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HCDCH
Contact Numbers

Applications
832-5960

Fair Housing Officer
832-6003

Homeless Programs
832-5930

Property Management
and Maintenance Branch
832-6034

Resident Services Section
832-5900



Have a Safe Holiday Season

For many people, Christmas is a time of joy, happiness and of course a time for shopping. The holiday season can also be a time when people can be vulnerable to theft and other holiday crimes. Below we have listed a few preventive measures you can take when you are shopping this holiday season.

- Whenever possible, shop during the daylight hours. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- When possible, pay for purchases with a check or credit card.
- Keep a record of ALL your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be careful if you carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets for criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops or on buses.

Follow these helpful tips and you can make your holiday shopping season a joyous one.

Starting in January 2006, the RSS Newsletter will include information on all of the various programs operated by the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH). The HCDCH provides the continuum of housing ranging from the development of affordable housing to the funding of homeless shelters. By providing information on all of its various programs, the HCDCH hopes to keep more people informed of the many services we provide. Please keep your eye out for our new and improved newsletter in January.



Happy Holidays
from the HCDCH Staff





Executive Director's Monthly Message

Greetings of warm Aloha in celebration of the Christmas and New Year Holidays!.

The true spirit of Christmas reflects a dedication to helping those in need, to giving hope to those in despair, and to spreading peace and understanding throughout our local communities.

This Christmas, as we share love and enjoy the traditions of this holiday, may we give thanks for the blessings we all have received throughout the year and may the joy of the holidays renew our commitment to working together.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of HCDCH, we join in wishing you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Mele Kalikimaka a me Hauoli Makahiki Hou!



Stephanie Aveiro
Executive Director



Medicare Prescription Medicaid Medicare Part D

Starting January 1, 2006 Medicare will soon be offering insurance coverage for prescription drugs through Medicare prescription drug plans. Insurance companies and other private companies will work with Medicare to offer these plans.

Who can join?

Anyone with Medicare Part A and/or Part B can join a Medicare prescription drug plan. Participation is voluntary.

When can I join?

Enrollment is from November 15, 2005 thru May 15, 2006. If you join by December 31, 2005, your Medicare prescription drug coverage will begin on January 1, 2006. If you join after that, your coverage will be effective the first day of the month after the month you join.

How much does it cost?

Like other insurance, if you join, you will pay a monthly premium around \$37 in 2006 and a yearly deductible up to \$250. However, if you have limited income and resources, and qualify for extra help, you may not have to pay a premium or deductible.

How will I save money?

Plans will negotiate lower prices with drug companies and pass along savings to you. There will be differences between plans, including what drugs are covered, participating pharmacies and the availability of mail order. Compare to see which is best for you, because you can only change plans once a year.

For more information please call Sage PLUS at (808) 586-7299 or the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at 1-800-633-4227.

Kokua on Kauai



Residents from Hanamaulu participated in the Kauai United Way Walk-A-Thon.

Making a Difference...Doing It for the Community...We love Hanamaulu! These were some of the reasons why youth from the Hui O Hanamaulu Tenant Association (HOHTA) participated in the October 29th Kauai United Way Walk-A-Thon. The approximately 3-mile walk began at the Kukui Grove Shopping Center then to Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School and back. Each keiki was asked to obtain donations for the Kauai United Way. With the East Kauai Management office spearheading the effort, the energetic youth from Hanamaulu hoped to raise money for the community. What made the effort special is that 50% of the proceeds raised by the youth will be donated back to the Association. What's even greater is that the Association will use the funds for activities chosen by the youth. The HOHTA officers' expressed that "It's great to see the keiki support their community!"





Surveys are Fun!

How many times do you eat at McDonald's per week?

___ never ___ 1-3 ___ 4-5 ___ 5-7

How many time do you eat at Burger King per week?

___ never ___ 1-3 ___ 4-5 ___ 5-7

This survey will tell us how many times a person eats at McDonalds and Burger King each week. Easy right? A two question survey, one minute of your time and you are done. A simple survey like this could result in big changes for the organization asking the questions. After receiving your response, McDonalds may decide to lower the prices because of the number of persons eating at Burger King or they might open a restaurant in you neighborhood because of the number of persons eating at McDonalds.

Not all surveys are this short and easy. Some survey questions require a yes/no answer and some survey questions might ask you to select your response from five different answers. On average a survey may have 20 questions and could take 15-30 minutes depending on the kind of information the organization is gathering.

You may receive many types of surveys ranging from telephone calls, postal delivery, person to person and group settings. Although it may take too much of your time, these surveys are important to the organization gathering the information and your answers may impact you, your family or your community. Most importantly, surveys are designed to help organizations improve their services and products.

If you want to be a part of the effort to improve your community, take the time to participate in surveys. Just give an honest answer and remember virtually all surveys are confidential.

Improvements to Kuhio Park Terrace



Good News! Kuhio Park Terrace (Building B) will be receiving much needed renovations to it 's elevators and phone lines.

HCDCH is securing a contractor to repair the elevators in B Building. These repairs will result in the safe and reliable operation of all elevators. HCDCH projects that these repairs will be completed sometime in the first half of 2006. An independent consultant determined that Building A's elevators are in better working order than Building B's elevators; and therefore not included in this contract.

HCDCH engineers have also been working hard with Hawaiian Telcom to design a phone system so tenants, without phone service, can install a phone in their unit. Once HCDCH obtains a building permit, it will be able to request formal bids from contractors. This contractor will install the housing for the new phone lines. Once completed, Hawaiian Telcom will install new phone lines. HCDCH also anticipates completion of this project sometime in the first half of 2006.





Grievance Procedures

The HCDCH recently adopted a new grievance procedure which gives resident organizations an opportunity to participate in the nomination of hearings officers. Under the new procedures, the HCDCH and resident associations will be able to nominate persons to be hearings officers. The resident nominated to be a hearings officer must be able to hear a grievance with impartiality, without compensation and be in good standing and compliance with their rental agreement. The hearings officer must also be able to conduct the hearing and render a decision in writing to the HCDCH after the hearing is completed.

In the coming weeks, HCDCH will be working on appointing hearings officers. The initial list of up to 20 nominees, of whom at least two shall be from each county, will be sent to all resident associations. Resident Associations will be asked to comment on the list and the HCDCH shall appoint the final list of nominees as hearings officers. Hearings Officers will be contacted in random order to conduct hearings.

If you are interested in being a hearings officer, please contact your resident association and tell them you are interested. Your association President will be receiving information in the mail about how to submit nominations for hearings officers. For a copy of the grievance procedures, please contact your project management office.

Community Service



Federal Housing Only:

The community service and self-sufficiency requirement is a legislative mandate by Congress as part of the Public Housing Reform Act of 1998 and also a part of your lease agreement. This provision requires low-income families in public housing to contribute or participate for 8 hours a month in a community service or self-sufficiency activity or a combination of both, as a condition of living in Federal Public Housing.

This community service requirement pertains to all members of the household 18-61 of age. You can claim an exemption from the community service requirements if you meet certain requirements.

To claim an exemption from the Community Service Requirement, complete the "Community Service Exemption Certification" forms which are available at your management office. If you have any specific questions, feel free to call your manager.

To find or give help call 211

It's free. It's confidential. And it's available 24 hours a day.

211 is a three-digit telephone number that connects you to 4000 community services across the state of Hawaii.

With one easy phone call, find or give help.



Visit www.auw.org
for 211 services online.

