



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

March 2016

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Aloha!



HUD's Live Free Fair Housing Campaign

Aloha and thanks for reading.

Legal Aid's Fair Housing Enforcement Program is in full preparation mode for Fair Housing month in April. Our advocacy team will be doing statewide trainings to educate housing providers across Hawai'i on state and federal Fair Housing laws, and to promote our fair housing theme of a ***Shared Opportunity in Every Community.***

The Honolulu Fair Housing training is scheduled for April 21st from 8:30-4:30pm, and it is being offered for free to housing providers and professionals on Oahu. To register, fill out and submit the registration form [here](#). Space is limited and applications will be processed on a first come, first served basis. The deadline to register is April 15, 2016. Hurry and save your seat today!

Not on Oahu? No worries! Our Fair Housing Enforcement team will be presenting across the islands in April:

- April 6 - Kailua Kona
- April 14 - Hilo
- April 15 - Maui

Quick Links

[Visit Our Website!](#)

[Learn More About Fair Housing](#)

[Request a Training](#)

[Contact Us](#)

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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 Specialist will call to

- *April 19 - Kauai*

Stay tuned for more information on outer-island trainings during the month of April.

Find us on the Web!



Housing Discrimination (Chuukese)

Looking for **informational videos on Fair Housing?**

The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission has recently released a series of Fair Housing videos meant to educate the local community on housing discrimination issues. The videos have been produced in **Chuukese, Marshallese, Tagalog, and Ilocano with English subtitles.**

To check out these videos, visit us at: <http://www.fairhousinghawaii.org/fair-housing-videos.html>

As always, be sure to check out our [website](#) for more program updates and resources. To connect with us on social media, check out:



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](#)

Recent Fair Housing News

[Accessibility for All](#)

February 12, 2016

Manhattan U.S. Attorney, Preet Bharara, filed a

schedule an interview.

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

complaint against Glenwood Management, a real estate firm in New York City that owns the rental building Liberty Plaza. Prosecutors accused Glenwood of designing and constructing the rental building with "scores of inaccessible features" for those with disabilities, some of which included inaccessible mailboxes and high thresholds. The real estate firm and U.S. attorney's office reached a settlement deal for \$1 million dollars. Under the terms of the settlement, Glenwood agreed to retrofit three different buildings, including Liberty Plaza, so that they are more accessible for disabled residents and guests. For more info, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to read more.

Iowa City Protects Section 8 Vouchers

February 17, 2016

Iowa City is now the second city in Iowa to protect participants in the Housing Choice Voucher Program- more commonly referred to as "Section 8"- under local fair housing laws. The new amendment to Iowa City's Human Rights Ordinance will take effect on June 1st this year and will effectively make it illegal for any housing provider to advertise that they do not accept Section 8 voucher holders. City housing authority representatives have commented on the new amendment, saying that it will "level the playing field for all people looking for rental units in Iowa City". For more, click [here](#).

Exclusion at a Mobile Home Park

February 26, 2016

Resolution has finally come in a lawsuit filed against the owners and operators of a mobile home park in Wisconsin. In 2014, a complaint was filed against the mobile home park alleging that the defendants refused to approve an application of a single mother who sought to purchase a mobile home in an area of the park where children were not permitted. The Department of Justice ruled that the defendants had violated the Fair Housing Act by illegally discriminating against home seekers' familial statuses and ordered that they pay \$100,000 in damages. For more, click [here](#).

Kansas City Bank Settles Race-Discrimination Complaint

February 29, 2016

First Federal Bank of Kansas City has been accused of making it unfairly difficult for African Americans to get approved for home mortgages. Legal Aid of Western Missouri and the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council initiated the complaint against

First Federal Bank, saying that the bank has inadvertently made residential real estate products less available to people of the African-American race by lack of market penetration into African-American communities. The Bank has denied all accusations of race-based discrimination, but has agreed to pay \$2.8 million in a conciliation agreement mediated by HUD. Part of the agreement calls for the bank to originate \$2.5 million in mortgage loans in majority African-American neighborhoods during a three year period as well as to provide \$75,000 in discounts on home purchase loans in majority African-American census tracts in the Kansas City area. For more, 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.

Our next Fair Housing Tester Training will be located on March 8th, 2016 from 4:00-6:00pm.

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

February FHEP Outreaches

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program has partnered with [We Are Oceana](#) to provide outreach, education, and on-site intake for legal assistance every Thursday from 11:00am-1:00pm at St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church in Kalihi.

If you or anyone you know has a fair housing issue and is interested in applying for Legal Aid services, feel free to come down. A Chuukese interpreter will also be present. For more information on this outreach, please contact Madonna at (808) 527-8083.

Training Opportunities

Looking for training on the Fair Housing Act?

FHEP offers free training on fair housing. Our training seminar options 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 at (808) 527-8083 to schedule a free training on fair housing.

Mahalo for reading!

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Please forward this email to other interested parties

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