



## Fair Housing Enforcement Program

April 2016

Volume 3, Issue 4

### Aloha!



HUD's Live Free Fair Housing Campaign

Happy Fair Housing Month!

We have an inspiring and information packed newsletter for you this month in celebration of national Fair Housing Month. Also, our advocacy team will be out in the community doing statewide trainings to educate the housing providers and consumers 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 Thursday, April 21st from 8:30-4:30pm at the Neil Blaisdell Center, 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:

- *Thursday, April 14 - Aupuni Center, Hilo*

### 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 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

- *Friday, April 15 - Maui*
- *Tuesday April 19 - Kauai County Housing Agency, Kauai*

To get details, please check out your local housing office or contact [info@fairhousinghawaii.org](mailto:info@fairhousinghawaii.org).

Fair Housing Proclamation by Governor Ige and Mayor Caldwell



Fair Housing Enforcement Program receives proclamation from Honolulu Deputy Managing Director Georgette T. Deemer.

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program, among other local and state agencies, was invited to meet with both Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell and Governor Ige separately to receive thanks and support for our ongoing fair housing initiative and to officially proclaim April as Fair Housing Awareness Month. To read the full proclamation, click [here](#).



Nalani Fujimori Kaina, LASH Executive Director, receives proclamation from Gov. Ige

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

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



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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## Inspiring Fair Housing News

### Growing Up in a Bad Neighborhood...

March 25, 2016

Maybe the idea that your neighborhood is a big determiner for your financial success as an adult isn't new information to you, but a study put out by social economists is shedding new light on the broad array of benefits that children from low-income families face when moved out public housing. Click [here](#) to read more.

### Long and Stormy Road

April 11, 2016

Why is the month of April dedicated to Fair Housing? The passage of the Fair Housing Act was a long and arduous political battle for many years until it was finally signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on April 11, 1968. To read a brief history on the Fair Housing Act, click [here](#).

### A Fair Shot

April 9, 2016

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently released a guidance on the use of criminal records in housing. HUD warned that outright bans on renting to people with criminal convictions violate the Fair Housing Act and can lead to lawsuits and charges of discrimination. The memo also specified that landlords may not use arrest records to disqualify applicants from housing. Further reading:

- [NY Times article](#)
- [HUD guidance on the use of criminal history in housing](#)
- and FHEP [Factsheet on the use of arrest records in public and federally subsidized housing](#).

### Shared Opportunity in Every Community- Kona

April 7, 2016

Our own Reyna Ramolette was in Kailua-Kona on April 6 for the West Hawai'i Fair Housing workshop. Housing providers and renters came for information on Fair Housing law and to get a better understanding of their rights. To read the thoughtful article from West Hawaii Today, 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 on Thursday, April 14th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.***

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

### April FHEP Outreaches



FHEP at Celebrate Micronesia!

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 11:30am-2:00pm 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.

Also this month, come see us on **Saturday, April 23rd from 8:00am-4:00pm** at UH Manoa for Marshalese Education Day!

## 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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