

STATEMENT BY

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BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE

ON ACCESSING SERVICES: HOW THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT
SERVES HAWAII MILITARY FAMILIES EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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Good Morning, my name is Colonel Derrick Arincorayan, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and I am joined by Ms. Cindy Morita, United States Army – Hawaii Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Manager.

We would like to start off by extending a warm aloha and thank you to Senator Maize Hirono for the invitation to speak at the Senate Judiciary Hearing regarding the Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP).

Please allow us to outline the areas we will cover for this Senate Judiciary Hearing: First, we will share the Army FAP mission and process. Next, we will share with you the FAP clinical response. Finally, we will take the opportunity to share with you some of United States Army – Hawaii’s FAP initiatives.

Family Advocacy Program and Its Mission:

FAP is the Department of Defense social services program whose mission is to help address child abuse, child neglect, and domestic abuse affecting our military families. We provide prevention programs to include primary, secondary and tertiary services, strengths-based initiatives and clinical interventions. FAP works with law enforcement to hold offenders accountable and offers assessment, rehabilitation and treatment.

Organizationally, United States Army – Hawaii FAP is comprised of the following programs: FAP Behavioral Health including Assessment, Treatment, and Clinical Intervention at Tripler Army Medical Center; and the Schofield Barracks Health Clinic and Army Community Service (ACS) Prevention, Education and Support Services including New Parent Support Program (NPSP), Victim Advocacy Program (VAP) and Family Advocacy Committee and Fatality Review Board.

FAP has a strong surveillance initiative that includes early intervention by FAP for families reporting verbal disputes to the Military Police. This early intervention for verbal dispute, a threshold lower than the Army criteria for abuse, allows victim advocates to

reach out early to potential victims of domestic violence. The United States Army – Hawaii footprint consists of approximately 15,000 married active duty Soldiers with an average of 46% living on post and 54% living off post. Our community has the distinct advantage of having all the military services and Coast Guard on island with very close collaboration between services.

The majority of funds provided for FAP are used to pay for civilian prevention and clinical positions within the FAP program. The positions include New Parent Support Program (NPSP) Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Nurses that provide home-visitation services, victim advocates, FAP educators/specialists who provide training and education services, and FAP clinicians who are independently licensed installation personnel that provide comprehensive psychosocial assessments, intervention and clinical treatment services for victim(s) and offender(s).

One of the goals of FAP is to ensure that for every incident of domestic violence and child abuse, the victim—be it the military member, his or her family and/or intimate partner or child—receives timely and appropriate care, in accordance with congressional intent, Department of Defense (DoD) regulatory guidance and the State of Hawaii’s laws.

Throughout the process, victim advocates assist victims with making a report, safety planning, providing information on legal rights, and through direct support such as attending military/civilian court hearings and/or law enforcement interviews and leading victim/survivor support groups. Victim advocates provide twenty-four hour/seven days-a-week response and safety planning services. Victim advocates are notified of domestic violence incidents by first responders, including military police, hospital personnel, and for off post incidents that involve service members the Hawaii Armed Service Police (HASP). United States Army – Hawaii victim advocates receive ongoing training and have completed the National Office of Victim Advocate (NOVA) certification.

FAP ensures victims have access to military and civilian resources that provide support and safety, including a Military Protective Orders (MPO) and/or civilian restraining orders. United States Army – Hawaii FAP utilizes shelters when needed for safety planning. United States Army – Hawaii FAP holds two memorandums of agreement (MOA) with two United States Army – Hawaii facilities to provide emergency shelter. Additionally FAP has an MOA with the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Military Family Support Center to utilize its safe house. FAP also makes referrals and provides information provided on civilian shelters. A victim witness liaison can provide services through the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) and works with the victim advocate to administer the Transitional Compensation Program, a congressionally-authorized program that provides temporary financial assistance to eligible family members while they reestablish their lives after a Soldier is separated from the military for a dependent-abuse offense. United States Army – Hawaii also has three Special Victim Counsel which are attorneys whose sole purpose is to protect a sexual assault victim’s legal rights.

Victims of domestic violence have the option of making a restricted or unrestricted report. A “restricted report” enables the victim of domestic violence to access critical services to include safety planning, counseling, medical care, information about Military Protective Orders (MPO) and information about military and local civilian community resources without necessitating that law enforcement or military command be apprised of the domestic violence incident. The intent is to encourage victims of domestic violence to access services and learn more about options while keeping the report privileged from disclosure to the command or law enforcement agencies. Conversely, an “unrestricted report” is disclosed to law enforcement and the military command, which will allow for thorough criminal and command investigations and additional safety options to include a command response. There are exceptions to the “restricted report” option. For instance, if the victim is facing imminent risk of serious harm, the behavioral health and legal professionals determine whether it is permissible to disclose these privileged communications to law enforcement and the command to ensure the victim’s safety.

Family Advocacy Program Clinical Responses:

The reporting process often involves multiple and parallel processes that are triggered after a report of domestic violence has been made. For example, a report can engage FAP, child welfare service, civilian and/or military law enforcement, and command responses. These responses can and often overlap. Commanders are mandated to report all child abuse and domestic abuse per Department of Defense (DoD) and Hawaii Revised Statutes (Hawaii Revised Statute, Chapter 350). The Reporting Point of Contact (RPOC) for all unrestricted reports of domestic violence and child abuse in United States Army – Hawaii is the military police. The military police are required to share the information with FAP (behavioral health) for a coordinated response.

Once FAP Behavioral Health receives a report, they initiate safety planning and conduct an assessment. Every unrestricted report of alleged domestic violence is submitted within thirty days to a Case Review Committee (CRC). The committee meets four times a month at United States Army – Hawaii and is chaired by FAP Behavioral Health. The committee is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team to include representatives from the chaplaincy, law enforcement (both the military police investigator and Criminal Investigation Command (CID)), Army Substance Abuse Program, Medical Command (physician), FAP Manager, Legal, Social Workers, and consultants as needed. The committee determines if an incident meets criteria for domestic violence and develops treatment plans and recommendations for commands to support. FAP behavioral health provides individual, couples and family counseling, domestic violence intervention (for batterers), parenting support groups and healthy relationship support groups.

Counseling and support, offered through multiple agencies, includes services such as behavioral health services and alcohol and drug assessment/treatment which is mandated for Soldiers if the domestic violence incident involves alcohol/drug use."

United States Army – Hawaii initiated a Community Health Promotion Council comprised of multiple organizations that work together to identify and set priorities for the installation community health and well-being and directs the integration and synchronization of installation programs and services.

US Army - Hawaii FAP Program Initiatives:

The FAP program includes commander education programs, troop education programs, education for professionals programs, parent education and support, the New Parent Support Program, safety education programs, spouse and intimate partner abuse prevention programs, and family life education. The purpose is to promote community education and encourage early referral. Training for military and civilian personnel focuses on early recognition of relationship problems and encourages self-referral and reporting of family violence. Specialized training for commanders addresses their intervention responsibilities. Prevention activities include teaching parenting skills, skills to manage stress, and counseling for couples and parents. Public awareness campaigns focus on National Child Abuse Prevention Month, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and special initiatives.

United States Army – Hawaii FAP is also committed to developing partnerships with civilian and military services to increase communication and collaboration. FAP maintains both formal and informal partnerships with our internal partners through quarterly committee meetings chaired by our Garrison Commander. The Family Advocacy Committee is made up of a multidisciplinary team that reviews our strategic plan, strategic communications and identifies trends and outcomes.

We also maintain formal relationships with our external community in an effort to help coordinate reporting and synchronized efforts between the Army and other civilian agencies. United States Army – Hawaii has two formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with civilian agencies: (1) Joint MOU Child Welfare Service (Signed July

2013)— and (2) Children’s Justice Center (Signed June 2014) that outline roles and responsibilities and the procedural guidelines.

We have developed partnerships with the Department of Health Fatality Review Committee, Honolulu Prosecutors Office Family Justice Center Committee, Child Abuse Prevention Planning Council, No More Campaign, Domestic Violence Awareness Planning Committee with state and nonprofit agencies, Institute for Violence and Trauma (IVAT), and the Behavioral Alliance coordinated through Army One Source. We continuously strive to educate community partners on the wide range of our FAP services.

United States Army – Hawaii initiated a strategy to increase military and installation partnerships by creating a quarterly resource network. This network increases understanding of the resources that are available from civilian and military agencies. We work with our civilian partners to share and provide training to the Department of Education, civilian law enforcement and civilian providers. One of the successful outcomes through this partnership included formalizing an agreement to provide restraining order notification between the family courts and United States Army – Hawaii FAP. The notification agreement increased our visibility on restraining orders that impacted potential safety issues and allowed us to reach out to victims in a timely manner. We know the sooner we can intervene the better we can provide safety planning for victims of domestic violence. We believe this collaboration has benefitted our military community and the Hawaii Ohana as a whole.

United States Army – Hawaii FAP, along with our sister service leadership, has prioritized collaboration with each other and with our civilian partners through the Military Family Advocacy Coordinating Council. The Military Family Advocacy Coordinating Council is a council comprised of military and civilian agencies designed to facilitate the opportunity to network and increase communication, share processes, identify challenges and provide information and updates.

We hope we were able to provide you an overview of United States Army – Hawaii FAP program and scope of service. We would like to again thank Senator Hirono for the opportunity to share with you the FAP processes and also to extend our appreciation to Congress for its continued support of the Family Advocacy Program that allows us to work with our military families and meet their needs.