



LEGAL AID  
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



## Fair Housing Enforcement Program

March 2017

Volume 4, Issue 3

### Aloha from FHEP!



Hawaii Legal Services Portal PSA

**The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii has released the state's first online legal services portal!**

The Hawaii Legal Services Portal is now available to the public by accessing [www.lawhelp.org/hi/portal](http://www.lawhelp.org/hi/portal). Thank you to Kara Doles, Portal Project Coordinator for all of her hard work on this new resource. The portal will provide the most appropriate referral and legal resources for users based on their legal needs.

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](https://twitter.com/FairHousingIsOurKuleana)



### 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



## Fair Housing Workshops During April 2017

### Fair Housing: Our Kuleana

The State of Hawaii's local HUD office, the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii's Fair Housing Enforcement Program will join forces to offer free fair housing law workshops to housing consumers and professionals across the islands.

Lihue, HI - April 11, 2017

Kaunakakai, HI - April 12, 2017

Honolulu, HI - April 19, 2017

Kailua-Kona, HI - April 21, 2017

Hilo, HI - April 24, 2017

Wailuku, HI - April 28, 2017

Space is limited and attendees must register in advance. For more details on the workshops and how to register, check out [our website](#) or contact Legal Aid at (808) 527-8024.

## 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.

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.

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

## Inspiring Fair Housing News

### Legal Aid On Wheels

How are you supposed to adequately deal with your legal problems if your day consists of worrying about when you are going to eat next and where you are going to sleep tonight?

The Legal Services Corporation highlighted the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii (LASH) in a recent article for LASH's unique way of addressing the legal needs of our local homeless population. Our homeless outreach team, equipped with wifi and laptops, spends nearly all of their time on the streets or at the health clinics, shelters, or substance abuse treatment centers, meeting with the homeless community where they are instead of remaining fixed at an office in downtown that realistically few in the homeless population would be able to access. To find out more about how Legal Aids across the country help diverse populations, [click here](#).

### Mobile Court in Paradise

Often times court fines and bench warrants for such offenses as loitering, trespassing, littering, and sitting/sleeping on a public sidewalk stack up against the homeless population because of the fact that they cannot get to court, forget the day or time of their court date, or simply don't have any resources in general to deal with the legal offenses. Recently in Hawaii, the Public Defender's office has been swamped with cases of minor infractions committed by the homeless population. In order to address the needs of this particular community, a bill is circulating in the Hawaii Senate that would create a "mobile court" - a court that would travel to locations around the islands that are more accessible to the homeless population. To read more of the Star Advertiser's article, [click here](#).

### NPR's On Point: Emotional Support Animals

National Public Radio (NPR) and On Point's Tom Ashbrook hosted panelists to discuss the rising trend of animal-assisted therapy and the upside and downside to the preponderance of emotional support animals appearing in housing, at airports, and in other public spaces. While the show did not focus primarily on the legal aspect of having an emotional support animal, it did discuss the Fair Housing Act, Airlines Carrier Act, and Americans with Disabilities Act and the respective law's

applicability in various situations.

To listen to this informative talk, check out [WBUR's On Point website](#).

## New & Upcoming Outreaches!



Legal Aid staff and fair housing attorney, Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, at the 2017 Celebrate Micronesia event.

### Marshallese Education Day

The FHEP will join our Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at the 2017 Marshallese Education Day. We will be there to talk to the community about their fair housing rights. Other community providers will be present and several speakers and engagements will be hosted throughout the event.

**Where:**

Ala Moana Beach Park, McCoy Pavilion

**When:**

Saturday, April 29th  
Event begins at 9:00am

### 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:**

**April 8th from 3-4pm.**

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

If you know of a community or organization that FHEP should be outreaching to/with, please contact our outreach specialist at:

[info@fairhousinghawaii.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@fairhousinghawaii.org) to schedule a free training

on fair housing.

Mahalo for reading!

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii | | [info@fairhousinghawaii.org](mailto: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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