



PACIFIC GATEWAY CENTER

REBUILDING LIVES OF THE UPROOTED IN HAWAI'I

Who is PGC?

PGC founded in 1973
As the Kalihi-Palama Immigration Center
By 3 Kalihi churches:
St. Elizabeth's Church
Aldersgate Church
Kaumakapili Church
In response to the influx of Vietnamese
refugees from the Vietnam war

*Give me your tired,
Your poor, your huddled masses
Yearning to breathe free*



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What does PGC do?

PGC supports immigrants, refugees, and the disadvantaged in rebuilding and reimagining their lives with dignity and respect by ensuring equitable access to programs, services, and opportunities that empower them toward self-sufficiency.

We employ a holistic approach to serving the displaced and uprooted by:

- Helping clients navigate complex systems;
- Boosting confidence through culturally and linguistically responsive services;
- Ensuring all work is client-centered;
- Providing a sense of belonging to a new community, new culture, and new language;
- Meeting our clients where they are;
- Offering care and compassion;

What does PGC do?

Our initiatives serve to address and mitigate the most critical challenges for the uprooted/displaced to ensure access to:



- **Justice:** PGC provides free immigration legal services through attorneys and accredited representatives of the US Department of Justice.
- **Resources:** PGC's social services team provides intensive, client-centered case management to navigate complex systems and access resources (food, healthcare, transportation, housing, clothing, acculturation)
- **Prosperity:** PGC's Culinary Business Incubator, Entrepreneurship, and Farms programs provide job & business creation through business planning and development services
- **Language:** PGC's Hawaii Language Bank offers translation and interpretation services in over 40 languages

Key Partnerships and Collaboration

Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' **Office of Community Services (OCS)**: designated PGC as Immigrant Resource Center for Maui (Moloka'i and Lana'i), Kauai, and share O'ahu with PACT.

US Committee on Refugee and Immigrants(USCRI): PGC administers several programs including Matching Grant, PC Gaps, TVAP, and soon, TVAP Aspire.

Other state and federal agencies

Local faith-based organizations

Other community based organizations





PGC Involvement in Trafficking Victim Support

- PGC has long been recognized as a trusted organization for addressing trafficking issues, specifically labor, and providing support to survivors
- Provide access to Legal Services through consultations and through key partnerships for unaccompanied minors
- Provide access to Social Services that is culturally and linguistically accessible for migrant survivors
- Trafficking Victim's Assistance Program and the Federal Matching Grant Program through the U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants

Immigration Services Team

Motto: Stability, Self-Sufficiency, Improved Quality of Life

- Immigration Legal Assistance
 - Unaccompanied Children's Program
- Social Services through accessing resources
 - Housing
 - Jobs and training
 - Trained Bilingual/bi cultural personnel for delivery of services
 - Cash assistance
 - Rent relief
 - Food
 - Transportation
 - Hand-holding support, empathetic listener

Unaccompanied Children Program

- The Unaccompanied Children Program seeks to provide free, high-quality universal legal representation to all unaccompanied immigrant youth in Hawaii.
- Through ACACIA Partnership began in 2024.
- Social worker to provide services
- Legal applications for T-Visas



Traffic Victim Assistance Program (TVAP)

- Timeline: Since 1988 in partnership with USCRI
- Highlights:
 - Comprehensive support for trafficking survivors.
 - Services include immigration assistance, medical care, housing, and wraparound social services.
 - Current Clients: Maui Farmers from the Philippines



Traffic Victim Assistance Program (TVAP)

- Assisting the victim of human trafficking to achieve Health & Human Service (HHS) certification
- Helping them to receive trauma-informed, person-centered, comprehensive case management services
- Helping them to gain timely access to vital services to stabilize and re-establish the ability to live independently.

*Allow individual who have experienced trafficking and meet certain eligibility rules apply for the same benefit and service as refugees.



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TRAFFICKING VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TVAP)

You may be able to join the TVAP Program if you are:

- **not** a U.S citizen or lawful permanent resident (Green Card)
- potential victim of a severe form of trafficking (labor)
- seeking legal status through a T visa or have an HHS Certification

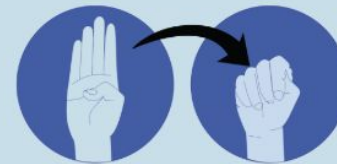
AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Emergency Assistance
- Basic Needs
- Housing/ESL/Transportation
- Public Benefits
- Safety Planning
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Legal Immigration Services
- Family Unification
- Job referral and training

CONTACT US !

If you are interested in joining the TVAP program, or have any questions about the program, please contact **Mr. Than** at (808) 851-7010 or email than@pacificgatewaycenter.org

ARE YOU A TRAFFICKING VICTIM?



Know the sign!

If you are the victim of human trafficking,
learn to signal for help.

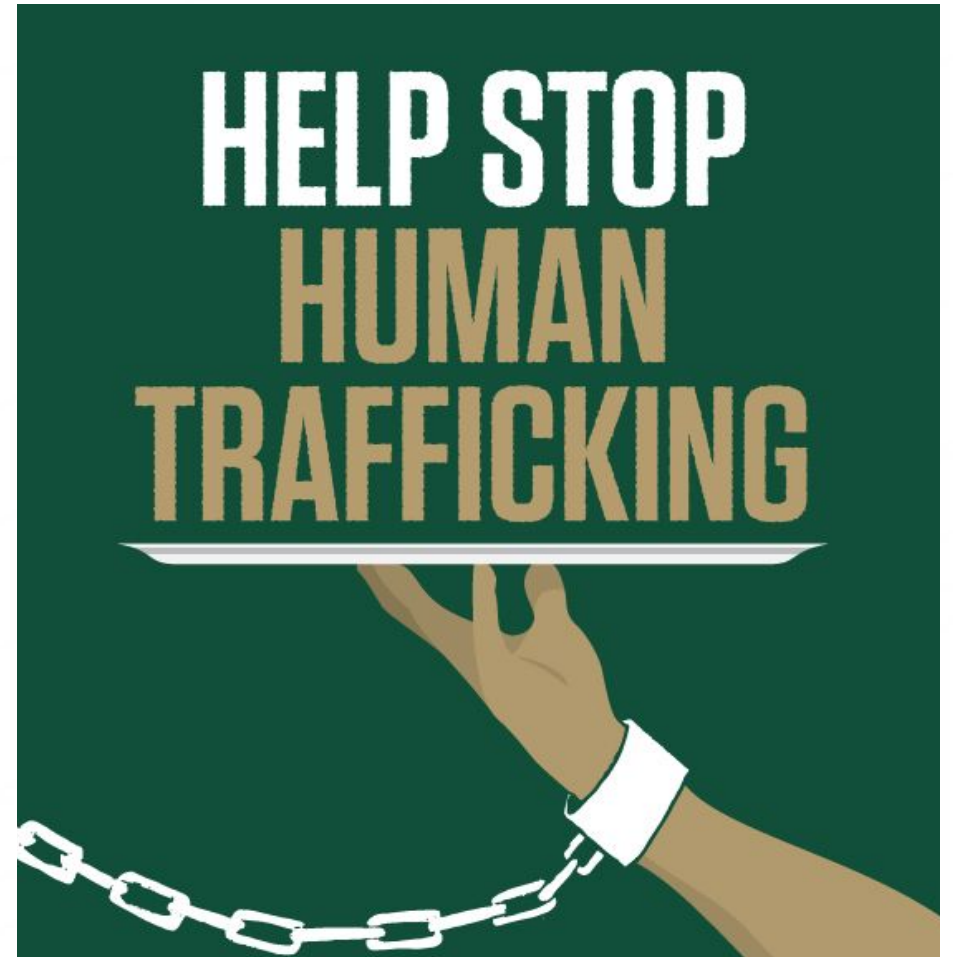


WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US?

Check out our website at
<https://www.pacificgatewaycenter.org/>

What issues has PGC encountered from immigrant victims of human trafficking?

- Many may not have legal status or have an expired status while they are in the U.S.
- Victims fear retaliation and further victimization
- Victims Lack of understanding of the systems in place to protect them
- Clients do not have community and family ties
- Clients need to learn how to navigate social service system and reach out for resources
- Programs need to be more client-driven as every single case is unique



What characteristics does PGC employ in working with immigrant victims of human trafficking?

- Patience
- Compassion/Empathy
- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Client-Centric Focus





Client Stories

Vietnamese Seamstresses in American Samoa

- Year: Early 2000s
- Over 100 Vietnamese and Chinese individuals rescued from a garment factory producing goods sold in Hawaii
- Trafficking victims faced violence and exploitation
- PGC:
 - Assisted survivors in securing immigration status
 - Provided housing and support through community collaboration
- Survivors eventually resettled and rebuilt their lives in Honolulu



PGC Farms: SE Asian Farmers in Aloun Farms

- Year: 2010
- Over 200 farmers exploited under forced labor conditions
- The biggest labor trafficking case in the country at the time
- Highlighted systemic gaps in protections for agricultural workers
- PGG:
 - Supported victims with resettlements and employment
 - Many integrated into PGC's Farmers Program and achieved self-sufficiency, contributing to Hawaii's agriculture today

PRESS RELEASE

Two Brothers Plead Guilty in Conspiracy to Hold Thai Workers in Forced Labor in Hawaii

Thursday, January 14, 2010

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For Immediate Release

Office of Public Affairs



Sea-Based Trafficking

- Year: 2013-2022
- Fishermen from countries like the Philippines, China, Indonesia, and Myanmar are trafficked on vessels flying foreign flags
- Confined under exploitative conditions, without pay or medical care
- PGC:
 - Provided bilingual support and advocacy
 - Collaborated with embassies and local organizations to secure survivors' safety
- Advocacy on visa category is ongoing





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MAHALO

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Visit our website: pacificgatewaycenter.org

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