System failure

DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS FRUSTRATED BY GAPS IN SAFETY NET

Deputy prosecutor Rom Trader shows photographs of battered women’s injuries that were used as evidence in some of the domestic violence cases his office prosecuted.

IN COURTROOM
RECANT ONCE
VICTIMS OFTEN
TRIALS

The August trial of Jerome Kealoha Jr. was no exception. Not only did the cases illustrate the challenges domestic-abuse prosecutions present, it underscored how unpersuadable and volatile such prosecutions can be.

The chief challenge in this trial: overcoming the recanting of the key witness, Kealoha’s girlfriend, who told jurors she lied when she reported to police a year earlier that her boyfriend beat her. After the police who responded to the initial domestic-dispute call in July 2007 took no photographs of Angela Olsen’s injuries, she recanted her initial domestic-dispute call in July 2007.

Many victims also express disgust about the civil side of Hawai‘i’s judicial process, through which millions of dollars in federal benefits wrongfully denied to them over the past 12 years. Victims in federal benefits cases linked to domestic-abuse cases linked to domestic-abuse cases have received millions of dollars in federal benefits wrongfully de-

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Police data don’t tell full story

CROSSING THE LINE • ABUSE IN HAWAI’I HOMES

The Honolulu Advertiser

A12 | Sunday, December 14, 2008

Text:

A12

Broken

CONTINUED FROM A1

But even as the calls to police have plummeted, the number of protective orders issued by Fam-
ily Court to domestic abusers has surged 80 percent over the past decade. That trend is a more accurate reflec-
tion of Hawaii’s domestic-violence problem.

Police and prosecutors are left to ask why the abuse calls are done so dramatically. But dozens of victims, their relatives and ad-
vocates have told The Advertiser that the system is widely per-
ceived as broken and that many battered women whose cases have been pursued criminally or civilly found the experience de-
ishing, abusive and frustrat-
ing, discouraging reporting of the abuse.

The huge drop in calls to po-
ce has led to fewer cases de-
cline in arrests and prosecu-
tions. The Honolulu Medical-
domestic violence law, which cov-
ered to attend intervention
the 1980s and ’90s strengthened
2000s, the number of arrests un-
mid-1990s through the mid-
household members. From the
ers physical abuse to family or
mestic violence law, which cov-

Gaps in the domestic violence system have received heightened attention in recent months as Hawaii’s struggles to deal with a problem that has grabbed headlines because of a slew of high-profile murders. Statewide, nine deaths this year have been linked to intimate-partner violence, including at least three murder-suspect arrests.

Police say a fourth murder-suspect arrest occurred last month at Ke’Ola but are await-
ing autopsy results to confirm that. Absent cases usually increase at this time of year because of the added stress linked to the holidays. Even though Honolulu is one of the salient major U.S. cities in terms of violent crimes overall, the state almost every year since 1997 has topped the national average in domestic-violence homicides per capita, according to an Advertiser analysis of state and federal data.

Police data don’t tell full story

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIME SHOW MIXED PICTURE

White domestic abuse calls, assaults and stalking cases have dropped dramatically since the mid-’90s. Police and prosecutors aren’t sure why, but many victims and advocates say the media reflects a lack of faith in the criminal justice system.

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Perpetrators frequently are not to tell their stories, often to un- to favor the defendant's rights executor who oversees the division mizes the trauma as much as pos- judge's responsibility is to cre- the judicial system, the judiciary noted that judge's decisions al- says are subject to appeal. The agency also said judges are held accountable to the same extent as any other public officer.

The dissatisfaction with the justice system is partly linked to the inherent tension that exists between the accused and the ac- in adversarial court setting. In that setting, the defendant has a fundamental right to due process and to con- front his accuser. "Part of the process can be painful and re-traumatizing, but that's how it has to happen because the re- spondent is entitled to a fair hear- ing and due process," said Fam- ily Court Judge Michael Broder- ich, who heads a special division that handles domestic-abuse and other types of cases. "There's a fundamental tension there." Because of that tension, the Judge's responsibility is to cre- ate an environment that mini- mizes the trauma as much as pos- sible, Broderick said.

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HARTSOCK'S FAMILY BELIEVES LETTING HIM OUT OF PRISON WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A MURDER

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Roim Traister, the deputy pros- ecutor who represented the division that handles domestic-violence cases, believes the system needs to favor the defendant's rights.

Deann Dano, 14, looks on in Circuit Court during the sentencing of Roy Hartsock. Hartsock was given life in prison for stabbing Dano's mother, Jenny Hartsock, to death with a 14-inch knife.

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Lost under system’s watch
In October, Jerome Kealoha pleaded guilty to 12 counts of domestic abuse involving his former wife, the alleged victim says she lied when she told police Olsen beat her in 2007.

That one statement from a domestic dispute turned what was to be a No-1 charge to the 2007 case, charging what she had told a paramedic and doctor immediately after the incident. Lisa Solomon, Olsen's girlfriend, testified that he had locked her out of the house, attempted to call 9-1-1, and while she was sitting on a bench she was struck and choked. The alleged victim says she lied when she told police Kealoha beat her in 2007.

The judge eventually declared a mistrial after the jury was unable to reach a verdict. In the Kealoha case, Olsen testified that she had lied to police to get away from Olsen and that her unborn child was healthy. Prosecutors say it is not uncommon for victims to recant, especially miniature convictions after time passes and the case is closed. In the Kealoha case, Olsen was sentenced to 12 months for two counts of domestic abuse, the remainder of the five-day trial in jail.

The charges are considered important in domestic violence prosecutions. Olsen was found guilty of domestic abuse after a mistrial and was ordered to take photos because he had learned that Olsen's girlfriend was uncooperative. Olsen was held in contempt by Judge Michael Town, who, before forcing the trial into custody, the prosecutor and a bailiff. Olsen was held in contem- porary to Judge Michael Town, and while several sheriff deputies try to make him into custody, he resisted and allegedly struck and cut himself. The trial was held in a court room, but the trial continued. Olsen then went to the county jail.

The trial, after two days of de- monstrations, summed up Kaukahi of the six charges he faced. He later was sentenced to 12 months and convicted on one felony, a total of one year, so the court released him that day. The couple recently got married.

Angela Olsen and Jerome Kealoha visit the grave of their baby, Janae Olsen-Kealoha. Janae was born and died of natural causes, all while Kealoha was in jail, unable to post bail while his domestic-abuse case was ongoing. The trial was held in a court room, but the trial continued. Olsen was held in contempt by Judge Michael Town, who, before forcing the trial into custody, the prosecutor and a bailiff. Olsen was held in contem- porary to Judge Michael Town, and while several sheriff deputies try to make him into custody, he resisted and allegedly struck and cut himself. The trial was held in a court room, but the trial continued. Olsen then went to the county jail.

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Prosecutors say taking domestic-abuse cases to a jury is risky, especially misdemeanor ones. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative. Victims often react, minimize the violence or are uncooperative.

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CROSSING THE LINE • ABUSE IN HAWAI‘I HOMES

The issue? ‘It doesn’t work’

Legal

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Investigations in his division also involve the injury of phy- sical abuse. Nielsen said: "We recently investigated a domestic abuse case in which the victim was injured, and the officer took photos. CID will return to the scene at that time." Nielsen said, "If we feel it's necessary, we don't make it a crime to go do a post- investigation." If there was such a case, "It's not a crime to let go and do a poor in- vestigation, "Nielsen said.

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Legal
**Lost in transition**

For many victims, the beach is their refuge.

By Rod Perez

The judge’s warning was direct and to the point.

The decision is up to the judge.

**COURT AWASH IN ANGER, FEAR, SADNESS AND TEARS**

The judge regularly apologizes to the victims of domestic violence. The tension in the June Punchbowl courtroom is almost overwhelming. Every now and then, short outbursts are summoned — just in case.

By Rod Perez

The Honolulu Advertiser

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**For more on this topic:**

- **SEE COURT, A7**

**Teachers drug testing unresolved as talks near on new contract**

By Loreen Moreno

The teachers union has not yet seen any of the new random drug testing of Hawaii public school teachers passed nearly 6 months ago, and still no teacher has been tested.

What this week, the teachers union and the state are expected to begin talks on a new contract.

The current contract year, which expires in June, included an increase of up to 2 percent in exchange for a commitment from teachers to accept random drug testing.

Teachers have gotten most of the pay increases, but the teachers union has balked at the union.

The state has accused the union of making a “mockery” of the collective bargaining process.

The union has said it has concerns about privacy rights and the potential of illegal searches and seizures.

Linda Lingle’s office filed a complaint with the state Labor Relations Board to get the super-

ers to abide by the contract, but the board has not ruled on the issue.

State officials say they are unsure whether the dispute over the current contract will be re-

solved before it expires in June.

Negotiations from both sides met several weeks ago, but only in an attempt to avoid the issue.

Neither Roger Takabayashi, see DRUG TEST, A3

**Teacher drug testing unresolved as talks near on new contract**

**The Honolulu Advertiser**

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Lack of resources taxing

A survey by University of Hawai'i assistant professor Charlene Baker of civil stalking, lack of housing and court issues as among the gaps in the safety net for domestic-abuse victims.

Would with expected to in the months ahead, many battered women get worse, creating even more gaps in services that may increase. The problem touches a huge chunk of the state's population.

The lack of transitional housing is evident each time the action center stops taking new cases, and once a woman decides to leave her abusive relationship.
One woman recently filled out the form herself. The judge had to call her to come in for a second interview. "This is a very sensitive subject," said Broderick, the judge. "You often see people with criminal records — and not just the alleged abusers. And you hear all kinds of stories, excuse, justifications."

Each year, roughly 2,500 requests for temporary restraining orders are processed on Oahu. Nine of every 10 typically are granted. Orders on file are in a special division that handles domestic abuse cases, and they are signed by the judge in a hearing calendar — a fairly typical procedure. He has to get through all the cases by around noon, because his packed afternoons are devoted to guardianships, adoptions and other types of Family Court cases.

The restraining-order schedule can get so tight that Broderick, the lead judge for the special division that handles domestic abuse cases, had 15 on his morning docket — a fairly typical workload. He has to get through all the cases by around noon, because his packed afternoons are devoted to guardianships, adoptions and other types of Family Court cases.

One of the first cases of the morning involved a woman alleging that her husband would not allow her to eat for long stretches, causing her severe medical problems. When she tried to get food, he would simply turn away, she wrote in her petition. Broderick granted her request for a five-year protective order. Even as he pleaded for forgiveness, he said he would not allow her to eat for long stretches, causing her severe medical problems. When she tried to get food, he would simply turn away, she wrote in her petition.

Another woman alleged her husband repeatedly hit her in the head, causing her to fall as though placed under hypnosis. Police usually are required to make arrests if there are visible injuries, but some officers say abusers have become masterful on how to avoid getting arrested. The woman said her husband also would choke her until she blacked out, sometimes in front of their children. Yet another woman said her boyfriend continued to stalk her after she ended their relationship. He would come to her home daily, looking in windows and trying to open doors. She said he would call her friends and family members to ask about her and repeatedly went to mailboxes to her and others.

The only trial of the morning was a woman alleging her husband took her to an abandoned road near Kapolei and beat her with a metal pipe. On another occasion, she said, he took her to a store with him, so he drove to a remote area and beat and choked her. The husband denied some charges but admitted otherwise doing things that had him in prison. Another woman was charged with aiding and abetting him after he was arrested. He said he got hooked on video games that he played so much he neglected his marriage. "I'm sorry for the things I've done," he said. "I have to get help." The judge sentenced him to 10 years in prison. He said he would not allow her to eat for long stretches, causing her severe medical problems. When she tried to get food, he would simply turn away, she wrote in her petition. Broderick granted her request for a five-year protective order.

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State plans $1.86B stimulus

Property values on O‘ahu decrease

Homeowners may see lower tax bills in 2009 if city doesn’t raise rate

By Peter Boylan

The value of residential property on O‘ahu has decreased slightly for the second time in seven years, meaning some homeowners could receive lower tax bills next year following a last-minute rate cut by the city.

Honolulu officials began mailings last week to homeowners informing them that the city has approved a 2.9% reduction in the city’s tax rate.

Not content with just inflicting physical or verbal abuse, domestic violence offenders are turning to the digital and electronic worlds to hurt their victims.

Those who deal with restraining orders in Hawaii and in California say they are seeing a growing number of examples in which the abuser uses text messaging, public Web sites or other forms of high-tech communication to reach their targets.

Family Court Judge Michael Brodarchik, who presides over protective order requests, said he is seeing more cases of abusers turning to the Internet.

He recalled one recent case in which an ex-boyfriend went on a public Web site that his ex-girlfriend was good in bed, wanted her to get money and listed her home address.

The high-tech abuse is happening even through protective orders that Brodarchik and others say limit the offender’s access to the Internet, including e-mails and text-messaging.

Someone who violates a protective order is subject to a year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

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Koko Joe, 25, formerly of Micronesia, was an ex-who suffered after a relative hit her in the head.

It took some time to climb the second. Advocates are seeing more cases of domestic abuse among Micronesians here.

Hate online

SOME TAKE THEIR HATE ONLINE

By Rob Perez


Cross the line

ABUSE IN HAWAI‘I HOMES

By Jeff Widener

The Life and Death of Daysha

Hawaii's most vulnerable of all

Excluding new inventory and construction, the value of O‘ahu’s residential property dropped by $137 billion from $249.5 billion the previous year, according to the city.

More than 280,000 O‘ahu property owners will receive their 2009 real property assessment notices next week, including 1,521 projects to boost the economy, create jobs

State plans $1.86B stimulus

The federal government will invest $1.86 billion in capital improvement projects to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

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Linda Lingle announced the plan at a news conference yesterday with the mayors of Kaua‘i, Maui and the Big Island at her side.

Lingle said she would cooperate with Lingle’s economic stimulus plan if it seemed to help her state.

Threat of deportation a big concern for abuse victims trying to get by in new land

By Rob Perez

When Sun Weng went to court to seek protection from her estranged boyfriend, she feared for her life.

The Korean immigrant told a judge her ex-boyfriend had stepped on her head, trying to crush it.

He recalled one recent case in which an ex-boyfriend went on a public Web site that his ex-girlfriend was good in bed, wanted her to get money and listed her home address.

The high-tech abuse is happening even through protective orders that Brodarchik and others say limit the offender’s access to the Internet, including e-mails and text-messaging.

Someone who violates a protective order is subject to a year in jail and a $1,000 fine.

Allegations of high-tech abuse show up frequently on petitions for restraining orders.

“He is writing blogs about me on MySpace and post your own at HAWAII.MOMSLIKEME.COM. FIND MORE FOR MOMS AT HONOLULUADVERTISER.COM and read her comments to -- mums meet where our ‘ninth island’ really important to Vegas.

Daysha’s journal, resources for language and multilingual presentation of multimedia treatment with cholesterol lowering drugs threaten to undo the improvement.

Increasing obesity, diabetes threaten to undo the improvement.

Cardiac, stroke deaths fall 30 percent

Increasing obesity, diabetes threaten to undo the improvement.

By John Fauber

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Increasing obesity, diabetes threaten to undo the improvement.
Many in Islands suffer in silence

Immigrant

CONTINUED FROM A-1

In the Filipino population, an average of seven domestic-violence victims were killed in the Islands, and Micronesians, also are seeing more cases, especially in traditional, conflict-resolution practices that tend to be tolerated, Toci said, so the women are pleased when they learn abuse is against the law in Hawaii.

“They like coming here,” she said. “They have more protection.”

On one weekend in October, Toci’s shelter was a safe haven for Silvia Kostka, formerly of Pohnpei, a Micronesian woman who recently moved to Hawaii and has been gradually increasing in some seeking shelter, some seeking only information. In their communities, which are growing substantially in recent years, many battered women face not only the general barriers to reporting but also the fear of deportation, which many believe if they report abuse, they’ll be deported.

Immigrants in abuse situations are vastly underreported in any community. Victims don’t contact authorities for a variety of reasons. They still may love their partner and believe he will change. They may want to keep their marriage intact for the sake of their children. They may rely on their abuser’s paycheck for food and shelter. Or they simply may be too terrified to talk about it.

Yet in Hawaii’s immigrant communities, which have grown substantially in recent years, many battered women face not only the general barriers to reporting but also the fear of deportation. Abusers often use the threat of deportation, even if not credible, to try to keep their victim from reporting the abuse. Hawaiian Attorney General Douglas Chin, when asked at a press conference about the increase in complaints about domestic violence in the Islands, said. “They have more protection.”

*Many in Islands suffer in silence*

Domestic-violence survivor Melissa Rhyne, center, gives a high-five to Silvia Kostka, formerly of Micronesia, at a Big Island shelter for women. With the help of Child & Family Service and the Flight to Freedom program, Shiva and her children fled to Hilo from Maui, where she was abused by her husband. At right is Silvia’s 5-year-old son, Timonio Ioanis Jr. Shelter operators and others say they are hearing about more cases of domestic abuse in Micronesian communities in Hawaii. They are unsure whether the increase stems from a rise in violence or a greater willingness among the women to seek help.

Immigrant

**WHO ARE THE ABUSERS, THE ABUSED?**

A multi-agency study looking at rates of domestic-violence trends from 2004 through 2007 found that Native Hawaiians were the most commonly represented ethnic group. The most common age group among the offenders was 40 to 49. More than 90 percent were male, and nearly half of the overall group were single.

A Department of Health survey at victims also found that Native Hawaiians had the highest prevalence rate of domestic abuse. Medical personnel used an argument at a family gathering. Silvia spoke only Tagalog and English, so the staff used English to communicate. The fear of deportation. Abusers often use the threat of deportation, even if not credible, to try to keep their victim from reporting the abuse. Hawaiian Attorney General Douglas Chin, when asked at a press conference about the increase in complaints about domestic violence in the Islands, said. “They have more protection.”

*Many in Islands suffer in silence*

Domestic violence, a crime predominantly committed by men against women, is vastly underreported in any community. Victims don’t contact authorities for a variety of reasons. They still may love their partner and believe he will change. They may want to keep their marriage intact for the sake of their children. They may rely on their abuser’s paycheck for food and shelter. Or they simply may be too terrified to talk about it.
In one 2002-2004 state study looking at domestic violence cases, 35 percent were committed to the hospital or jail and 47 percent explained theirIGHT to authorities. In 2008, some battered women were not provided information to determine whether they were entering a domestic partnership or were entering a domestic relationship. At Child & Family, they are offered in about a dozen languages.

Understanding the cultural backgrounds of clients is understanding why many immigrants are reluctant to seek help.

One common barrier to the no- tion that what happens in the family stays in the family, stays with the victim. As victims are reminded, subtly or explicitly, that what happens in the family is staying with the family. Victims are reminded, subtly or explicitly, that what happens in the family is staying with the family. Victims are reminded, subtly or explicitly, that what happens in the family is staying with the family.

In some cases, the confined im- mune system — a goal many waited years to achieve. The data allowed the American Heart Association to reach 20 of 29 percent re- ductions in death four years ear- lier. The Heart Association esti- mated that 15 percent of men ages 40 to 55 and 10 percent of men and women ages 56 to 60 had achieved its goal for heart disease by 2006.
Panel may ask to lift limits on fundraising

Spending Commission could seek repeal of Mainland restrictions

The Spending Commission could seek new fundraising limits in a move that would force Mainland candidates to raise money in Hawaii. The commission has been asked by Gov. Mufi Hannemann to recommend a way to reform fundraising obstacles for the 2010 governor's race. State candidates are limited to 20 percent of their total fundraising during each campaign-finance reporting period. Lawmakers adopted the restriction, which took effect in January 2006, to prevent Mainland restrictions on fundraising from having a disproportionate influence on state development, economic and social policies.

Barbara Wong, the commission's executive director, has recommended that the commission ask for a repeal. The commission is expected to decide this afternoon.

SEE CAMPAIGN, A5

Flood victims picking their way out of runs

Red Cross says dozens of Oahu homes badly damaged or destroyed

By Will Hoover

Clara Cambra showed up at the Red Cross emergency shelter in Waialae yesterday afternoon Damage to her home was severe. The water was like a rushing river, and it took me home on Waialae Valley Road off its foundations," she said. "I'm looking for somebody who can tell me what I should do." Cambra wasn't alone in her distress. The American Red Cross' Hawaii chapter said yesterday that among the more than 200 homes damaged by floods on Oahu, three dozen were severely damaged or destroyed.

State civil defense said at least 47 homes or other structures suffered major losses, with preliminary damage estimates of $3 million. Red Cross volunteers in the field, such as John Wachihi, said those figures could easily be doubled.

"There's a lot more damage than they think it was in 2006 when we had all that 40 days of rain," said Wachihi, one of several workers who have assuaged damage in Oahu's hardest-hit areas of Waialae, Hale'iwa.

SEE FLOOD, A6

A cycle of beatings

FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO END, KIDS ARE THE KEY

By Rob Perez

Mikki Buentello grew up in a home where her mother endured regular beatings from her husband. When Buentello started dating, the cycle continued. One partner after another would beat and verbally abuse her. "Because I thought it was normal, I just dealt with it," she said. "I didn't know men were supposed to slap you or grab you by the arm or hit you.

Buentello, 30,000 slips in the cycle today. She is constantly drumming into her three young children that men are not supposed to hit women that women are to be treated with respect. The message may have a tough time sticking. Studies show that boys raised in homes in which the fathers regularly abused their spouses are more prone to become abusers themselves later in life, and girls raised in homes in which mothers are abused by the fathers are more apt to become victims.

For many, the cycle was passed along to the other, but the anecdotal evidence is strong enough that many say the key to reducing Hawaii's domestic violence problem lies with its youth.

SEE KIDS, A6

Fed cuts interest rates from equation

Benchmark lowered to zero as next move to buy mortgage-backed debt

BY MAURA REYNOLDS

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve lowered a key interest rate yesterday for the first time in more than a decade, cutting the benchmark federal funds rate to an all-time low of zero percent.

The central bank took two major steps yesterday. First, it lowered its benchmark interest rate to zero to try to spur economic activity over the next 10 years. Second, it strengthened its pledge to buy vast amounts of mortgage-backed debt and possibly other securities to spur lending and help restore the economy.

"By moving to zero, the Fed's recognition that interest-rate actions alone are now over and the numbers will be concentrating on oth-

SEE RESERVE, A14

Baseball in Isles going, going, gone — again

By Stacy Kaneshiro

For the second time within a decade, Hawaii Winter Baseball announced yesterday Major League Baseball teams voted not to renew their contract with Hawaii Winter Baseball after their three-year pact expired at the end of this past season. IBB announced.

Unlike the first time around from 1995 to 1997, when IBB walked away after Major League Baseball demanded the development league pay 100 percent of the players and coaches' salaries, it is MLB that is leaving Hawaii, apparently for greener pastures.

"We were sold it had nothing to do with what we didn't do," IBB President Harry Kurisu said. "The Suttons were the main

SEE HWB, A7
Effects on children can be lasting

CONTINUED FROM A1

If young children and teens are exposed to violence, whether in the home or in schools, their ability to create healthy relationships, their chances of survival and their ability to heal can all be damaged and even stopped. Yet that message doesn’t seem to be getting through to enough young people, partly because too few preventive programs are in place.

One Department of Education survey reported that 10 percent of Hawai‘i high school students and 6 percent of middle school students indicated they were hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend in the previous year.

When high school students here are asked whether they have been in a violent intimate relationship or know someone who has, according to Cynthia Lance Spencer, a Domestic Violence Action Center vice president, sometimes the students are as young as 12 or 13.

Worse, when the center talks to children who have been abused, many girls disclose that they’ve been pregnant and have had an abortion induced or by their partners as a way to stop fear and control, Spencer said.

“This is prevalent,” she said. “It’s definitely a tool that is used in abusive relationships.”

The sex assault problem is especially common when teenage girls are dating men in their 20s. She or someone else older, said Spencer, whose organization operates two 24-hour hot lines, serves more than 4,000 students, mostly on O‘ahu.

And these types of problems and effects that you hear a lot about some pretty awful things,” she said.

Even if the abuse is much less severe or the children simply witness the abuse but are not victims, the ramifications can be severe and long-lasting.

Many adolescents will develop symptoms that can range from depression and high anxiety to hyperactivity and learning disabilities, which are often labeled as post-traumatic stress disorder. And these types of problems can lead to other problems, affecting still more people and adding to the costs to society.

Cynical, delinquent, school bullying, increasing drug use.

“Judges have recognized for years the terrible consequences of domestic violence, especially for children who are exposed to and are witnesses of domestic violence,” said Family spokesperson Martha K. King who wrote in an editorial, “That domestic violence, translates into, both financial and in terms of public safety, for the community. Judges who fail to look at the community devote more resources toward domestic violence prevention as the earliest stages. The community need more education and social-service type programs.”

The consequences of domestic violence have hit home for Denby S. Lee and her four children in the Big Island town of Hilo. Mrs. Lee was abused during a storm 17-year relationship. Two had had with her high school sweetheart, she said. All four children, who range in age from 5 to 14 when she finally left her husband, needed therapy.

One child, who was isolated by the other three because she was the only one not beaten, became so depressed she tried to kill herself at age 13, Lee said. Another one of the children, was so traumatized and feels attacks at school, exasperating his grades and bringing on delinquency. A third became very introverted, the fourth very aggressive.

“I was very, very angry on the line,” she said. “They loved her dad, but they were afraid of him.”

While many youths exposed to violence in the home witness domestic violence, some will show no outward signs of trauma. They may actually thrive in school, a haven from the violence and imperfections.

“School becomes the safe place, the nice place, the place where they want to be,” said Lisa Pimental-Oei, coordinator at the Junior High Elementary School. “At home, they’re always walking on egg shells.”

It’s not clear how many Hawai‘i children are exposed to domestic violence. One study from the mid-1990s estimated the number at as many as 44,000 — a figure still cited by some today.

Spencer, who works with many youth who need help to get unstuck, according to a 2000 state study and interviews with experts.

“This is not as big as it may seem to us,” she said. “There are a lot of kids who may not report because of embarrassment or because they don’t know what to do. The formation of healthy families in Hawai‘i, most said their kids suffer from even more distress because of exposure to domestic violence, but only a small percentage of the sought psychological services for their children.

About half the mothers and children showed subclinical signs of post-traumatic stress disorder roughly two years after leaving their abusive relationships, the study found.

Given the prevalence of domestic abuse and its affects on children, most of the state’s 500 school districts have systems prevention programs similar to the anti-drug D.A.R.E. effort, according to Mary Scott-Lau, executive director of Women in Need, a nonprofit social services agency.

“It needs to be in every single school,” she said, “so kids don’t grow up thinking that kind of behavior is normal.”

DOE, however, has little in some preventatives aimed specifically at domestic violence.

“Often is factored more on issues related to drug and alcohol programs,” she said. “None of these programs that counseling services are available to some training the help, regardless of the underlying causes.”

“The idea is to create a nurturing environment in which a troubled child reaches out for help or a friend of the student makes those arrangements,” said Dr. Steve Shirok, DOE administrator for the student support section, which includes counseling services.

“That’s how we create a sense of community at the school level,” she said. “People are cared for within the school.”

Depending on the severity of the case, a student can get help from a school counselor, DOE psychologist and, in the most severe cases, through a private agency contracted by the department, she said.

DOE tracks child-abuse cases systemwide but not domestic violence. In order to factor more on issues related to drug and alcohol programs, no prevention programs that counseling services are available to some training the help, regardless of the underlying causes.

A free public schools have a Kids’ Safe program that is designed to prevent children from exposure to domestic violence and to provide treatment by the nonprofit Family Peace Center.

The center conducts Kids Safe education, a program aimed for children in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it was able to identify many kids exposed to domestic violence and were not already getting help, said Kate Ileai, program director for the peace center.

The center used to the program systemwide after funding for the pilot project ended, but it continues to conduct Kids Safe sessions in the schools, but that reach is limited by the funding Center can obtain.

Shirok said the pilot project ended for financial reasons and because the data showed it achieved only negligible improvements.

Another youth-oriented program aimed at preventing domestic violence also has been discontinued because of funding problems.

A similar play aimed at high school girls still being performed in conjunction with Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Rice, and other agencies.
Kids

CROSSING THE LINE: ABUSE IN HOME HOMES

Aim is to ‘stop the cycle’

**KIDS SUFFER MENTAL HARM FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE**

In a 2000 study, Hawai'i researchers interviewed 25 mothers and 25 children who were exposed to domestic violence. Their findings and recommendations:

- About half the mothers and the children showed symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Most of the mothers regarded the levels of distress brought on by domestic violence as more significant than other personal problems.
- The mothers reported very significant levels of verbal abuse.
- The mothers and children each reported experiencing the same abuse-related tendencies that have proven from one generation to the next in the family.

"It’s a cycle," said Buentello. "We’re just trying to stop the cy-cle.""We’re just trying to stop the cy-cle.

- **Establish a specialized team of mental health professionals** to deal with the potential problems of mothers and children exposed to domestic violence.
- **Awareness** about what we can and cannot control.
- **Children’s psychological health** must not suffer from lack of mental health assistance for their children, despite having abuse or violence.
- **Mental league** is the Arizona Fall League, which is owned by MLB.
- **Clinic** in the general vicinity, it would be too premature, but they are base-ball-related.
- **Players** last night. He said the one thing we have to do, "For us, we take the high road and say we did everything we possibly could. It doesn’t make the call. It’s the commissioner’s office that was not involved. (The commissioner’s office didn’t) make it easier for scouts to moni-tor, on a short fuse. He has a short fuse and can quickly lose his temper when dealing with his siblings and Buentello, said. He also has trouble paying at- tention in class, she added, though counseling has helped counter-side turned purple from bruising.
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11 nursing homes merit 5 stars

Report critical of ferry lifeline

Allowing ship to sail without EIS sets risky precedent, auditor says

BY DERRICK O'KUGOLE

A state law that gave Hawaii Superintendent of Rail a dubious last year set a "worrisome precedent" that "paves the way for a single business ahead of the state's environment, financial and public safety," the state auditor said in a report released yesterday.

The law, which allowed the Superferry to resume operations while an environmental impact statement (EIS) proposal, undermines the environmental review process with a substitute process that was negotiated and tailored for Superferry, state auditor Marion Riga wrote.

Stimulus package Obama's first test

BY PETER NICHOLAS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's call for speedy adoption of a massive spending plan to "fuel" the economy will prove an early test of two central promises he will make to voters this year: his ability to work in a bipartisan style with a skeptical Republican Party, and his ability to push the federal budget of wasteful projects.

Obama's aides are assembling a two-year stimulus package that could cost $900 billion and potentially up to $1 trillion — and potentially up to $1 trillion — with jobs in the mix, the president said. But it has won backing from the bipartisan group of members of Congress.

BY DERRICK O'KUGOLE

A Superferry to return?

Hawaii families tend to visit factories to save cash |

Factories will idle their operations as they try to save cash as the credit crunch continues.

The nation's largest Superferry is expected to be back in service in the next few weeks, according to a state audit released yesterday.

The audit found that the Superferry, which allows ships to sail without EIS sets risky precedent, auditor says.

The Superferry, which allows ships to sail without EIS sets risky precedent, auditor says.
Jealousy’s a common theme

Tony. After the deployment, he...
**CROSSING THE LINE • ABUSE IN HAWAII HOMES**

Army says its programs work


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**ARMS NOT SEEING INCREASE IN DOMESTIC ABUSE CASES**

Neither the Army nor the Marines, the two services that have seen the greatest number of cases in recent years, are seeing any increase in domestic abuse cases because their programs are working.

**Felon**

Army, Marines not seeing increase in domestic abuse cases

Neither the Army nor the Marines, the two services that have shouldered the load of their deployments from Iraq, have seen an increase in domestic abuse cases since their deployments started.

**Doomed marriage, early death happen to Iraq war soldier**

A soldier like this, said Circuit Judge Donald G. Rehkopf Jr., “I don’t think I’ve ever seen a more dedicated to his family.”

**ARMY, MARINES NOT SEEING INCREASE**

In domestic abuse cases

Neither the Army nor the Marines, the two services that have seen the greatest number of cases in recent years, are seeing any increase in domestic abuse cases because their programs are working.

**CROSSING THE LINE • ABUSE IN HAWAII HOMES**

Army says its programs work

As the soldier pursued an appeal and pardon of his dis- charge, the Army has continued to provide services and support to family members across the country. Among the services will be a Family Advocacy Program manager and a counselor to help them understand and cope with the ramifications on his military career.

**ARMS NOT SEEING INCREASE**

In domestic abuse cases

Neither the Army nor the Marines, the two services that have seen the greatest number of cases in recent years, are seeing any increase in domestic abuse cases because their programs are working.
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INTERVENTION PROGRAMS OFFER ABUSERS INSIGHT

A time to change

BY ANDREW GOMES

Rising unemployment heightens competition for work at 2 Ile stores

BY ROG PORZ

Many ill-prepared to deal with problem

Crowd swarms Target job fair

HAWAII’S NEWSPAPER

The Honolulu Advertiser

Rising unemployment heightens competition for work at 2 Ile stores

BY ANDREW GOMES

Former Aloha Airlines employee K Стаcia Choy of Honolulu lost her job yesterday as the first person hired by Target Corp. at the start of a four-day effort to fill 1,200 jobs at two Ile stores scheduled to open in March.

“I’m so humbled,” said Cheng, who was laid off nine months ago when the local airliner’s passenger numbers started to drop. “It’s been a struggle.”

The opportunity to work for the nation’s second-largest discount retailer drew an overwhelmingly large crowd that included many who have left jobs this year by layoffs at numerous Hawaiian companies.

So many people showed up to the Career Center at Target, which planned to open the door at 9 a.m., starting telling people around 8:45 a.m. that they would have to come back on another day.

The first job seeker who arrived was just a few minutes early. But Career Center officials turned around dozens of would-be applicants away.

By 4:30 p.m. yesterday, there were still no indications that Target was stopping the hiring process.

The opportunity to work at Target “was just as damaging as if he had hit his wife and their two children,” said paroling administrator Max Otani. “But more than that, he never hit, kicked or slapped his wife. Because of that, he never considered himself a domestic abuser.”

By ROG PORZ

The two men who were charged with the first two domestic-violence murders on Oahu this year were on parole at the time of the killings.

But the convicted felons were being monitored by a state agency that did not provide domestic-violence training to all its parole officers.

The family of one of the murder victims, Jenny Henneman, says the Hawaii Paroling Authority’s ability to recognize signs of domestic violence in her troubled marriage to parolee Roy Hartsock was a factor in her murder — a charge the agency denies.

Her husband had decided to establish a formal domestic-violence training program for its officers.

The convicted felons were being monitored by a state agency that did not provide domestic-violence training to all its parole officers.

by ROG PORZ

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Domestic violence specialist Ray Torres runs a discussion group on the Big Island for domestic abusers, part of a 12-week domestic-violence intervention program. At left are discussion-group participants Russell Lawrence and Ronald Delia Santos.

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Abusers

CROSSING THE LINE
ABUSE IN HAWAI’I HOMES

CROSSING THE LINE

ABUSE IN HAWAI’I HOMES

One of the most perplexing aspects of domestic violence deals with the motivation behind the abuse. Why would anyone resort to beating a loved one?

Most experts say such behavior is learned. Offenders believe that they see one parent abusing another, and they often resort to similar behaviors in their own intimate relationships as they become adults. A cycle of violence is passed from generation to generation to the next.

“Babies are not born to be violent,” said Ray Torres, a Child & Family Service domestic violence specialist who conducts intervention courses for offenders on the Big Island. “Violent behavior is something that is learned.”

Joe said his abusive, negative behavior — he complained a lot, was domineering, confrontational, lacked compassion — was learned from a fear of losing control and a sense of insecurity and inadequacy.

“I would use my temper tantrums and tyrannical episodes of exploding anger to demand respect,” Joe wrote in response to an Attorney questionnaire. “Much to my (dis)grace, this choice of behavior totally only served to dissuade others from trying to help me. I didn’t want to be that guy anymore.”

Joe is among the thousands of Hawai’i residents who are current or former domestic abusers. Most are men, though prosecution is occurring in a small but growing number of cases.

Some offenders deny they are abusers, even if a court says otherwise. Some rationalize their behavior, saying the violence was warranted. Some, however, acknowledge they crossed the line. Anyone found guilty in Hawai’i can lose custody of their children, education and earns a six-figure income in a profession he would have a problem and voluntarily seek help.

One of the most perplexing aspects of domestic violence deals with the motivation behind the abuse. Why would anyone resort to beating a loved one?

In many cases, the offenders are seeing a small but growing number of cases.

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Violence

CONTINUED FROM A1

The author's conclusions are
that the commonwealth is not
devotes a common weakness
among many Hawaii agencies
and organizations that frequently
deal with domestic-violence victims.

Pore of the organizations
provides their employees with train-
ing on recognizing and under-
standing the complicated dy-
namics of what is a pervasive
problem in the Islands. And for
the ones that do provide training,
the level often is inadequate, vic-
Iolated and vulnerable.

Sufficient training is important
because many victims are vulner-
able to acknowledge they are
being abused, often preventing
them from getting the help they
need. That means front-line pro-
fessionals, such as medical work-
ers, police officers and church
pastors who come in contact
with victims must be able to rec-
ognize symptoms and know how
to respond appropriately.

“We’re lagging behind in that regard,” said state Prevention
Director for the Hawaii Domestic
Violence Action Center. “To illustrate the point, Kauai
said a hospital contacted the center to ask if staff could be
sent to the hospital emergency
department. The hospital said the ER was seeing more domestic-vio-
cence cases but was ill-equipped beyond the medical needs, to
handle them.

Unluckily with her existing staff
to take on the hospital protect-
ive order task, the hospital
said it would not be able to grant it to hand, but the hospital
immediately had the idea.

Hawaii’s laws that help health-
care providers assist domestic-violence victims have received
poor marks historically in one
national survey.

In the Family Violence Pre-
vention Fund survey from 2000
and 2006, the state received D
grades for its healthcare-related
domestic-violence training in the
training category. Hawaii’s re-
ceived zero out of the lowest
score.

“We definitely should be doing more training,” said Dr. Mary
Fitldall, a Big Island ER physi-
cian who has taught domestic-violence-related courses before.

At Hawaï’s Pacific Health, which operates four hospitals,
including Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children,
employees are required each year to take a one-hour training
course online and pass an exam.

Some churches acknowledge the seriousness of the problem and
provide training accordingly.

Jack Hoag, a chaplain for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints in Hawaï, said in ful-
lung medical training programs
about recognizing signs of domestic vi-
olence and then train them who
work for the church. Their main
goal protect the innocent.

Hoag said church leaders have noticed an increase in requests
for training in recent years. “It’s a natural problem, just not within the
church,” he said.

Judges, particularly, get famed
and police officers also are
other groups commonly men-
tioned.

Both groups receive domestic-violence training, but advices question whether the sessions are
sufficient, given the feedback they get from victims on how
they were treated in the criminal justice system.

Judge Justice Peter M. Davis conducts clergy training around
the state. Davis conducts clergy training around
the country.

Many pastors will cite religious
affiliations as a reason why they
cannot participate in some training programs.

“Yet most clergy are ill-
educated to deal with intimate partner violence,” said the Rev.
Alai Mike, who served as an advocate at the Queen’s Medical
Center to ask if staff could be as-
ed to respond appropriately.

The Rev. Alai Mike helps victims of domestic violence at The Queen’s Medical Center chapel. He’s the author of the book “Domestic Violence: What Every Pastor Needs To Know.”

“Violent people are an issue
to the Homeless”

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Hawaii's weakening economy pushes figure in November to 4.9% 

**By Curtis Lum**

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November reached a nine-year high of 4.9 percent as employers continue to struggle in a weakening economy.

The rate was 2.2 percentage points higher than the same month last year and a 4.5 percentage point increase from October. Unemployment has climbed steadily since last year and has been fueled by dozens of companies laying off thousands of workers.

The number of unemployed in November was 52,900, compared with 26,406 in October and 29,895 a year ago, according to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The number of seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs grew by 2,490 in November, but there were job losses in nearly every private-sector industry, the state reported.

Hawaiian Airlines' adjusted unemployment rate rose to 7 percent last month, the highs

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**Survivors inspire**

**THOSE WHO ESCAPE GIVE HOPE TO OTHERS**

**By Rob Perez**

A federal wiretap investigation that began more than four years ago resulted in guilty verdicts for five people — including a former Honolulu police officer — who were part of an extensive criminal network on Oahu's North Shore.

William Gilman, 50, guilty of conspiracy

Douglas Gilman Sr., 79, his sons

Oki Mollway, a federal jury found before U.S. District Judge Susan

on Oahu's North Shore.

that helped set up and facilitate

an extensive criminal network

police officer — who were part of

dicts yesterday for five people

years ago resulted in guilty ver-

nation that began more than four

Oahu's North Shore.

from October. Unemployment

rates thus far, requires strict

attention for its promising re-

bation program for domestic

This innovative program, which has received national recognition for its promising re-

results thus far, requires strict

monitoring of each proba-

bationer. At the first sign of a proba-

bation violation, the con-

victed probationer is subject to immediate arrest and, if necessary, incarceration,

And not look back.

Denby Lee Toci was stuck in an abusive rela-

tionship for 17 years. She tried leaving her husband several times, but always came back, partly out of

tears, terrified at what more their father might

That was the incident that prompted Toci to

That all changed in 2000.

On a Wednesday afternoon this month, the state's seasonally adjusted nonagricultural

November's numbers down

The jobless rate was 2 per-

centage points higher than in

the same month last year and a

4.5 percentage point increase from October. Unemployment has climbed steadily since last

year and has been fueled by dozens of companies laying off thousands of workers.

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Hawaiian Airlines' adjusted unemployment rate rose to 7 percent last month, the highs
HOPE
CONTINUED FROM A1

Jobless
CONTINUED FROM A1

unemployment rate. As a result, unemployed people may find it cheaper to remain unemployed than to accept a job. This phenomenon, known as the discouraged worker effect, contributes to the overall unemployment rate. For example, if the unemployment rate is 5%, it may be the case that only 3% of the labor force is actively searching for work, while the remaining 2% are discouraged workers who have given up on finding a job.

A federal study of the discouraged worker effect found that in 2007, the number of discouraged workers was nearly as high as the official unemployment rate in many states. In states such as Alaska, Arizona, and New Mexico, the percentage of discouraged workers was estimated to be over 50%.

In addition to the discouraged worker effect, other factors can contribute to the overall unemployment rate. These include seasonal fluctuations, changes in labor market conditions, and labor mobility. For example, during the holiday season, retail businesses may experience a surge in hiring, leading to a decrease in the unemployment rate. Conversely, during the winter months, when demand for certain goods and services is lower, businesses may lay off workers, increasing the unemployment rate.

In conclusion, the overall unemployment rate is a complex measure of labor market conditions. It is influenced by a variety of factors, including discouraged workers, labor mobility, and seasonal fluctuations. Understanding the factors that contribute to the overall unemployment rate is crucial for policymakers and economists who seek to develop effective policies to address unemployment.
SUCCESS CONTINUED FROM A1

Today, she manages the same domestic violence shelter in Hilo where she and her kids are safe. Since divorcing her husband, she has accomplished other goals that she previously put on hold while trying to survive as a battered woman.

Toci’s story and those of many other formerly abused women serve as inspiring tales to many other formerly abused women who are trying to survive as a battered woman.

Despite the many gaps in Hawaii’s domestic violence safety net and the difficulty in overcoming the system’s many hurdles, they also had dedicated advocates who helped them navigate the gaps. Deborah DeRoos, a Kaua‘i nonprofit executive, speaking of the successes she comes across when service providers work together to help survivors, said, “They see the light.”

Enriques, Toci’s boss and a former battered woman herself, said, “She’s an achiever, resourceful, focused. She’s got that command of herself now.”

Since divorcing her abusive husband, Denby Lee Toci, 41, has accomplished many goals that she previously put on hold while trying to survive as a battered woman. Her story now gives hope to other battered women.

Since ending that relationship, Toci’s world has changed dramatically for the better. With the help of her parents, she went back to school and obtained three bachelor’s degrees in justice administration, sociology, and philosophy. She’s also pursuing a master’s degree in marriage and family therapy. She currently landed a job as a domestic violence victim advocate, then got the shelter manager position in August. Even her kids, who needed stability because of the abuse, are doing better, she said.

“Denby’s life has just blossomed,” said Enriques, who worked at the shelter when Toci lived there. “She’s an achiever. She’s got that command of herself. That’s a very powerful thing.”

Enriques, 42, knows how challenging it was for Toci to turn her life around. She had to do the same thing.

Enriques was in a 25-year relationship with her 20s and 30s with a boyfriend who regularly beat her. She suffered a broken nose, black eyes, broken ribs. Once, she said, he kicked her in the stomach while she was pregnant with their child, and Enriques ended up having emergency surgery. Her unborn baby didn’t survive.

After each attack, her mother would apologize pro-fusely and try to make up with flowers.

“Every time he would beat me, every time he would hurt me, I would get red roses,” she said. “To this day, I can’t stand red roses.”

Today, Enriques is director for family and community programs at Child and Family Service in Hilo.

Women who have survived abusive relationships say having their abusers can be an extremely difficult, even dangerous process. But with the right help, including an effective exit plan, it can be safely done, they said.

“I think it’s important that women know they can get out, that it can be OK,” said Eileen Guerra, 30, who left an abusive marriage recently. “They should know that no matter how great the fear, no matter what the odds are, they can pick up the phone and change their life.”

“Your will, your drive, it will be an uphill climb. But your will, your drive, your will,” said Rob Perez.

Reach Rob Perez at sper@ honoluluadvertiser.com or 525-8054.