



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

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Aloha from FHEP!



The Fair Housing Enforcement Program (FHEP) recently sent one of our Investigations Coordinators to New York City to participate in the 2017 ISTEP Conference.

The FHEP is the only agency in Hawaii that conducts testing for discrimination on rentals and homes for sale. Participating in the iStep Conference gives us the experience we need to build partnerships with national fair housing organizations and make our local testing program more innovative and effective.

If we fight housing discrimination together, we can win. [Help us make a difference.](#)

Feel like you were discriminated against while looking for housing? [We can help.](#)

Fair Housing is our kuleana, our right and responsibility. Have you ever felt discriminated against by a housing

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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

provider based on your national origin, your familial status, your sex, etc? Share your story with us! [#FairHousingIsOurKuleana](#)



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.

Legal Aid can provide accommodations to deaf or hearing impaired persons. If you are deaf or hearing impaired, please contact info@fairhousinghawaii.org and we will make arrangements to meet you with a sign interpreter

Mahalo Alice Ululani Greenwood



Photo Credit: Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Alice Greenwood with her son Makalii Hatchie in 2007

Honolulu, HI

Recently, we learned of the news that Legal Aid board member and homeless advocate, Alice Ululani Greenwood, has passed away. She was 71.

Auntie Alice was a constant voice for our clients, the homeless, and the Leeward Oahu community in general. She was an invaluable voice on the Legal Aid board and we will greatly miss her input.

You can read more about Aunty Alice's impact and amazing life story by [clicking here](#).

Mahalo for Supporting Legal Aid's Phone-a-thon!

Justice & Fairness for All!



Connie Liu, Madonna Castro Perez (FHEP), and former Legal Aid Board President Susan Ichinose work the phones during the phone-a-thon.

Thank you to all those that helped with the phone-a-thon by contacting Legal Aid alumni, family, and friends to

help support the work we do at Legal Aid. **We raised over \$10,000 in one week** and this would not have been possible without the staff, board members, and neighbor island offices willing to share more about the great work that Legal Aid does in the community.

Mahalo!

Did you know? For every \$1 invested in civil legal services, Hawaii residents receive \$6.35 back in value*. That means investing in the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is a win-win. If you are interested in becoming a LASH donor, [we'd love to hear from you.](#)

*The Hawaii Consortium of Legal Service Providers provide access to justice for all of Hawaii's residents through the delivery of direct legal services, advocacy, and outreach in the communities they serve.

With funding from the Hawaii State Bar Foundation and the Hawaii Justice Foundation, The Economic Impact of Legal Service Providers in Hawaii report details how, by serving the civil legal needs of the most vulnerable, legal service providers not only help clients resolve their legal issues but also help to strengthen the state's economy. The full report and summary are available [here.](#)

News from HUD



Carson Says HUD Will Not Reverse AFFH

The Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) rule was made law under the Obama Administration to fight racial inequality through zoning in local communities across the country. The idea was that local communities would identify a plan to create equal opportunity for minorities by mixing rich and poor housing in the same neighborhoods, which would help bridge the gap between rich and poor residential areas that can statistically be seen as a gap between affluent white communities and poor minority communities. The Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that housing policies which had a disparate impact on minority housing consumers were discriminatory even if there was no intent to discriminate.

The HUD Secretary Ben Carson recently did an interview where he acknowledged the AFFH rule and that the

department would not reverse the rule but would "reinterpret" it to make it more efficient and effective.

To explore more info on HUD's AFFH Rule and Tools, [click here](#).

To read the Washington Examiner article, [click here](#).

Inspiring Fair Housing News

HOME & Wells Fargo Create Partnership to Increase African American Housing Opportunities

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME) and Wells Fargo announced recently that they were creating a partnership to increase the number of African American mortgage borrowers and homeowners in the Richmond, VA metropolitan area. The big bank has pledged \$4 million to HOME which will help the nonprofit with program support and down payment assistance for qualified program participants. \$3 million will be provided over four years to enhance and support HOME's homebuyer education and counseling program, foreclosure prevention program, and financial literacy program. \$1 million over four years will be provided to HOME in down payment assistance for low- and moderate-income first-time homebuyers in the region. Wells Fargo has agreed to undergo mortgage lending testing which will help verify that the bank is offering equal terms to African American borrowers.

This is an exciting collaboration that will hopefully encourage other banks and mortgage lenders to partner with Fair Housing groups to ensure that they are complying with the Fair Housing Act.

To read the HOME and Wells Fargo Press Release, [click here](#).

California Airbnb Host Violates Fair Housing Act

Last month we told you about how the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) and Airbnb, a short-term rental website, entered into an agreement to undergo periodic fair housing testing after DFEH received several complaints against the website for allowing hosts to deny people based on their race.

On July 13th, 2017 the LA Times reported that for the first time the DFEH has issued a fine to a host on Airbnb for denying an Asian renter based on her race. UCLA law student, Dyne Suh, had reserved an airbnb home for a winter ski trip to Big Bear, California. While on her way to the mountain resort, she received a message from the host saying that she had changed her mind on allowing Ms. Suh to stay in the rental she had already paid for. The only reason? Because Ms. Suh was Asian.

The DFEH has imposed a fine against the host in the amount of \$5,000 for violating Ms. Suh's fair housing rights. This is the first fine against a host on the site who has been criticized in recent years for being a platform for housing discrimination. In addition to the monetary fine, the host will also be required to take a college-level Asian Studies course.

To read the LA Times article and watch Ms. Suh's heartfelt video about the incident, [click here](#).

NFLer on Housing Discrimination

Brandon Mebane, former Seahawks defensive tackle, shared with ESPN his experience of alleged housing discrimination in Southern California after he was traded to the San Diego (now Los Angeles) Chargers. Mr. Mebane and his family, all of whom are black, experienced discrimination when trying to find a rental in both San Diego and LA suburbs. Even with a NFL paycheck, good credit, and good tenant history, people still face being denied housing for being black.

To read more or listen to the ESPN interview with Mebane, [click here](#).

New & Upcoming Outreaches!



FHEP Outreach at Weinberg Village Waimanalo

Weinberg Village Waimanalo

The FHEP will be holding outreach and intake services at Weinberg Village in Waimanalo on the first Friday of every month.

Where:

**Weinberg Village Waimanalo
41-490 Saddle City Rd, Waimanalo, HI 96795**

Accommodations can be made for physically impaired persons.
Contact Jacky at **808-527-8028**.

When:
First Friday of the Month
9:30 am - 12:00 pm

St. Elizabeth's on Thursdays



The FHEP, partnered with **We Are Oceania**, has resumed regular outreach at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Kalihi. A Chuukese interpreter will be available.

Where:
720 N. King St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

*WAO office located on makai/Diamond Head side of church
Accommodations can be made for physically impaired persons.
Contact Jacky at **808-527-8028**.

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:
August 6th 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

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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Please forward this email to other interested parties

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