



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

January 2017

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Aloha from FHEP!



In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and in memory of the civil rights he fought, nonviolently, to make real:

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

-1964, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut

Fair Housing is our kuleana, our right and responsibility. Have you ever felt discriminated against by a housing provider based on your national origin, your familial status, your sex, etc? Share your story with us! [#FairHousingIsOurKuleana](#)



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About Us

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program (FHEP) is a project of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. Our mission is to promote fair housing and end housing discrimination through education, advocacy, outreach, and litigation.

All people in Hawaii have the right to make housing choices without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, familial status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, or HIV infection.

If you believe you have been denied access to housing because of discrimination, you may call the FHEP Hotline at **808-527-8024** or from the Neighbor Islands, **866-527-3247**. Leave a message and our Intake

News from HUD



Housing Conditions Worse for Native Americans and Alaska Natives

In 2009, Congress mandated that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) conduct a study into the housing needs of Native Americans and Alaskans in both rural and urban settings. Results of the study show that numerous factors have resulted in housing standards actually becoming worse for both ethnic groups compared to other U.S. households.

Overcrowding is common and the availability of quality housing is extremely low. The study found that overcrowding and stressed housing units, or housing units in need of major maintenance or repairs, comprised of 34% of Native households, compared to a mere 7% of other U.S. households.

Urban Institute, the D.C. based think-tank that led the study, released their findings on Jan. 19th, 2017. To read the full report, [click here](#).

Check back next month for the report on Native Hawaiian's housing needs.

Inspiring Fair Housing News

What the NFHA has to say about Ben Carson, Secretary-Designate of HUD

January 12, 2017

Dr. Ben Carson sat through his confirmation hearing on January 12th, where he was questioned by various members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs on his policy and moral views about the department he had been picked to lead. The National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), a consortium of more than 220 fair housing groups committed to ending housing discrimination, released a statement after Dr. Carson's testimony that offered a refreshing air of optimism for the Secretary-Designate. Prior to the hearing, Dr. Carson had expressed his opinion against HUD's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing rule which led many to be doubtful that Dr. Carson would fully enforce this and other

Specialist will call to schedule an interview.

One of our staff attorneys will then review your case and determine whether we will be able to provide assistance. *

Legal Aid is physically accessible to those with mobility impairments.

fair housing laws. Despite his previous views, Dr. Carson testified to the Senate that he would vigorously enforce fair housing laws, among supporting other HUD programs that became prominent under the Obama administration.

To read the NFHA's message on Dr. Carson, [click here](#).

New Jersey Supreme Court: Poor Residents Have the Right to Affordable Housing

January 18, 2017

The Supreme Court of New Jersey has decided in a unanimous 6-0 ruling that the state's municipalities have an obligation to provide affordable housing to low and middle-income residents. While income and economic status are not federally protected classes, New Jersey's ruling means that poorer families won't have to compete for a limited supply of slum rentals in neighborhoods fraught with crime and poverty. Instead, NJ municipalities now will have to ensure that residents on the lower end of the economic spectrum will have a viable opportunity to remain in the community they are from, or more importantly the community that they choose.

For more, click [here](#).

HUD: Houston's Housing Policies Violate Texan's Civil Rights

January 13, 2017

HUD has recently concluded a 5 month long investigation into the city of Houston's racially-motivated housing policies as it pertains to permitting for the development of affordable housing for low to medium-income residents. A prominent topic of HUD's investigation was an affordable housing complex that Houston's Mayor, Sylvester Turner, objected to after an outcry from nearby residents who did not want to see the project built in their neighborhood. HUD has determined that this objection perpetuates segregation of minorities away from more affluent communities and violates the Fair Housing Act's rule of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing.

HUD has sent a 14 page letter to Mayor Turner of Houston which outlines the findings of their investigation and lists demands for the city to immediately implement in order to avoid further litigation. To read the letter and to see Mayor Turner's response, [click here](#).

Tester Training for Interested Volunteers

The Fair Housing Tester Program hosts regular tester training for interested volunteers. Candidates must be 18 years and older with no previous felony record, have

no open case with the Legal Aid Society, and cannot have an active real estate license.

Please call the Fair Housing Investigation Coordinator at (808) 527-8036 to register and to receive more details, or complete the online [application here](#).

January FHEP Outreaches



FHEP at the 2017 Taste of Kalihi Festival

New Fair Housing Outreach Staff

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program welcomes to the team Jackylene Moses, fair housing outreach specialist. Welcome Jacky!

Voice of Chuuk - KNDI Radio

Tune in to [KNDI](#) on 'Micronesian Radio Saturdays' to catch FHEP giving on-air fair housing survival tips and information. (Pohnpeian, Marshalese, and Chuukese language only)

Where:
KNDI Radio - 1270AM

When:
January 21st and 28th from 2-5pm.

Pohnpeian Program - with Dusty Santos
Sat. 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Voice of Chuuk - Bender Sam
Sat. 3:00 - 4:00 PM

A regular outreach schedule is being finalized and will be released in next month's newsletter. Please stay tuned.

If you know of a community or organization that FHEP should be outreaching to/with, please contact our outreach specialist at:

info@fairhousinghawaii.org

Want more info on Language Access? Check out our [new brochure!](#)

Looking for Training?

Do you work in a human services field, the health profession, or housing/real estate, or do you know of a group that could use education on their rights?

FHEP offers free trainings and workshops on fair housing. Our training options can be tailored to meet specific needs, but typically cover a range of topics from general fair housing information to specific areas such as reasonable accommodation requests, assistance animals, and others.

Please contact Madonna or Shea at (808) 527-8024 or info@fairhousinghawaii.org to schedule a free training on fair housing.

Mahalo for reading!

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii | | info@fairhousinghawaii.org | <http://www.fairhousinghawaii.org>
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Please forward this email to other interested parties