



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

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Fair Housing Enforcement Program - Hawaii

Noteworthy News & Events

June 2017



Aloha from FHEP!

Legal Aid Telethon

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (LASH) hosted a fundraiser June 19 - 23, 2017 with the goal of raising \$50,000 - money that will be used to help us ensure justice and fairness for all, not just for the few who can afford it. We extend our sincerest mahalo to those who donated during the telethon. Next month, we will update you on LASH's total fundraising amount to see if we were able to reach our goal!

Did you miss out on the telethon but want to help more children, families, and seniors get the legal help that they need? You can donate to LASH any time by visiting:

Quick Links

[Visit Our Website!](#)

[Learn More About Fair Housing](#)

[Request a Training](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Join Our Legal Aid Society Mailing List](#)

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

legalaidhawaii.org/donate

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](https://twitter.com/FairHousingIsOurKuleana)



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 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.

Legal Aid can provide accommodations to deaf or hearing impaired persons. If you are deaf or hearing impaired, please contact info@fairhousinghawaii.org and we will make arrangements to meet you with a sign interpreter

Blast From the Past



Fair Housing in Southern California - 1976

Forty-one years ago, this fair housing advertisement would play on television sets across Southern California to spread the word that housing discrimination was illegal. The ad still holds true today without needing to be edited - even the HUD Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity logo is still the same!

Local Housing News

Homes for Hawaiians

The Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) has come under fire recently for having millions of dollars sitting in the bank while the state of Hawaii is in the face of its worst homeless crisis ever. DHHL hopes to hold on to the money and prove to the government that they are undertaking different types of housing programs that will help to lift Hawaiian beneficiaries out of poverty.

Among the different types of housing programs, DHHL is interested in working with community developers to build affordable rental housing on Hawaiian Homelands. A hurdle has come up with these types of projects - it's called

the Fair Housing Act (FHA). How can you build apartment rentals and make it exclusive to residents with over 50% Hawaiian ancestry? On it's face, this type of restriction is blatantly a violation of the FHA though it is possible that future projects obtain an exception to the rules, as did the Kapolei apartment building, Ho'olimalima Pilot Project.

To read more about DHHL's efforts, check out the Civil Beat article [Here's How Hawaiians Could Get Much Needed Rental Housing](#).

Tester Training for Interested Volunteers

Wanna Add Investigative Work to Your Resume?

Inspector Clouseau had to get his start somewhere. Get the skills you need to take your under-cover potential to the next level - and make a real difference in making Hawaii a fairer place to live! Our **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. No experience necessary.

Please call the Fair Housing Investigation Coordinator at (808) 527-8032 to register and to receive more details, or complete the online [application here](#).

News from HUD



Trump Administration Proposed HUD 2018 Budget

The 2018 proposed budget will seek to preserve rental assistance for 4.5 million low-income households but will seek to eliminate certain programs deemed ineffective at the federal level. Such programs as the *Community Development Block Grant Program*, *Choice Neighborhoods Initiative*, and the *HOME Investment Partnerships Program*

are on the chopping block because administration officials believe that State and local communities are better-positioned to serve their own local community needs.

To read HUD's full press release, click [here](#).

To read a version of the 2018 proposed budget, click [here](#).

Inspiring Fair Housing News

City of Los Angeles Loses to Big Banks

In 2013, Los Angeles sued big banks like Wells Fargo, Citibank, and Bank of America for lending discrimination during the 2008 financial crises, resulting in a high foreclosure rate which led to loss property tax values for the city. Other U.S. cities like Philadelphia and Miami have undertaken similar lawsuits against the big banks, however, in LA the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in the banks favor, claiming that the City did not establish discriminatory lending during the claim period.

To read more from housingwire.com, [click here](#).

A Smoker's Guide to Fair Housing in Public Housing

The Fair Housing Act does not protect your right to smoke in your home - at least smoke cigarettes in your home*. That means if you are trying to submit an accommodation request to your manager, asking permission to smoke cigarettes in your unit because it helps alleviate symptoms of your disability - so sorry but you are out of luck.

To clarify their position on smoking in public housing projects, HUD issued a Smoke-Free rule that would require all federally funded public housing authorities to become smoke-free properties by August 2018. HUD is not refusing to rent to smokers out right, but will be mandating that residents who smoke to do so away from their homes.

Check out attorney Scott Badami's blog on the topic [here](#).

New & Upcoming Outreaches!



Legal Aid staff and fair housing attorney, Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, at the 2017 Celebrate Micronesia event.



Weinberg Village Waimanalo

The FHEP will be holding outreach and intake services at Weinberg Village in Waimanalo on the first Friday of every month.

Where:

**Weinberg Village Waimanalo
41-490 Saddle City Rd, Waimanalo, HI 96795**

[Accommodations](#) can be made for physically impaired persons.
Contact Jacky at [808-527-8028](tel:808-527-8028).

When:

**First Friday of the Month
9:30 am - 12:00 pm**

Voice of Chuuk - KNDI Radio

Tune in to [KNDI](#) on 'Micronesia Radio Saturdays' to catch our outreach specialist, Jacky, giving on-air fair housing survival tips and information. (Chuukese language only)

Where:

KNDI Radio - 1270AM

When:

July 15th from 3-4pm.

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

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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Honolulu, HI 96813

Please forward this email to other interested parties

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