

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii Fair Housing Enforcement Program

May 2014

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Aloha!

April was a busy month for the Legal Aid's Fair Housing team. We traveled across the state of Hawaii to offer free workshops on Fair Housing law, conducted tester training sessions, and participated in several outreaches.

A lot of interesting questions were raised at the workshops, and we we'd like to use this newsletter to address some of them.

This month's focuses on assistance animals and Reasonable Accommodation Requests. Next month's topic will be medical marijuana as a reasonable accommodation, so stay tuned!

Go to our website for more information: www.fairhousinghawaii.org



FHEP attorneys, Sarah Casken and Naomi Kusachi, Jelani Madaraka from HUD, and Marcus Kawatachi from HCRC participated on Hawaii's local tv channel, 'Olelo

Our Partners in Promoting Fair Housing Month

We'd like to acknowledge the partnerships that made the

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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

Fair Housing Month events possible. Thanks to Jelani Madaraka (HUD), Carolyn Vierra and Marcus Kawatachi (Hawaii Civil Rights Commission), Alan Rudo (County of Hawaii), Fay Rapozo (County of Kauai), and Linda Munsell (County of Maui) for all of their hard work during Fair Housing month.

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.

Did you know?

My landlord says I cannot keep my assistance animal, a pit bull, because the landlord's insurance policy does not cover pit bulls. Can he deny my reasonable accommodation request for this reason?

Your landlord might be able to deny your accommodation request if his insurance company would cancel the policy, charge a lot more, or change the terms of the policy because the company considers a pit bull to be a "dangerous breed." But if you file a complaint with HUD and the investigator finds that there is a comparable insurance policy that would cover the pit bull, then HUD might find that the landlord has unlawfully denied your request. HUD might also determine that the insurance company has violated the Fair Housing Act. The facts need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. At minimum, your landlord should discuss his concerns with you and try to resolve the issue.

I was recently granted an accommodation to my apartment's "no pets" policy so that I can live with my assistance dog. My landlord tells me that my dog has to be on a leash in the common areas and cannot bark for more than ten minutes. Can he make these kinds of rules?

Yes, a housing provider may enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding an assistance animal. A housing provider may have a standard "Assistance Animal Policy" in place or they can attach these rules as an addendum to your lease. A landlord may include rules about the use of leashes and barking, especially when the rules conform to state and local laws. Keep in mind that as the owner of the assistance animal, you are also responsible for the animal's care and maintenance.

For more questions and answers regarding assistance animals, [click here](#).

Tester Training Information



If you are interested in becoming an "undercover" tester for the Fair Housing Enforcement Program, please call (808) 527-8078 or (808) 527-8017 to register for our May training on Oahu or for any questions that you may have.

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Please forward this email to other interested parties

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