It's been an eventful year for the defending the Constitution from both local and national attacks.

We are especially proud of a few team highlights:

• Fighting Title IX violations against female athletes by the state Department of Education;
• Publishing a preliminary report on how the current system of bail in Hawaii's criminal justice system favors the rich, with a final report to follow soon;
• Conducting "know-your-rights" trainings and community action seminars to support immigrants' rights groups on O‘ahu, Hawaii Island and Maui;
• Having on-the-ground discussions about their legal and constitutional rights with Honolulu's people experiencing housing insecurity and due process violations in Chinatown, Kaka'ako, Waimanalo, and more;
• Filing a federal lawsuit with a plaintiff from Waimea, Kau'a'i to advance reproductive freedom by expanding access to the abortion pill nationwide;
• Working to protect voting rights for residents of Pāhoa impacted by the volcanic devastation on Hawaii Island;
• Publishing a comprehensive 2018 voting rights guide;
• Fighting the criminalization of homelessness by the City and County of Honolulu;
• Hosting and livestreaming panel events on abortion access and the harms of Hawaii's bail system with local and national experts;
• Starting a series of community civil rights talk story sessions on Kau'a'i, and more to follow;
• Fighting against religious discrimination in county government in Hilo and in private facilities on Oahu;

In 2018, people from all walks of life have reached out for ACLU's kōkua: refugees and immigrants, photographers, small business owners, protesters, students, incarceration-involved people, lawmakers, students, kupuna...and the list continues.

As always, the ACLU of Hawaii is here for everyone whose rights are in danger.

Join us Thursday, December 13, 2018 for breaking updates on all aspects of our work – and celebrate the 227th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights! Share your views, join your fellow civil rights defenders, and find out how you can become even more engaged with our civil rights work.

We look forward to seeing you! E komo mai!
Our mission to build a more just society by defending and promoting everyone’s constitutional rights must be ready to move forward into Hawaii’s future. Always keeping an ear to the ground for your feedback and ideas, we’ve asked a number of questions over the last year or so as our office has been going through its own transitions:

How can we better advance civil rights in Hawai’i? What are we doing well, and where can we do better? How can we engage more local civil libertarians? People who need us most in Hawai’i may not know we exist – how can we connect?

We’ve heard that your ACLU must be:

**On the ground.** Be where rights are being violated. Bear witness and stand with allies, with all whose rights are fragile or oppressed. Meet people where they are.

A change maker. Strive on “big lifts” and – alongside allies and community members – help build transformational, “big wave” movements (like S.B. 1 establishing marriage equality in 2013). Vigilant. Bring the good fight daily as civil rights get threatened on multiple fronts both local and national.

Powerful, honest and durable. Never compromise on fundamental rights. If we take it on the chin, get up and try another way. Never stop fighting for people who can’t fight for themselves.

Of the people, by the people. You want to help, both as a financial supporter and, for many, as a volunteer. You have skills and passion – we need you to use them.

**LET’S DO THIS!**

Here’s a “big lift”: Cut in half the number of people locked up in Hawaii’s jails and prisons, while confronting inhumane conditions.

We are part of a nationwide effort spearheaded by the ACLU and allies called the “Smart Justice” campaign (#smartjustice). The first target in Hawai’i is reforming our bail system, which overloads our jails with people who cannot afford money bail. Wealth is no way to determine if someone is a threat to public safety, but right now wealth is in the main factor determining if you wait in jail or walk free. This campaign will integrate the skills of our legal, advocacy, and public education efforts.

## Building the team.

With the addition of Staff Attorney Wookie Kim and Legal Fellow Rue Shih, we’ve beefed up our legal staff for fast response to emergent issues. We’re hiring a Smart Justice Campaign Director, a Policy Director to deepen our impact at the Hawaii State legislature and with City and County Councils statewide, a Smart Justice Field Organizer to build the coalition, a Communications Manager to help boost our signal, and a Development Director to help build our capacity to move forward into Hawaii’s future.

Easy to reach, easier to find, easy to talk to. We’re ramping up our public appearances, our own and partner events and talk story meetings, and our work with local publications – all complemented by our presence online, which includes more livestreaming and interactivity for broader reach of our events. Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Keep an eye out in 2019 for a redesigned website and a civil rights assistive web app (in development with the skilled volunteers at our local Code for Hawai’i brigade) as we strive to make information about your rights more mobile, more accessible, and more useful.

Back to the roots. Along with great support from local Peopl-epower grassroots groups, we’re reviving and ramping up our volunteer engagement program, looking to loop in your unique skills on all islands. And, thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, we will be rolling out new opportunities for youth to advance civil rights locally. If you already approached us, we’ll be reaching out. If not, please let us know your interest by emailing office@acluhawaii.org.

**The Public Education Program**

gets civil rights information out into the community. 2018 work includes:

**EVENTS** (always livestreamed if we can) – talk story on Kaua’i; panel event on abortion rights policy with visiting speaker Julia Kaye and plaintiff Dr. Graham Cheluisi, moderated by Diane Ako; panel event on bail policy with guest speakers Tyvia Carter, Seth Stoughton and Kirsha Durante. Supported local allies in their own events on bail reform, LGBTQ+ rights, harm reduction, and homelessness.

**RESOURCES** – 2018 voting rules guide, focuses on the voting rights of often-marginalized populations.

## 2018 highlights: Advocacy, Legal, and Education Programs

### Legal Program

Our Legal Program strengthens civil rights by challenging laws, rules and practices that violate the Constitution. When possible matters are resolved without litigation, lawsuits are a last resort, but when we do file cases, representation is always at no cost to our clients. 2018 legal work includes:

**EARLY FINDINGS PUBLISHED** – A preliminary report on Hawaii’s bail practices reveals two tiers of justice: one for the wealthy and one for the rest. As a result, over half of the people in our jails at any time are pretrial detainees, most of whom simply cannot afford even low bail amounts.

**FEDERAL LAWSUIT FILED** – Cheluisi v. Azar, on behalf of plaintiff Dr. Graham Cheluisi – challenging FDA restrictions on the abortion pill Mifepristone.

**DEMAND LETTER SENT** – On behalf of Hiolo resident Laycie Tobosa, a Muslim woman who was illegally denied a driver’s license for over 13 weeks by the DMV for refusing to remove her hijab.

**DEMAND LETTER SENT** – Successfully urging the Hawai’i Office of Elections to abandon its plan to close the polling place for Puna residents affected by the Kilauea volcanic eruptions.

**DEMAND LETTER SENT** – Calling on the State Department of Education to stop violating Title IX and provide for equal facilities for female athletes in all Hawaii schools.

**DEMAND LETTER SENT** – Calling on Kāhului Nui Re- ligious Communities to stop violating the federal Fair Housing Act and Hawaii’s public accommodation laws. Kāhului Nui memo prohibits residents from accessing Hawaii’s new medical aid in dying program, claiming objections from the Catholic Church, discriminates against the free exercise of religion, and violates the rights of patients to make their own decisions about their care.

2018 legal work includes:

**THE FIGHT CONTINUES – establish state-level protections against gender discrimination.**

**THE FIGHT CONTINUES – establish meaningful reform of bail practices in our criminal justice system;**

**VICTORY – stop Hawaii’s legislature from endorsing a nationwide “Article V” constitutional convention.**

**VICTORY – encourage Hawaii voters to protect the constitution and reject a ConCon.**

**NEW – monitoring proposed “anti-bullying” policies at our public schools for potential civil rights violations.**

**Strategize on “big lifts” and – alongside allies and community members – help build transformational, “big wave” movements (like S.B. 1 establishing marriage equality in 2013).**

**Back to the roots.** Along with great support from local People-power grassroots groups, we’re reviving and ramping up our volunteer engagement program, looking to loop in your unique skills on all islands. And, thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, we will be rolling out new opportunities for youth to advance civil rights locally. If you already approached us, we’ll be reaching out. If not, please let us know your interest by emailing office@acluhawaii.org.

**Your ACLU in action! We’re grateful for every opportunity to talk civil rights with the community! To ask about an ACLU speaker for your group, call us!**

Above: Staff attorney Wookie Kim with a group at Kaua’i Community College; right, Stuart D. Munro; Doug Farley; right, Wookie Kim with a student at the Hawai’i Youth Delegation to the 2018 Model United Nations Conference in Washington, D.C.; – we were honored to host this group of motivated young people to shape the issues with the ACLU ‘‘waves’’! Mahalo, Stu, Joe, Alice, Kaaulana Adams, Adora, and Tapu above; lower: Speaker Kaye at our event “WeWantMediShield for a Better Hawai’i and a Better Nation.” Big mahalo to Seth Stoughton, Tyvia Carter, Mateo Caballero and Kirsha Durante!

Above: Volunteer Director Josh Wish helps celebrate Kaimana Day, joining a talk with Karen Kaimana, Fred’s daughter; Right: Speaker: Willy Tacoras; Left: our volunteer engagement program, looking to loop in your unique skills on all islands. And, thanks to the support of an anonymous donor, we will be rolling out new opportunities for youth to advance civil rights locally. If you already approached us, we’ll be reaching out. If not, please let us know your interest by emailing office@acluhawaii.org.

Above: Code for Hawai’i’s brigade volunteers getting out on a secret open source project to improve public access to public spaces! Right: Speaker: Pono Lau Failingt at the University of Pennsylvania;

The ACLU of Hawaii is comprised of two separate but related legal programs, the ACLU of Hawai’i and the ACLU of Hawai’i Foundation. Both are part of the same overall organization. This newsletter collectively refers to the two organizations under the name “ACLU of Hawai’i,” whose mission is to protect the civil liberties contained in the state and federal constitutions through litigation, advocacy and public education programs statewide. Funds primarily through private donations and offering its services at no cost to the public, the ACLU does not accept government funds.