



**HAWAII  
DISABILITY RIGHTS  
CENTER**

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The sole mission of the Hawaii Disability Rights Center (HDRC) is to protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, as established in the constitutions and laws of the State of Hawaii and the United States.

HDRC, formerly known as the Protection and Advocacy Agency of Hawaii, is a private non-profit public interest corporation established in 1977. It is Hawaii's protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities, as authorized by federal and state law and designated by the Governor. HDRC is funded by the federal and state governments and private sources to fulfill its mandate.

**For more information or to obtain this brochure in an alternate format, please telephone, write, e-mail or visit.**

**SSA has reviewed this publication for technical accuracy, but it is not an official SSA document.**

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FEBRUARY 2025



**PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY  
FOR BENEFICIARIES  
OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

**PABSS**

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## **PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY**

- Investigate complaints regarding services provided to a beneficiary in connection with returning to work
- Provide information and referrals on services that are available to assist beneficiaries in being gainfully employed (Ticket to Work Program, help from Employer Networks)
- Legal representation to protect the rights of beneficiaries with disabilities to work free of discrimination and with reasonable accommodations
- Pursue appeals of continuing disability review determinations by SSA and overpayment claims due to excess earnings
- Resolve disputes with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (“DVR”) and Employer Networks

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR PABSS?**

Beneficiaries within the State who are entitled to Social Security Disability Benefits (**SSDI**), or eligible for Supplemental Security Income Benefits (**SSI**) based upon disability.

## **HOW CAN PABSS HELP?**

- Apply for DVR services (employment counseling and referral) and appeal adverse DVR counselor decisions
- Clear student loan defaults and obtain DVR funding for post-secondary education
- Advise beneficiaries regarding employment interviews, ADA accommodations, and illegal questions
- Obtain transition plans and services from school to work
- Advocate for physical accessibility to community colleges, university campuses, and places of employment
- Advocate for post-secondary education with reasonable accommodations (assistive technology, personal assistants, course materials in alternative formats, modified testing and course requirements), including individuals with intellectual disabilities and communication impairments, regardless of severity
- Advocate for competitive wages and transition from sheltered workshops to supported employment
- Obtain personal care assistants through Medicaid waivers to provide employment support, and obtain assistive technology to assist individuals in the workplace and travelling to and from work
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE (call us for further information)