

## Why Would Anyone Want to Do This?

---

**VICTIMS** can feel incomplete or unfulfilled by the criminal justice process. Here, victims are empowered with the opportunity to express emotions and seek answers to lingering questions tied to the crime.

**OFFENDERS** may fully realize the overall impact of their actions and attempt to make things right again. This can also lead to lasting behavior change.



Research has found restorative justice programs to have high levels of victim and offender satisfaction with the process and outcome, greater likelihood of successful restitution completion by the offender, reduced fear among victims and reduced the frequency and severity of further criminal behavior.

## What is Restorative Justice?

---

Restorative Justice is an alternative form of justice that can be an option for victims and offenders that can potentially be diverted from going through the court system.

- Support and assistance to crime victims;
- Hold offenders directly accountable to the people and communities they have violated;
- Restoring the emotional and material losses of victims;
- Provide space for dialogue and problem solving for crime victims, offenders, families, and other support persons;
- Offering offenders opportunities for reintegration into productive community life;
- And strengthen public safety through community building.



Amanda Makio

Restorative Justice Program Manager

Phone: (808) 934-3306

[amanda.makio@hawaiiiprospectors.gov](mailto:amanda.makio@hawaiiiprospectors.gov)

## Restorative Justice Program

---

## Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC)

---



*County of Hawai'i*

*Office of the Prosecuting Attorney*

*655 Kilauea Ave.*

*Hilo, HI 96720*

## Victim Offender Conferencing

---

Victim Offender Conferencing brings together those who were involved or have been affected by a harm/conflict to talk about and discuss:

- What happened?
- How do they feel about what happened ?
- How do they feel now?
- What is needed to make things right or pono?

The goal of this program is to assist in the healing process by holding those responsible for harm accountable for their actions and to create pathways to restoration for victims.

The conference provides a setting for offenders to learn the full impact of their actions to take responsibility for their behavior.

Participation is **Voluntary**. Both parties must agree to VOC before the conferencing can move forward.

## When a Case is Referred for VOC

---

**BEFORE** a conference, facilitators will:

- Meet with all parties individually.
- Listen how each party was affected by what happened.
- Explain the VOC process.
- Clarify the status of the case.
- Make schedule arrangements that work for all parties.

**DURING** the conference, facilitators will:

- Make sure everyone is safe and feels comfortable and that guidelines are followed.
- Help the parties reach an agreement together that is specific, attainable and measureable.



## The Role of the Facilitator

---

A **Facilitator** is a **neutral person** who will moderate a conference, provide safety, and help others effectively communicate.

**Facilitators will not:**

- Take sides.
- Make any decisions for either side.
- Impose agreements between the parties.

## Restitution

---

Victims and offenders decide together what is fair and what can be accomplished so the offender can attempt to repair the harm done.

This can mean the offender:

- Repays a cash amount to replace the victims out-of-pocket losses.
- Does community or personal service work.
- Provide a written or verbal apology.
- Complete any other aspects of the agreement.