Domestic Violence Action Center (“DVAC”) in January 2018. Thanks to the artistic and tasteful designs of Ashlee Drake Berry (attorney for Legal Aid Society of Hawaii) and the generous donations of City Mill, SOHA, and Elizabeth Kent, the Boards received the materials and decorative items to transform this windowless room...

From this...



To this...



**Mahalo to all of our volunteers and donors!**

### After-Holidays Goodies Drive Mahalo!

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Hawaii Women Lawyers’ After-Holidays Goodies Drive wrapped up at the end of January. Hawaii Women Lawyers was ultimately able to collect a whopping total of 630 pounds of food for Aloha Harvest, a non-profit organization that rescues quality, donated food and delivers it “free of charge” to social service agencies feeding the hungry in Hawai‘i.

We are grateful for the opportunity to have partnered with Aloha Harvest, and we appreciate all of those in the community who donated their “goodies” to make the holiday season a little brighter for disadvantaged local families and individuals. We especially thank those law firms that served as drop-off sites for the Drive: Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, Case Lombardi & Pettit, LC, Chun Kerr LLP, McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon, Cades Schutte LLP, Chong Nishimoto Sia Nakamura & Goya, LLLP, Kleintop & Luria, LLP, and Torkildson Katz Moore Hetherington & Harris. Your assistance and coordination helped make the 2017 Drive a success!

