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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



Project Aloha Scholarship Program

The Construction Training Center of the Pacific, in a partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), is now accepting application for their Project Aloha Scholarship Program, which provides training in the construction industry. The program is open to anyone of Hawaiian ancestry. Classes will take place at night and on some Saturdays and will last for 4 months. Although all classes will take place on Oahu, neighbor island residents are able to apply.

Graduates of Project Aloha will receive Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training with three national Certified Safety Training Certificates that will make them employable upon graduation.

For more information on the program or to request an application form, contact Barbara Nishikawa of the Construction Training Center of the Pacific at 808-847-4666 x212 or email her at pact@constructiontraining.org

Construction Corner

Construction Management will be providing monthly information on projects where construction is currently going on.



Lanakila Homes - Construction Projected Timeline

Phase IIa:	7 bldgs.	28 units	Completed and occupied. The landscaping has not been accepted.
Phase IIb:	5 bldgs.	20 units	Completed and 8 units occupied.
Design:			
Phase IIIa:	5 bldgs.	20 units	Design phase - to go out to bid May/June 2006.
Demolition / Disposition (all remaining duplex units):			
Phase III & IV:	47 bldgs.	94 units	To be demolished. Demolition plans underway. Anticipated start May 2006.
Central Fire Station:	Bldgs. 101 to 104 (site)		Disposition application being prepared and to be submitted to HUD for approval.



Executive Director's Monthly Message

Aloha,

Our goal at HCDCH is to provide your family a safe and healthy living environment. Each year the Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) at HUD conducts its annual inspection of randomly selected units at your development. This REAC inspection may occur as early as March/April and it is our desire to provide you ample notice to correct dangerous conditions before this inspection occurs.

We're asking for your assistance in preparation for these inspections. The inspector will notice if: (1) areas are clean and free of mold and mildew; (2) smoke detectors are working properly; (3) oven knobs are in place and working, and (4) extension cords are out of walk-ways and window areas are not blocked, and much more.

HUD also requires appliances inside your apartment to be in working order including those provided for you and those you have personally purchased such as fans, and/or a microwave oven.

We appreciate your assistance in helping to make our inspections go well.

Mahalo,

Stephanie Aveiro
Executive Director



Resident Advisory Board Update

The RAB has been working hard by holding monthly meetings with the HCDCH staff since September 2005. With RAB meetings quickly coming to a close, the RAB gave HCDCH their input and suggested recommendations on the current PHA Plan at the January 24, 2006 RAB meeting. HCDCH will provide responses to those recommendations at the RAB meeting scheduled for February 13, 2006.

The members of the RAB are listed below. If you have any questions or concerns on the PHA Plan and need to get in touch with your RAB representative, please call Resident Services at 832-5900. We will gladly pass the message on to them.

Residents will also have the opportunity to voice their concerns on the PHA Plan, at the Public Hearings, which are scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2006 on all the islands. Specific times and locations will be announced.

<u>Island (area)</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Kauai	Arde Long-Yamashita Maile Cummings
Maui	Yolanda Jetnil (Maui) Alice Luuloa (Molokai)
Big Island	George DeMello (Hilo) Rodelle Smith (Kona)
Oahu – Windward District	Dolly Keama
Oahu – Leeward District	Doug Allen Monique O'Campo
Oahu - Central District	Marsha Rodrigues
Oahu - Honolulu District	Theresa Cummings, David Yaw, Libert Weatherholtz, Tai Tuimalealiifano

TOLL FREE NUMBERS

Neighbor Island Residents may call
State Offices on Oahu toll free by dialing:

HAWAII - Dial 974-4000; listen for the dial tone, enter the last five (5) digits of the State number and press the # key.

MAUI - Dial 984-2400; listen for dial tone enter the last five (5) digits of the State number and press the # key.

KAUAI - Dial 274-3141; listen for dial tone, enter the last five (5) digits of the State number and press the # key.

MOLOKAI/LANAI - Dial 1-800-468-4644; listen for dial tone enter the last five (5) digits of the State number , and press the # key.



Our Commitment to You!

*At HCDCH, our goal is to provide you with high quality customer service and to do our best to assure you're treated with respect and care. Our philosophy on working with residents is simple, **we're committed to service excellence**. At the heart of this philosophy is **respect** for the individual. Even with automation and high-tech computers, providing shelter is and will always remain a people to people business.*

Complaints made by residents are a source of deep concern. When a complaint is made, we must do what is necessary to address it. The procedure itself is quite simple. We will conduct the following in a timely and responsive manner:

- 1. We will acknowledge your concerns and respond within in a reasonable time.*
- 2. We will investigate the complaint.*
- 3. We will get the facts, learn exactly what happened and figure out who can help.*
- 4. We will work earnestly to resolve the situation in a timely manner and respond to your complaint to the best of our ability.*
- 5. When your complaint is justified and corrections are needed, we will make adjustments promptly and in the best spirit. If your complaint is not valid, we will explain the reasons for our decision in writing.*

Our commitment to you is to maintain the values of respect, sincerity and honesty; and to make sincere efforts to prevent and minimize the occurrence of things that give rise to resident concerns.

Who can complain?

Almost Anyone - Any person who has applied for housing assistance or resides in a housing community, as well as the general public. If you are not able to make a complaint yourself, someone else can do it for you, as long as they have your permission in writing.

What can I complain about?

If you have a concern about something in your project, you are encouraged to share your concerns with us. Complaints may range from services we provide to residents and interaction within the community.

Please note that complaints about fair housing are dealt with under a separate procedure. For more details about the fair housing grievance procedures, contact our Compliance Office at (808) 832-6003.

Where do I file a complaint?

If you have a concern regarding your community, the best person to share that with is someone directly responsible for your community - such as a housing specialist or a tenant relations advisor at your management office. You are welcome to share your complaint with any staff member at the project office. You will want to be sure to that you provide enough detailed information that the staff can check out your concerns promptly. Someone from the Management Office will respond to you as soon as possible to let you know that we are working on your complaint and when we may have an answer for you.



Enterprise Income Verification



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is providing a one stop shop for all Public Housing Authorities nationwide to verify wages, unemployment compensation, SS/SSI benefits and other income sources from all employers in the United States. The implementation of the Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system will make income data available from one source and improve income verification during required income reexaminations.

Hundreds of public housing agencies are currently using the EIV system in their daily operations in order to reduce underreporting of income. For example, income verification is now directly available to the agency from employers across the nation. Instead of waiting for employers to submit the third party verification forms, the government can access data direct from businesses' tax reporting documents. HCDCH will implement this new system in the coming months to improve efficiency and accuracy during the reexamination process.

Child and Family Services on Kauai offers many services to the residents of Kauai. The Kauai Office is located at 2970 Kele St, Suite 203 in Lihue and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Below is a list of some of the programs that are available. If you are interested or have any questions concerning any of these programs, please call CFS Kauai at 245-5914.



General Counseling Program

Solution-focused therapy offered to individuals, couples, or families who would otherwise not be able to afford treatment. Fees are based on a sliding scale according to family income.

Family Planning Information Program

A program designed to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies by increasing the awareness of public and private family planning resources available in our community.

Nana's House

A family development center providing an array of family support and family preservation services to the families of West Kauai (Koloa to Mana)

Head Start

A federally funded family preschool program free to qualifying companies, offering comprehensive services in the areas of health, education, family development and community advocacy.

Baby S.A.F.E

Baby S.A.F.E provides outreach and referral services for pregnant and parenting women affected by substance abuse.



Did you know..... on Valentine's Day

- * 15% of US women send themselves flowers.
- * Of people who buy flowers 73% are men, while only 27% are women.
- * About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year.
- * Approximately 110 million roses will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.
- * The vast number of roses sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported from South America.

*Happy Valentine's Day....
from the HCDCH Staff.*

Be Energy Smart



The Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) is warning residents on Oahu to conserve energy. In the coming months, many communities could experience rolling blackouts because of the energy shortage. A rolling blackout means that HECO has deliberately cut off power to your neighborhood for 1-2 hours in order to conserve energy. Besides turning off the lights when not in use and taking shorter showers, HECO also advises residents to look for electronics with the ENERGY STAR symbol.

The ENERGY STAR symbol can be found on DVD and VCR players, televisions, cordless phones, answering machines and other electronic equipment. With the increase in number of electronic devices in the home, purchasing ENERGY STAR equipment can save you money and energy. Compared to a standard unit:

- Televisions use about 25% less energy;
- DVD players use about 25% less energy in standby mode;
- VCR players use about 30% less energy;
- TV/VCR and TV/DVD combination units use about 30% less energy;
- Cordless phones, answering machines use about 33% less energy

For more information on energy saving tips, please visit their website at www.heco.com or call 548-7311.



Dental care for Babies

Exerpts taken from 1/5/06 Honolulu Advertiser

Dental hygiene is important for everyone, including babies. It is important for parents and caregivers to take an active role in caring for their babies teeth by cleaning them at home, providing a balanced diet and scheduling regular dental visits.

A misconception is that primary teeth are not important because they will eventually fall out, but tooth decay can begin as teeth emerge. This decay in primary teeth can cause pain and cause harm to erupting permanent teeth.

Tooth decay is preventable by following some simple, basic tips.

1. Never allow a baby to fall asleep with a bottle containing milk, juice, sweetened liquids or a pacifier dipped in sugar or honey. This may lead to Baby Bottle Tooth Decay, the leading cause of dental decay in young children.
2. Start oral care early. Even before the first tooth comes in, wipe your baby's gums with a clean gauze pad or towel after each feeding. Begin brushing the teeth with water as soon as the tooth first appears.
3. Talk to a pediatric dentist about scheduling the child's first dental visit. The first visit should be within 6 months of the eruption of the first tooth and no later than the baby's first birthday.

Regular dental checkups get your child comfortable with visiting the dentist and play a big role in preventing tooth decay. It's an important step in building healthy, beautiful smiles for life.



Earned Income Tax Credit

If you earned less than \$35,263 and have more than one child, you may be eligible to receive an earned income credit on your 2005 tax returns. In order to qualify for earned income credit, you must meet ALL of the rules listed below.

1. Your adjusted gross income must be less than:
 - a. \$35,263 (\$37,263 for married filing jointly) if you have more than one qualifying child,
 - b. \$31,030 (\$33,030 for married filing jointly) if you have one qualifying child, or
 - c. \$11,750 (\$13,750 for married filing jointly) if you have a qualifying child.
2. You must have a valid social security number
3. Your filing status cannot be “married filing separately”
4. You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year
5. You cannot have foreign earned income
6. Your investment income must be \$2,700 or less
7. You must have earned income (wages, salaries, tips and other taxable employee pay).

For more information on the earned income credit call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or visit their website at www.irs.gov and see publication 596.



A Healthy Start to the New Year

If you’ve made a New Year’s resolution to eat better, or you’re making up for all the party food during the holidays, here are a few things to keep in mind.

First, making a pledge to change a specific behavior (such as “I will eat two fruits a day”) is 10 times more effective than simply stating that you want to make a change (“I will eat better”).

Second, remove the temptations. It is much easier to avoid temptation than to resist it. That means getting rid of those cookies, chips, soda, etc. If going cold turkey is difficult, buying less is a good start.

Third, eat more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Having fruits and vegetables cleaned and cut in the refrigerator is a nutritious substitute to all those sugary, processed snacks. If flavor is a concern with vegetables, have a low-fat ranch dressing on hand. Also, be careful of those “juice” drinks that are popular with children. They contain little fruit juice and are mostly sugar. 100% fruit juice contains more nutrients and is healthier for you. Substituting whole grains will also provide you with more nutrients and fiber and the nutrients can help to minimize your cravings for sugar and fats. The fiber will help create a feeling of fullness, so you’ll eat less.

Finally, persistence leads to success. Accepting setbacks and moving on is the best strategy. Weight loss studies show that those who keep the weight off and those who regain the weight have the same number of slip-ups. So forgive yourself when you have a setback, and get back to the healthy eating!