



Media Release

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“Malama na Koa”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army Fights Domestic Violence

The Army announced that October is Domestic Abuse Prevention month. Army leaders plan to work hand in hand with Family Advocacy specialists to increase awareness of domestic violence, educating military families about the signs of abuse, and reinforce the negative effects domestic abuse has on Army Family readiness while highlighting prevention and victim programs and services.

Soldiers, family members and Army Community Service (ACS) staff met at Schofield Barracks ACS on Wednesday, to sign a Domestic Violence Month Proclamation, pledging their commitment to do everything possible to prevent cases of domestic abuse.

“Make the Right Choice! Act to Prevent Domestic Abuse”, is the theme chosen by the army to highlight the importance of personal responsibility in identifying, mitigating and when necessary removing oneself from violence that occurs in the home.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, attacks by male partners are the number one cause of injury to women between the ages of 15 and 44.

“There is no place for domestic violence in the Army,” said Cole Weeks, Family Advocacy Program manager. “It against the army philosophy and it negatively impacts mission readiness. As a community we all have a responsibility to respond and take action to reduce the prevalence of family violence.”

Some reports indicate that nearly 80% of women who have been physically abused in their intimate relationships continue to date their abuser, and that domestic abuse equally affects women of all races and economic backgrounds.

“We want those spouses involved in abusive relationships to know that there are options available, and that you don’t simply have to live that way,” says Cora Hodges, Victim Advocate coordinator. “You have choices.”

According to Hodges, domestic abuse can come in several forms, and may be the result of a variety causes. It may come in the form of emotional, physical, sexual, or economic abuse, or could even be a combination of all of them.

It is not just the spouses that feel the painful effects of abuse in the home. It is reported that more than 50% of female victims of intimate violence live in household with children under age 12.

“Children often do not have the means or ability to simply remove themselves from volatile situations or understand what is happening in the home”, says Hodges. “That’s why it is so important for us to educate everyone about the tragedy of domestic abuse. Sometimes it takes someone from outside the home to make the right choice by acting to prevent domestic abuse.”

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MEDIA NOTE: Media wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. to Loran Doane, USAG-HI Media Relations chief, no later than 12:00 at preferred cell 317-847-2222, and meet Army escorts at Lyman Gate at 12:30.