



## Fair Housing Enforcement Program

May 2016

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### Aloha!



Jelani Madaraka HUD at the Lihue Fair Housing Workshop

Aloha,

For all of those who came to April's Fair Housing trainings across the Hawaiian islands, we'd like to extend our warmest mahalo for your participation and interest. For those of you who were interested but unable to attend, please see below for more information on how to request a training from us.

Mahalo,

*Fair Housing Enforcement Program*

Olelo Hawaii: Housing Discrimination Affecting Women

### 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



Presenters from LASH, HCRC, and HUD

On April 10, 2016 HUD hosted a program on 'Olelo to discuss housing discrimination issues affecting women. Reyna Ramolete (second from left) and Madonna Castro-Perez (middle) were featured on the panel to talk about our program's advocacy efforts as well as discuss how housing discrimination impacts women including discrimination based on sex, sexual harassment, domestic violence, maternity leave discrimination, and familial status issues such as pregnancy and minor children. To watch the video, click [here](#).

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](#)

## Inspiring Fair Housing News

### Housing Developers Wield the Fair Housing Act

April 28, 2016

Housing developers sued the City of Yuma, Arizona, claiming that they had denied a zoning application to decrease lot size on a piece of land from 8,000 acre lots to 6,000 acre after taking complaints from other local residents (mainly white) who felt that by decreasing the lot size to create more moderately priced housing would also result in an influx of criminal behavior in the community. The case was originally decided in favor of the City but was reversed in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals where it was decided that

schedule an interview.

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

the refusal to decrease the lot size and make housing more affordable would result in a disparate impact against the local Hispanic community. Click [here](#) to read more.

### Family Housing for a Reason

April 29, 2016

HUD has charged the owner of a Massachusetts rental property for refusing to rent to families with minor children. A couple and their young child sought to rent an apartment in the complex after staying with a family member who also resided there. The family was told by the owner that due to lead-based paint in the home, children under the age of 6 were not able to reside there. Furthermore, after the family filed a HUD complaint against the owner, he retaliated against the family member that they were living with by seeking eviction. To read more, click [here](#).

### 47 Years Later

May 6, 2016

The results of several fair housing tests were conducted in a region of New York which was known to have predominantly white communities. Trained testers were sent to mortgage lending companies in the area to see if they would be treated equally or differently when inquiring about loan rates and housing. Results of the tests show that 46% identified a disparate impact based on race, disability, familial status, or national origin. The results point out that even 47 years after the passing of the Fair Housing Act, housing discrimination continues to be a big barrier. To learn more, click [here](#).

### Discrimination in Seattle

May 2, 2016

Fair Housing testing conducted by the Seattle Office of Civil Rights resulted in 23 property owners that discriminated by refusing rentals or offering different terms and conditions to people with disabilities, families, and section 8 tenants (Section 8 is a protected class in Seattle, not in Hawaii). To read 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.

Please call the Fair Housing Investigation Coordinator at (808) 527-8036 to register and to receive more

details, or complete the online [application here](#).

## May 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.

On May 11, 2016 from 8:30-9:30am our outreach coordinator, Emmie Suzuki-Phillip will be live on JNDI Chuukese radio to talk about Fair Housing and what the COFA community can do for assistance.

Come see us on **Saturday, May 14th from 9:00am-5:00pm** at Kapiolani Park for Flores de Mayo, a Phillipine cultural festival! Check out [www.filcom.org](http://www.filcom.org) for more information.

Also, on May 15, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm the FHEP will be at St. Elizabeth Church in Salt Lake to conduct Fair Housing outreach and give referrals.

If you or anyone you know are in need of Fair Housing information and/or services, feel free to attend one of the above events!

## 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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