



HAWAI'I STATE
**COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Trauma-Informed Responses at the Intersection of Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence

**2026 Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month
Lunch & Learn Speaker Series
January 29, 2026**



About HSCADV

Mission

Unite Hawai'i to end all forms of domestic violence.

Vision

Thriving communities, free from violence.

Federally recognized domestic violence coalition representing 20 member programs and allied organizations, statewide.



Learning Objectives

- Identify and analyze the intersection of indicators, patterns of coercion, and contextual factors that connect domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Explain why trauma-informed approaches are essential for fostering safety and trust with survivors.
- Discuss best-practice strategies for a coordinated, survivor-centered response, including safety planning and resources.



Domestic Violence & Trafficking



Defining Domestic Violence

A **pattern** of behaviors used to gain or maintain **power and control** over another partner in a relationship.



Wheel Gallery



Defining Human Trafficking



The use of **force, fraud, or coercion** to exploit a person for labor, services, or commercial sex.



Human Trafficking Wheel



Why These Issues Belong in the Same Conversation

Domestic Violence is about power and control.

Human Trafficking is about force, fraud, or coercion.



In Hawai'i

Domestic Violence

1 in 5

surveyed Hawai'i residents
experienced **coercive control or
isolation** from an intimate partner
in the past 5 years.

Scars on the Heart: Barriers to Safety for Survivors of Domestic Violence, HSCADV (2023)

Human Trafficking

- 25.8% trafficked by a family member
- 24.7% friend
- **22.7% trafficked by a boyfriend**



Overlapping Patterns of Coercion



Contextual Risk Factors



Immigration status



Prior trauma



System involvement



A photograph of two women working in a field. The woman on the left is wearing a light blue shirt and dark shorts, and the woman on the right is wearing a red tank top. They are both leaning over, focused on their work in the soil. The background is a lush green landscape with hills and trees. A purple rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

Coordinated, Survivor Centered Responses

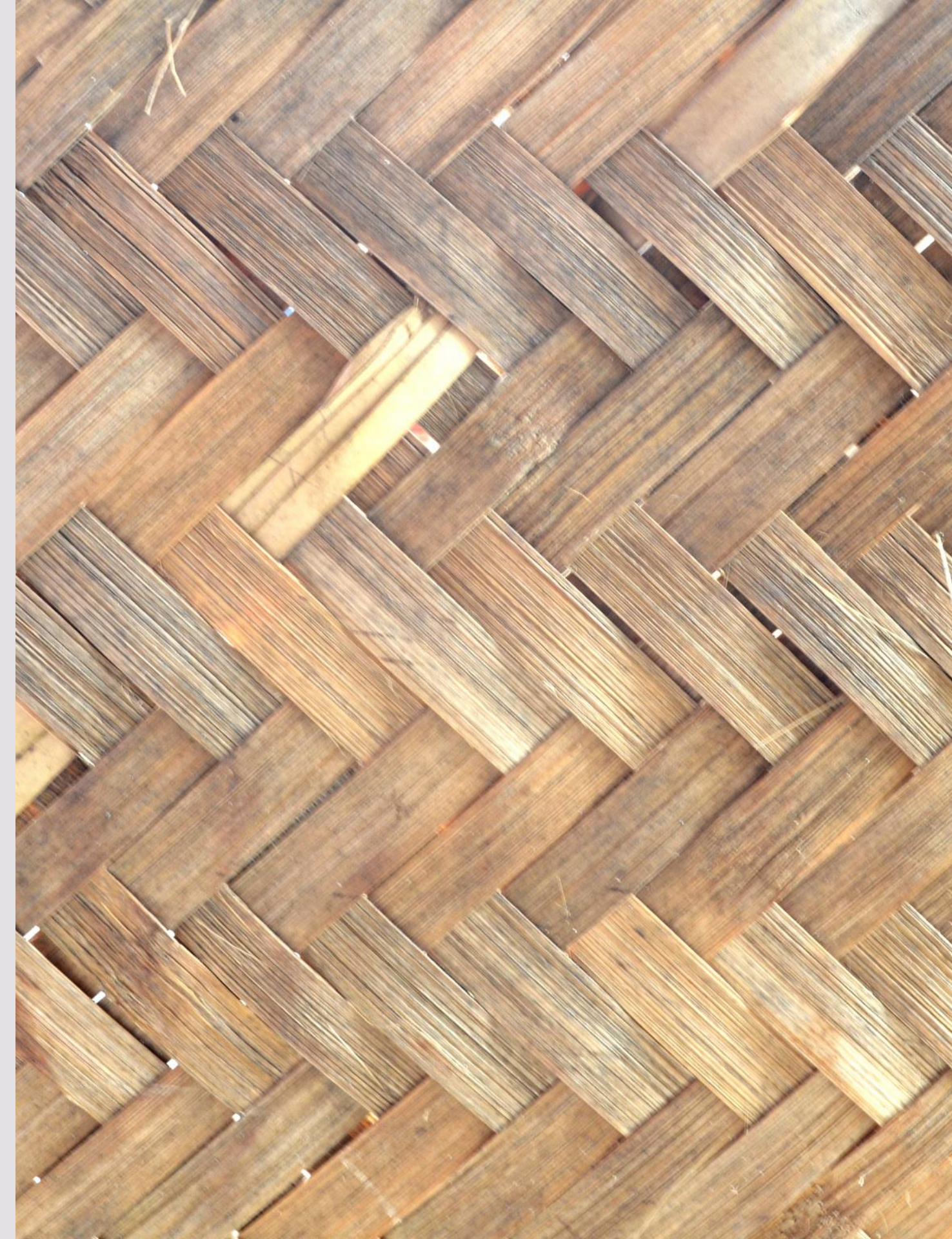


Why Coordination Matters

Survivors navigate multiple systems

Fragmented responses increase risk

Information gaps = safety gaps



Best Practices for Coordination

Cross-training

Clear communication channels

Shared safety protocols/planning



Survivor-Centered Approach

Respectful

Cultural Understanding

SAFETY



Safety Planning Across Contexts

Safety planning is a process a victim uses to assess, identify, and implement strategies.

Evolves as a survivor's circumstances change.

Leaving an abusive relationship/situation does not equate to safety.



Trauma-Informed Approaches



Trauma-Informed Care

Recognizes signs of ongoing violence

Avoids retraumatizing

Responds appropriately



Why Trauma-Informed Approaches Matter

Builds safety and engagement

Develops trust

Strengthens Service



Practical Trauma-Informed Strategies

Explain the next steps to avoid surprises.

Use language that reflects their experience of coercion and control, not their “bad decisions.”



Wrap-Up



Key Takeaways

Shared indicators and coercion patterns.

Coordination improves safety.

Trauma-informed care is essential, **not optional**.





HAWAI'I STATE
**COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Supporting Survivors ▾

Policy & Research ▾

Trainings & Ev

Find Help

**ACCESS THE
RESOURCES YOU NEED**

If you're in an emergency situation, call 911.

State and Local Resource



hscadv.org/find-help



Mahalo!

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