

## Where can I find more information?

### Pacific Gateway Center

The Pacific Gateway Center (PGC) has a history of providing effective services for refugees from Burma, Thailand, Vietnam and China, among others. They offer four core areas of service: a) social services, b) employment and training, c) economic development and d) community building.

[www.pacificgatewaycenter.org](http://www.pacificgatewaycenter.org)

### Catholic Charities Hawai'i

Catholic Charities Hawai'i helps address the challenges faced by newly arrived immigrants and refugees. Its programs include refugee reception and placement services; employment services for low-income immigrants and other residents; ESL and naturalization classes; and immigration services. These services empower immigrants and refugees to build solid foundations for life in their new home.

[www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org](http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org)

### Susannah Wesley Community Center

The Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC) is a multi-service community and social service center that has provided much-needed programs and services to the residents of Kalihi-Pālana for more than 100 years. SWCC works with adult immigrants struggling with mental illness through its behavioral health care coordination services.

[www.susannahwesley.org](http://www.susannahwesley.org)

### Office of Community Services, State of Hawai'i Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

The Hawai'i State Office of Community Services (OCS) provides human service programs for the state's economically disadvantaged, immigrants and refugees. OCS primarily facilitates and enhances the development, coordination, administration and delivery of effective programs to those in need. OCS provides advice and guidance to the executive branch, nonprofit and private-sector human service agencies, and the legislature.

<http://hawaii.gov/labor/ocs/service-programs/refugee.shtml>



Torn From Home was created by the Lied Discovery Children's Museum in Las Vegas with generous support from Pam and Pierre Omidyar, and tours nationally thanks to a grant from Unbound Philanthropy.

[www.tornfromhome.org](http://www.tornfromhome.org)



[www.discoverycenterhawaii.org](http://www.discoverycenterhawaii.org)



[www.ldcm.org](http://www.ldcm.org)

ACTIVE  
voice

[www.activevoice.net](http://www.activevoice.net)

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# TORN FROM HOME: My Life as a Refugee

## Refugees in Hawai'i

Hawai'i Children's Discovery Center  
111 'Ohe Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

June 3, 2010 – October 16, 2010

[www.discoverycenterhawaii.org](http://www.discoverycenterhawaii.org)

# TORN FROM HOME: My Life as a Refugee

[www.tornfromhome.org](http://www.tornfromhome.org)

## Who calls Hawai'i "home"?

Hawai'i's population is rich with diversity and culture. From our native Hawaiian traditions, to the contributions of those who have settled here over centuries, our community today reflects a spectrum from around the globe. Hawai'i's ethnic makeup currently includes Filipinos, Japanese, Vietnamese, Micronesians, Polynesians, Latinos, Puerto Ricans, Chinese, Europeans and many more. In fact, Hawai'i has the sixth highest concentration of foreign-born residents – and the largest mixed-race population – in the United States.

## What is the difference between an immigrant and a refugee?

**A refugee** is a person outside of the United States who seeks protection on the grounds that he or she fears persecution in his or her homeland. To obtain refugee status, a person must prove that he or she has a "well-founded fear of persecution" on the basis of at least one of five specifically enumerated and internationally recognized factors: race, religion, membership in a social group, political opinion or national origin. In Hawai'i, refugees have come to escape war, persecution, environmental disaster, and human slavery.

**An immigrant** is a foreign national who has been granted permission to remain in the United States permanently. However, the term is often used more broadly to mean any person who was born in another country and now lives in the United States.

## Refugees in Hawai'i

For decades, Hawai'i has been a place of refuge for people fleeing persecution in their home countries. Agencies like Pacific Gateway Center and Catholic Charities Hawai'i assist refugees from many different countries, including Vietnam, Burma, Laos, China, Thailand, Cambodia and Russia. The largest refugee population in Hawai'i comes from Vietnam, and our most recent refugees are from Burma.

### Vietnam

After the Vietnam War, many Vietnamese were forced to flee their homeland because they had joined forces with the U.S. against the Communist government, and were at risk of major political persecution. From the late 1970s to the mid-1980s, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese arrived in the United States as "boat people," and many settled in Hawai'i. As of 2006, Vietnamese comprise the second largest Southeast Asian population in the U.S. (after Filipinos), with more than 1.6 million residing in the States. In Hawai'i, the Vietnamese comprise the largest ethnic community coming from a refugee background, with more than 8,000 currently living in Hawai'i.

### Burma

Most recently, Hawai'i has become home to refugees resettling from Burma. Over the last few decades, an oppressive military regime in Burma has caused the displacement of millions of people. At the end of 2002, an estimated 600,000 to 1 million Burmese were forced to flee their homes and seek safety in other parts of the world, including Thailand, India and, most recently, the United States. In 2009 alone, the United States admitted 10,513 refugees from Burma. Hundreds now live in Hawai'i.

To learn more about refugees, including the circumstances that bring them to the U.S., visit [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) or [www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org)

## What can I do to help?

### Learn

Torn From Home is a great place to start. Make sure to look at the resource guides at the end of the exhibit for additional places to find information, such as books, websites, discussion groups and other organizations.

### Welcome

If you know of any newcomers who have recently settled in your community, invite them to your social networks to speak, or simply to come and meet others. Offer to help them with basic tasks, such as grocery shopping; sometimes the smallest gestures of kindness are the biggest help.

### Donate

Nonprofit organizations such as the ones listed in the next section rely on donated money and goods to do their work. Learn more about each organization to see how your donations can support their important work.

### Volunteer

Local refugee and immigrant service organizations often need individuals to assist with various activities or clerical work, and are especially in need of those with special skills such as legal, language, computer or medical expertise. See the next section to find a group near you.

