



REFUGEE &  
IMMIGRATION  
LAW CLINIC

# **IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OVERVIEW THROUGH OUR DETENTION CENTER HOTLINE**

## **HAWAII STATE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**



# AGENDA

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- Introductions
- About RILC
- Enforcement in 2025
- Detention Center & Immigration Hotline
- Hotline Data
- Key Takeaways



# OUR TEAM

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**Esther Yoo**

**Director**

Director overseeing clinic operations, students, and Immigration Law instruction



**Pilar Kam**

**Post J.D Law Fellow**

Key Areas: Hotline Response and Removal Defense



**Danicole Ramos**

**Equal Justice Law Fellow**

Key Areas: Naturalization, Veterans



**Stephanie Haro Sevilla**

**Post J.D Law Fellow**

Key Areas: Hotline Response and Removal Defense



# REFUGEE & IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC



## WHAT WE DO

- Provides legal services to income-eligible noncitizens in Hawai'i
- Focus on asylum seekers and individuals with complex immigration cases (deportation defense, crim-imm issues)
- Dedicated to training and shaping future immigration attorneys

## WHO WE ARE

- One of the clinical programs at the William S. Richardson School of Law
- Among the few pro bono immigration service providers in Hawai'i



## OUR IMPACT

- Teach students and volunteers every semester about immigration law and its complexities
- Provided support to 200+ individuals and families through the hotline

# ENFORCEMENT IN 2025

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- **JAN–JULY 2025: ICE ARRESTED 149 PEOPLE IN HAWAII – A 380% INCREASE COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2024**
- **40–80 INDIVIDUALS ARE HELD AT THE HONOLULU FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER ON ANY GIVEN DAY**
- **MAJORITY OF DETAINEES HAVE NO CRIMINAL RECORD**

# Immigration & Detention Center Hotline

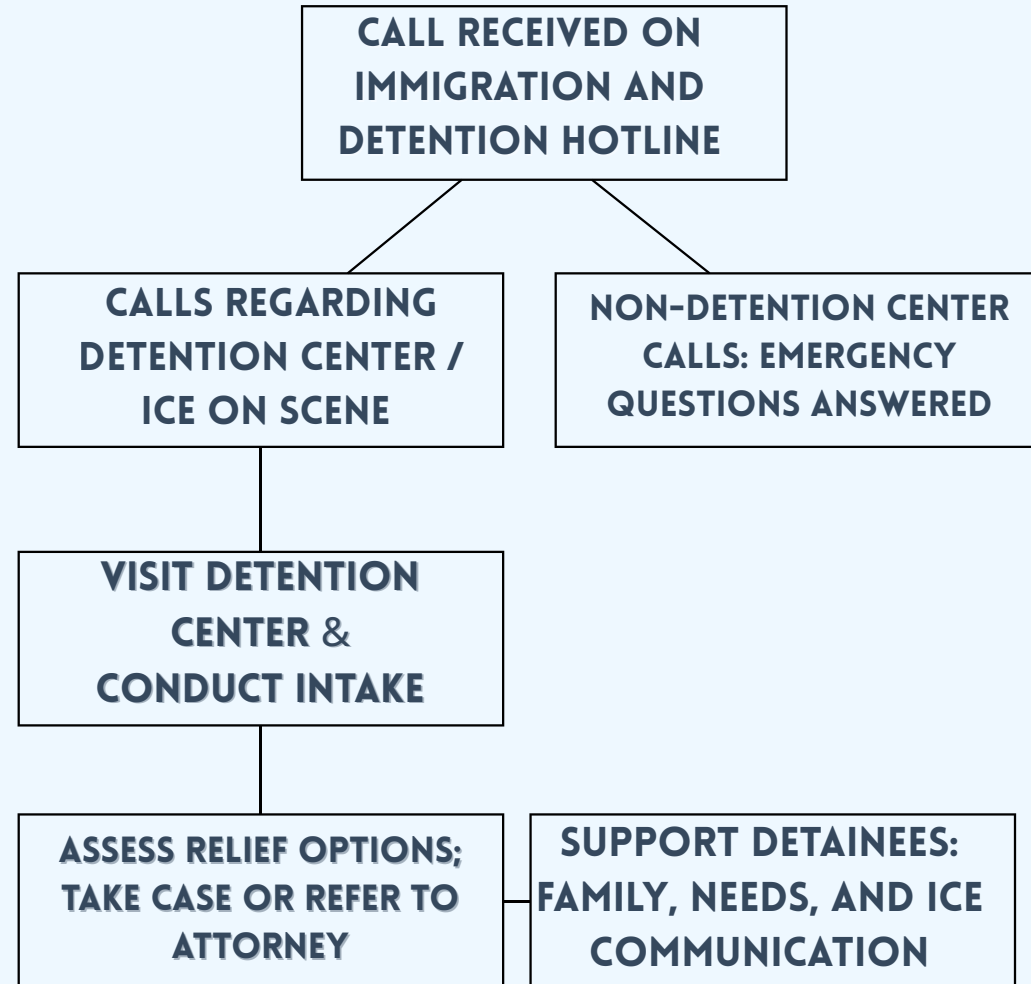
**IMMIGRATION  
DETENTION  
HOTLINE**

**FOR INDIVIDUALS  
DETAINED AT THE  
FEDERAL DETENTION  
CENTER HONOLULU  
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**808-204-5951  
CALL OR TEXT  
7AM-7PM**

**PLEASE HAVE FULL  
NAME OF DETAINED  
INDIVIDUAL READY**

CONTACTING THIS HOTLINE DOES NOT MEAN WE  
WILL TAKE THE CASE OR AGREE TO REPRESENT THE  
DETAINED INDIVIDUAL





# DETENTION CENTER HOTLINE DATA

## (AS OF NOVEMBER 2025)

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- APPROXIMATELY 200 CALLS RECEIVED
- OVER 39 VISITS TO HONOLULU FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER
- BILINGUAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO ~123 DETAINEES AND THEIR FAMILIES
- 36 REFERRALS PROVIDED



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

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- RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY  $\neq$  ENTITLED TO AN ATTORNEY IN IMMIGRATION LAW
- FY 2019–2024: 62% OF IMMIGRANTS WITHOUT A LAWYER ORDERED DEPORTED VS. 27% WITH LEGAL AID
- STATEWIDE: **ONLY 1 IN 8** PUBLIC-INTEREST LAWYERS PRACTICES IMMIGRATION LAW
- CRITICAL NEED FOR MORE PUBLIC-INTEREST IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS





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**THANK YOU**