



Fair Housing Enforcement Program

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Aloha from FHEP!



The Fair Housing Enforcement Program's (FHEP) testing unit recently uncovered systemic discrimination practices happening in our community and referred the evidence to our advocacy team for follow-up. Today FHEP is happy to announce that the case, which went through the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has settled the complaint, providing the following agreement:

- 1) FHEP tester receives \$2,000.00 in general damages.
- 2) Respondents conduct an internal training of their board, management, and staff regarding newly revised policies and procedures;
- 3) Respondents adopt comprehensive fair housing non-discrimination policies and procedures consistent with state and federal fair housing law.
- 4) Respondents' board, management, and staff

Quick Links

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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

attend HUD and HCRC-sponsored free respondents' training on fair housing.

Congratulations to the FHEP Testing Program for all their hard work!

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](#)



**Mahalo nui loa to Judge Betty Vitousek
(1919-2017)**



Judge Betty Vitousek

Honolulu, HI

Retired Senior Family Court Judge Betty Vitousek, who was instrumental in creating a model for family courts across the country, passed away on August 28, 2017 at the age of 98.

"Judge Vitousek was a person of great integrity, compassion and wisdom who shaped our Family Court

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

into the strong institution it is today," said Hawaii Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald. "From encouraging mediation to developing programs to help families cope with the impacts of divorce, she was an innovator who cared deeply about Hawaii's children and families. Her many other contributions to our community included laying the groundwork for what became the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i. She also served as a mentor to countless lawyers and judges. We are deeply grateful for her legacy, and send our heartfelt sympathy and aloha to her family."

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

Local News

Fair Housing: Our Kuleana

The County of Hawaii has ordered the redesign of 17 sidewalks and 43 showers in downstairs units at the Ulu Wini Housing Project, also known as the Kaloko Housing Project in Kailua-Kona after realizing that both features at the project were not the width required (36") in [the Fair Housing Act's Design and Construction Requirements for Multifamily Dwellings](#).

For more info, check out [the West Hawaii Today article](#).

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.

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 Report: People Living With Mental Disabilities Face Significant Rental Housing Discrimination

Disability-based discrimination complaints accounted for more than 58% of all fair housing cases in fiscal year 2016. This prompted HUD to undergo a nationwide study into discrimination practices against people with mental disabilities. Compared to the results of housing tests from persons without mental disabilities, housing consumers who suffer from a mental disability "receive fewer responses to their rental inquiries, are informed of fewer available units, and are less likely to be invited to contact the housing provider. In addition, HUD's study found that they are less likely to be invited to tour an available unit, are more likely to be steered to a different unit than the one advertised, and are treated differently depending on their type of disability."

To find the full press release and explore more of HUD's research materials, [click here](#).

Inspiring Fair Housing News

After Selling Home, Iraqi Man is Arrested at his Local Bank

An Iraqi man and his family, including minor children, were arrested by police in Kansas City for attempting to deposit a check worth \$151,000 that was made out to the family after they sold a home. Bank officials called police on the presumption that the check was counterfeit. Sattar Ali and his family were released after spending approximately 4 hours in containment upon which point the police were able to verify the check's legitimacy.

While this is not a case of housing discrimination, it goes to show how prevalent challenges are for minorities entering and exiting the housing market. Mr. Ali expressed disappointment, saying that his family may never have been arrested on false charges if his name were "Robert" or "James".

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

City of Los Angeles Sued over Accessible Housing Stock

Prosecutors are suing the city of Los Angeles for accepting federal funds for housing that should have been used to construct housing which could be used and accessed by all, but instead was used to build multi-family dwellings that included a number of inaccessible features in the home.

The City of LA is fighting back, saying that the issues brought up in the federal prosecutor's complaint have already been settled in a case involving three other local nonprofit groups. In that settlement agreement, the city of LA agreed to spend more than \$200 million over a decade to ensure that 4,000 units of affordable housing are accessible to those with disabilities.

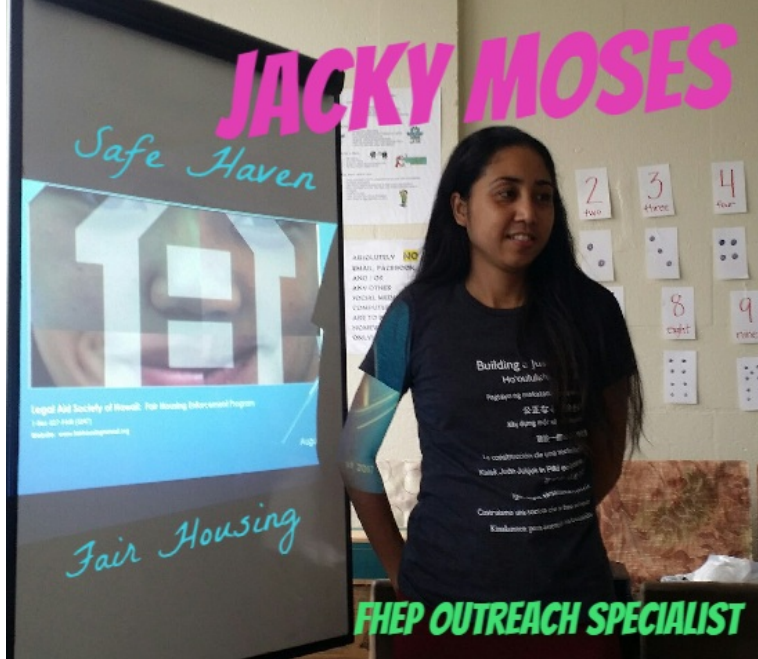
To read more, check out the [LA Times article](#).

Court Orders Long Island Village to Pay 6 Black Tenants \$48k Each

The Village of Mastic Beach on Long Island, NY, has agreed to pay six African-American tenants and two landlords a total of \$387,500 following allegations of forcing renters out of their homes and using their authority with the housing code to evict tenants on short notice. Two landlords are included in the settlement as complainants because of the treatment that they received from Village of Mastic Beach officials who threatened the landlords and tried to convince them to not rent to African-Americans anymore.

To read the full complaint, [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.

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:
October 14th 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!

Please forward this email to other interested parties

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