# **CREATING an ELDER LAW PROGRAM with a VETERANS FOCUS** at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law



# INTRODUCTION

The University of Hawaii Elder Law Program (UHELP) attempts to integrate students, and especially student veterans into the traditional elder law program. Veteran students often have their own particular needs due to their service and veteran clients may require a different model of how legal services are delivered. For example, a veteran suffering from PTSD may be more inclined to accept help when another veteran, who might also have been in a combat zone, provides services. Veterans with traumatic brain injury as well as those with some form of dementia will need the services of "dementia-qualified" professionals, as may other older persons receiving services from UHELP.

### **PURPOSE**

This presentation demonstrates UHELP's desire to re-frame an elder law delivery system that includes strategies to integrate veterans as students as well as clients within an elder law model. This strategy uses the faculty and student veterans at the law school, the culture of Aloha in the islands, the potential support provided by the VA and military presence in Hawai`i and the acknowledgement of the debt the country owes for the sacrifices veterans and their families have made. This presentation also highlights the 25th anniversary of UHELP and the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II.

### MODEL

This poster demonstrates a model of services that uses clinical law students, volunteer community attorneys and health care professionals to do outreach in the community, to assess clients, to provide legal advice and to provide legal services to veterans as well as older persons and caregivers under the supervision of a licensed attorney. UHELP collaborates with veterans on our campus and in the military community to help provide needed services at a minimal expense.

# **OUTCOMES**

There has been a greater number and higher quality of legal services provided to older persons, their caregivers and to veterans. This program has helped to train a corps of multi-disciplinary "dementiaqualified" professionals who now have added skills to help serve the community. This program has motivated law students (and some Master of Social Work students) to become interested in the field of aging with a focus on veterans' needs. Many law students have demonstrated a greater interest in a military career, especially in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the various services. There has been a greater understanding of the effects of deployments and war upon our service members and their families.



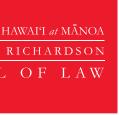




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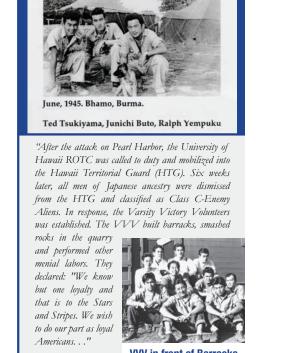






The University of Hawai'i Elder Law Program (UHELP) celebrates 25 Years at the University of Hawai'i and the start of the Elder Law and Veterans Clinic Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Moot Court Room - William S. Richardson School of Law Afternoon Tea Reception at 1:30 pm





### **25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OLDER PERSONS, THEIR FAMILIES AND CAREGIVERS, AND TO VETERANS**

# PREPARE FOR THE WORST AND EXPECT THE BEST



The UHELP program is funded through the Older Americans Act, as administered by the Elderly Affairs Division, City and County of Honolulu, Hawai'i Indigent Legal Assistance Fund and the Hawai'i Justice Foundation. Please call (808) 956-6544 for information about legal services for older persons, caregivers, and veterans.

