

Project Mālama Kākou Project Mālama Kākou

Hawai'i Sexual Assault Kit Initiative

Project Mālama Kākou (which means “We Care”) was created to bring together a multidisciplinary team to comprehensively reform the testing of sexual assault kits in Hawai'i in a caring and victim-centered manner. The team consists of representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, and sexual assault victim service agencies throughout the state.

The purpose of this initiative is to:

- test previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits for DNA evidence in cases reported to the police,
- enhance victim services and support, and
- develop recommendations to help prevent future accumulation of this valuable forensic evidence.

Funding for Project Mālama Kākou is provided from federal, state and local governments.

If you think you have an untested sexual assault kit and would like further information, visit the Project Mālama Kākou website at: ag.hawaii.gov/hisaki

Hawai'i Response

DNA testing of previously unsubmitted sexual assault kits continues. Test results may help to move a reported case forward. For these cases, police departments, prosecutors, and victim advocates will work together to contact survivors, conduct investigations, and/or to file charges against a suspect.

Project Mālama Kākou has developed a victim-centered notification procedure to ensure this process is completed in a sensitive and compassionate manner that minimizes potential re-traumatization of a survivor.

Hawai'i Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Member Agencies

- Department of the Attorney General
- Honolulu Police Department
- Hawai'i Police Department
- Maui Police Department
- Kaua'i Police Department
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawai'i County
- Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Maui County
- Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Kaua'i County
- Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
- Child and Family Service, Maui Sexual Assault Center
- YWCA of Hawai'i Island, Sexual Assault Support Services
- YWCA of Kaua'i, Sexual Assault Treatment Program