



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

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Aloha from FHEP!



The Fair Housing Enforcement Program's (FHEP) has welcomed a new staff attorney, Lindsay Kukona Pakele.

Lindsay is a 2014 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law, a Chris Iijima Fellow summer law clerk with the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center at Legal Aid, a former Leeward Legal Aid office volunteer, and a fantastic offensive-line football player for the Richardson Alumni Bruzers. Prior to joining Legal Aid, Lindsay served as a Government Specialist with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. We are excited to welcome Lindsay back to Legal Aid!

Fair Housing is our kuleana, our right and responsibility.

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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

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! [#FairHousingsOurKuleana](#)



Mahalo Reyna!



Reyna
Ramolete-Hayashi, esq.

It is with a heavy heart that we bid **farewell** to **Reyna Ramolete-Hayashi**, FHEP staff attorney since 2015 and Worker's Rights staff attorney since 2016. Reyna will be leaving Legal Aid to pursue her dreams of empowering communities to organize and to build viable alternatives and infrastructure to the current system in Hawaii.

Reyna has started a local consulting cooperative with a few partners and together they will be doing community and organizational capacity building, community and strategic planning, facilitation, cooperative development, technical assistance and training.

Reyna has been a **staunch advocate for housing and employment rights** during her time at Legal Aid. She has positively **impacted** the lives of **countless** disadvantaged **families and individuals** and we are sure that she will continue making an important impact in her future endeavors. **Mahalo nui loa Reyna!**

Local News

Fair Housing: Our Kuleana

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.

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

The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC), Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and Legal Aid's FHEP provided training to housing providers and consumers on the island of Lana'i last month. The full day Fair Housing workshop provided a unique opportunity for landlords and residents to learn about their fair housing rights and responsibilities.



Photo Credit: Shea Henson

Keahiakawelo "Garden of the Gods" Lana'i

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.

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

News from HUD



HUD Charges a West St. Paul, MN Apartment

Complex with Discrimination for Refusing a Veteran a Support Animal

Last month, we spotlighted the prevalence of disability-based discrimination complaints filed with HUD and how they accounted for more than 58% of all fair housing cases in fiscal year 2016.

This month, HUD announced that it has charged the owner of a West St. Paul, Minnesota apartment complex with discrimination against a tenant, who is also a U.S. veteran, by refusing the vet permission to live in the rental with an emotional support dog.

In this particular case, Westview Park Apartments had a policy of not allowing emotional support animals greater than 20 lbs. For that reason, the housing management asked the veteran to instead look into getting a cat.

Prior to receiving a response from the management company, the vet adopted a Great Dane/Golden Retriever mix. After receiving his housing provider's response, he submitted reconsideration request with the explanation that for treating his personal symptoms and condition, a larger dog was necessary.

The housing later sought the veteran's eviction over his emotional support dog. HUD later found the housing complex in violation of the Fair Housing Act for denying the veteran's accommodation request, enforcing "arbitrary, unnecessary, and unlawful restrictions on the weight and type of emotional support animal", and then for later retaliating against the veteran by filing for eviction against him.

The most interesting part of this case is that the veteran seemed to have received online counseling from a medical provider who later suggested that he obtain an emotional support dog. Online counselors who "prescribe" emotional support animals are controversial, however, HUD in this complaint seems to be confirming the validity of online mental health services recommending the use of support animals.

To read the full charge against Westview Park Apartments et al, [click here](#).

Inspiring Fair Housing News

FHJC Uncovers Race, Color, and Source of Income Discrimination in NYC

Recently the Fair Housing Justice Center (FHJC) of the greater New York City area settled two housing discrimination cases, one of which was based on testing evidence. In the testing case, two African American testers who posed as qualified renters attempted to apply for housing with Kosova Properties. In multiple tests, the two testers were unfairly and illegally treated differently on the basis of their race and color. In a second non-testing case involving the same housing provider and another African American prospective renter who used a housing subsidy to pay for a portion of rent, the housing provider denied the woman, who was otherwise qualified to rent the unit, solely based on her source of income. The settlement includes other injunctive relief as well as **\$620,000** in monetary damages awarded to the plaintiffs.

To read the FHJC Press Release, [click here](#).

San Francisco Family Threatened Over "Black Lives Matter" Sign in Yard

In San Francisco, a family is being threatened over a sign displayed on their front lawn. The sign displays the words "black lives matter". Debbie Lee and husband Bill Tamayo posted the sign two years ago, but after the events in Charlottesville, VA they began receiving threatening messages and bigoted responses to their chosen display of solidarity with the African American community.

Does the Fair Housing Act address neighbor on neighbor harassment based on a federally protected class status? If you're interested in learning more on this issue, you are encouraged to read law professor Robert G. Schwemm's paper, '[Neighbor-on-Neighbor Harassment: Does the Fair Housing Act Make a Federal Case Out of It?](#)'.

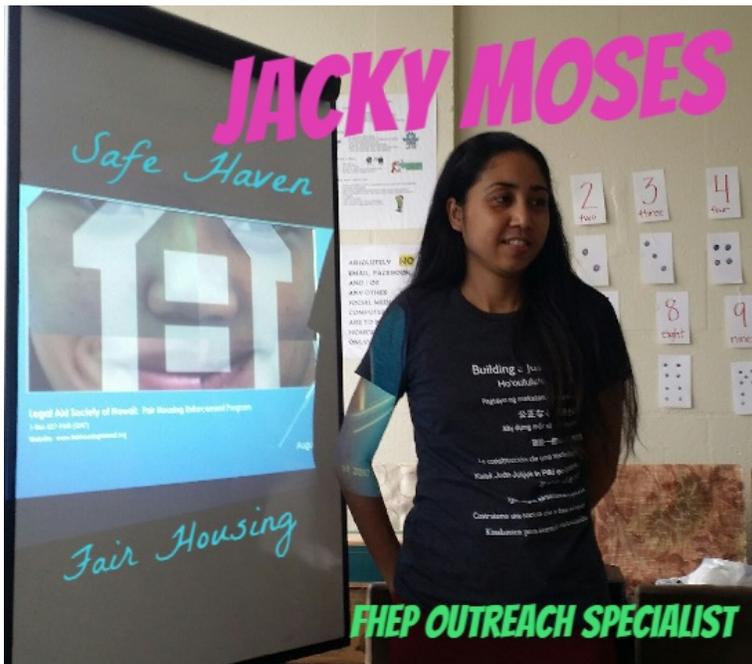
To read more, check out the [Huffington Post article](#).

Seattle Makes Renters' Criminal History Protected

Under a new fair housing ordinance the Seattle City Council recently approved, Landlords will be forbidden from advertising criminal records bans, screening tenants based on criminal records, and in choosing tenants they will be barred from rejecting an applicant solely based on their criminal record. The only exception to this new rule will be for adult sex-offenders, and in the case of denying such an offender, the landlord will have to provide a legitimate business reason for doing so.

To read the Seattle Times article, [click here](#).

New & Upcoming Outreaches!



Legal Aid's Jacky Moses at a Fair Housing Presentation at Safe Haven on August 21, 2017.

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](tel: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:
November 11th 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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