



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

February 2017

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Happy African American History Month!



1969 - 3rd Grade Punahou School students Scott and Barack "Barry" Obama

Barack Obama, 44th POTUS, was born at Kapiolani Medical Center on August 4, 1961. He grew up in Makiki with his mom and grandparents and attended Punahou School. Forty-seven and a half years later, he became the first African American President of the United States.

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](#)



Quick Links

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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

The Notorious R.B.G. Visits Hawaii

Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (a.k.a. **the Notorious R.B.G.**) visited Oahu earlier this month to participate the UH Law School's Jurists-in-Residence program. She gave talks to the Hawaii State Bar Association and also to a group at Millilani High School where she fondly recalled memories of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, said that she would be for repealing the electoral college, and called anti-immigrant rhetoric "disheartening". Justice Ginsburg is 83.

- Check out a Civilbeat article on Justice Ginsburg's visit [here](#).

Hawaii Legislators Reviewing Source of Income Anti-Discrimination Bill

State Senator Karl Rhoads is sponsoring Senate Bill 127, which will seek to amend the Hawaii landlord-tenant code to prohibit discrimination based on lawful source of income in rental transactions, including advertisements for available rental dwelling units. The bill was introduced on February 17, 2017 and has already passed one round of review. If passed, the law will prohibit landlords from denying a prospective renter based solely on the fact that they receive government rent assistance.

- To read the proposed bill or submit testimony, click [here](#).

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) 527-8078 to register and to receive more details, or complete the online [application here](#).

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.

A Republican Will Propose Amending the Fair Housing Act

Rep. Scott Taylor of Virginia plans on breaking from party lines for the first bill he will try to get passed in Congress - an amendment to the 1968 Fair Housing Act that would add sexual orientation as a federal protected class status. Rep. Taylor acknowledged to a journalist, "It's not Republican orthodoxy but I don't care."

Hawaii has a state law protecting the LGBTQ community from housing discrimination, but Rep. Taylor's amendment would force the 27 U.S. states that legally can discriminate against LGBTQ people to reverse course.

- To read more, [click here](#).
- To see where in America LGBT people have no discrimination protections, check out [NPR's article here](#).

The Future of AFFH

Under the AFFH rule, state agencies that receive federal HUD funds are responsible for conducting an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) planning process. The AFH planning process is intended to help communities analyze challenges to fair housing choice and establish their own goals and priorities to address the fair housing barriers in their community.

- For more info on HUD's AFFH rule, click [here](#).
- To review the Senate bill (S.103), click [here](#).
- To review the House bill (H.R. 482), click [here](#).

Challenges Brought to Texas's Landlord-Protection Laws

The [Inclusive Communities Project](#) (ICP), a fair housing group in Dallas, TX filed a lawsuit against the State of Texas for the state's law, Local Government Code § 250.007, which prohibits city ordinances from making it illegal for landlords to refuse a prospective renter based on their use of rental assistance vouchers, more commonly referred to as "source of income" discrimination.

ICP is alleging that the state's law violates the Fair Housing Act based on the fact that 59%* of rental assistance voucher holders in the state are African American and 26%* are Hispanic. Additionally the plaintiff is accusing Texas of violating the 14th amendment.

The FHEP will follow this case as it plays out in Texas court system. For more info, check out this texas-housers.net article.

*Data accurate as of 01/31/17; effective dates from 10/01/15 - 01/31/17.

New & Upcoming Outreaches!

NieiRek: *Women of Vision*
10,000 Steps Wellness Fair

Saturday, February 25
10:00^{AM} to 2:00^{PM}
in the
The Towers of Kuhio Park
Community Hall
(Behind Tower A)

Get a free Pedometer and
take steps towards
1st, 2nd and 3rd place Prizes

Free Eye Exam
Free Glasses
from Project Vision

Come and learn from the experts from these organizations, agencies, and companies:

Better Business Bureau	Hawaii Institute for Public Health
Department of Health	Humana
Department of Human Services	Kaiser Permanente
Hawaii Disability Rights	Micronesia Health Advisory Coalition
Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center	Project Vision
HMSA	Ohana Wellcare

SPONSORED BY:



Wellness Fair at the Towers of Kuhio Park, Honolulu

The FHEP will join our Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the Towers of Kuhio Park this Saturday for the 10,000 Steps Wellness Fair. We will be there to talk to the community about their fair housing rights and how knowing your rights can lead to greater wellness and peace-of-mind. Other community providers will be present and free health services and screenings will be available during the event.

Where:

The Towers of Kuhio Park Terrace, Community Hall
(Behind Tower A)
1475 Linapuni St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

When:

Saturday, February 25th
10am-2pm

St. Elizabeth's on Thursdays





The FHEP, partnered with **We Are Oceania**, will be resuming regular outreach at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Kalihi starting March 2, 2017. Intake services will be available to those with legal questions and a Chuukese interpreter will be available.

Where:

**720 N. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96817**

***WAO office located on makai/Diamond Head side of church**

When:

**Every Thursday
9:00-11:00 AM.**

Voice of Chuuk - KNDI Radio

Tune in to **KNDI** on 'Micronesian 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:

March 4th from 3-4pm.

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

Celebrate Micronesia!

Celebrate Micronesia is a day-long festival of art-making demonstrations, food, dance, spoken word, a fashion show, coconut husking contests, and films sponsored by the **Honolulu Museum of Art School** in partnership with Micronesian community leaders and organizations. The events are open and free to the general public.

Where:

**Honolulu Museum of Art School
1111 Victoria Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814**

When:

March 25th from 9am-4pm.

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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