



HAWAII DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

The sole mission of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center is to protect and promote the human, civil and legal rights of individuals with disabilities, as established in the constitutions and laws of the State of Hawaii and the United States, through the provision of information and advocacy.

HDRC, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii, is a private non-profit public interest organization established in 1977. It is Hawaii's designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System for People with Disabilities, and Hawaii's designated Client Assistance Program (CAP) for applicants and clients of programs funded under the federal Rehabilitation Act.

For Information or Assistance
On Oahu, call (v/tty) 949-2922
On Neighbor Islands,
call (v/tty) 1-800-882-1057

HDRC protects and advocates for the RIGHTS of people with disabilities

Human Rights The natural rights accorded to all human beings and stated in the U.S. Constitution as the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Civil Rights An expansion of basic human rights, including: freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly; petition for change; equal protection under the law; privacy; confidentiality, appeal decisions; freedom from oppression, unlawful search and seizure, and cruel and unusual punishment.

Legal Rights An expansion of human and civil rights as established by specific laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, etc.

Depending on annual priorities, HDRC may be able to help with the following ISSUES

Care and Treatment The right to receive care and treatment in the most integrated setting appropriate; that is free from abuse and neglect, and with due process, informed consent, confidentiality and privacy.

Citizenship The rights to accessible public facilities; to move about freely; to vote; serve on juries; to enter into contracts; to own and dispose of property; and to become naturalized citizens.

Education The rights to individualized educational programs and related services; integration into regular classrooms; freedom from discriminatory arrest, suspension, expulsion from school.

Employment The rights to freedom from discrimination in hiring, provision of reasonable accommodation, advancement, or termination in competitive, supported, or sheltered employment; the right to assistance resolving problems with Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Freedom of Association The rights to form and maintain relationships; to reproduce; to raise children.

Housing The right to freedom from discrimination in obtaining and maintaining housing; and to keep companion or service animals in one's home.

Justice The right to be considered competent and conduct one's own affairs, unless determined by a court of law to lack such capacity. Protection of civil rights in commitment and release proceedings. Right to humane treatment during confinement.

Programs and Services The right to accessible programs and services; and to freedom from discrimination in obtaining and maintaining services for which one is legally qualified, such as Assistive Technology, Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, transportation, etc.

HDRC strives to achieve the following OUTCOMES for people with disabilities

Accessible Communities People with disabilities gain access to employment, public facilities, government programs and services and transportation as established in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Freedom from Abuse and Neglect People with disabilities are free from acts, or failures to act, which result in their physical, psychological or financial harm or death.

Independence, Productivity, Integration and Inclusion People with disabilities enjoy the opportunities to experience personal growth, to work and contribute to society; and to be accepted and recognized for their abilities. They have the right to accept challenges, to take risks, to learn from mistakes and to experience success. They have the right to live in interdependent relationships in their own homes and communities.

Self Determination People with disabilities advocate and make choices for themselves; select, control and evaluate the services they receive; and demonstrate their own competence.

HDRC provides these SERVICES for people with disabilities

Individual Advocacy to resolve an issue or problem for individuals with disabilities.

Systems Advocacy to resolve an issue or problem that affects many people with disabilities.

Information and Referral to other sources of assistance when HDRC is not able to help.

Education and Training activities for people with disabilities, families, communities, legal professionals and service providers.

Outreach to under-served people. Service on councils, groups and task forces concerned with disability issues.



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please telephone, write,
e-mail or visit.**

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Photo by Sharon Smockhoffmann*

