



RSS Newsletter



Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii
Bringing people together to make housing dreams come true.

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June 2005

Executive Director's Monthly Message

Dear Residents,

It's time for the annual Community Homebuyer Fairs. These are free informational fairs where you can learn about ways to improve your credit, qualifying for a mortgage, down-payment programs, homebuyer education, and community organizations that can help you through the homebuying process from start to finish. To be prepared, take copies of your monthly gross income and expenses.

Other participants include the City and County of Honolulu Section 8, the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, the Honolulu Board of Realtors, the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii and financial institutions.

You have three opportunities to attend:

- Saturday, June 11, 2005 at Waipahu Filipino Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 25, 2005 at Farrington High School Cafeteria from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday, July 9, 2005 at Windward Mall from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Aveiro
Executive Director



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Resident Service and Satisfaction Surveys

All Federal Public Housing Residents. Between now and August 27, 2005, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development's Real Estate Assessment Center will be sending a customer service and satisfaction survey to randomly selected households to evaluate the housing agency's performance. The survey will measure your satisfaction and experience with your living conditions concerning maintenance and repair, services, communication, safety, neighborhood appearance. Remember! If your household is selected, please take the time to complete it and mail it back. Resident participation is essential to the survey's success. Your opinion is very important to HCDCH and HUD!

HUD's Annual Real Estate Assessment Inspections

The Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) annual Real Estate Assessment Inspections will be done in the month of June. HUD will randomly select apartments to walk through.

Please assist us in preparation for these inspections. Please look over your unit to see:

- (1) that areas are clean and free of mold
- (2) that smoke detectors are working,
- (3) that oven knobs are in place and working,
- (4) that extension cords are out of walk-ways ,
- (5) that window areas are not blocked.

HUD also requires that appliances inside your apartment to be in working order including those provided by you and those you have personally purchased such as an air conditioner. Please remember that all fans need to have the safety cover in place.

We appreciate all your help and hard work to make our inspections go well.



BEACH SAFETY TIPS

Summer is here so that means that many people will be gathering at the beach for some relaxation, surf and sun. If you and your children are planning some beach outings this coming summer, here are some beach safety tips from the American Red Cross.



1. Never swim alone
2. Check the surf conditions before you enter the water.
3. Check to see if life guards have posted any warning flags for potential hazards or severe water or beach conditions.
4. If you are caught in a current, gradually swim across the current to get out of it.
5. Protect your skin by wearing sunscreen. Limit your direct contact with the sun between 10:00am and 4:00pm and wear sunscreen with a UV rating of at least 15. Prolonged exposure to UV-rays can lead to skin cancer.
6. Keep hydrated by drinking plenty of water regularly and often. Your body needs to keep cool.
7. Watch for signs of heat stroke which include hot, red and dry skin, changes in consciousness, rapid, weak pulse and rapid shallow breathing. Heat stroke is life threatening. The body temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result.
8. Wear eye and foot protection to protect from the dangerous UV rays and the hot sand.



Keep these tips in mind and it will make your outing to the beach a pleasant one.

Project Aloha Scholarship Program



The Construction Training Center of the Pacific, in a partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), is offering the 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 the weekends and last for 2 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 (PACT) with four 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 Jo'el Williams of the Construction Training Center of the Pacific at 808-847-4666 x208 or email customer service at cs@bia-hawaii.com.



Palolo Valley Homes

Zzzzzzzz.....Zzzzzzzz.....zzzzzzz.....the sound of chain saws never sounded so good. As part of the Palolo Valley Homes Ohana Resident Association's Beautification Day, the HCDCH chipped in by removing and disposing of old telephone poles in parking lot B.

In the truest sense of the word teamwork, maintenance staff cut the poles in pieces while the men loaded them in the dump truck. The women contributed by sweeping and raking the sawdust to complete the clean-up. Rounding up the residents for this particular project may sound difficult but not for this group. Everyone pulled together to clean up the debris and the management office provided a pressure hose machine to spray down the parking lot.

Although the sun shined hot and bright and perspiration dripped off of everyone, the entire group agreed that the effort was well worth it. Ice cold drinks and a delicious potluck provided by the association hit the spot and was the icing on the cake.



A New Face to Kuhio Park Terrace

In the last few months, the low-rise apartment buildings at Kuhio Park Terrace (KPT) received much-needed renovations. State government maintenance staff and private contractors painted the exterior walls and poured concrete for new walkways from the units to the sidewalks. New walkways were needed because many of the old ones were cracked and buckling—posing an unsafe situation for the residents.

Additional improvements were incorporated, such as replacing most of the steps with ramps to accommodate people with disabilities and the elderly. Lanais were also extended, in some instances, to increase outdoor living space.

Twenty or more streetlights were repaired and are now in working order. Finally, the bus stop was painted and new lighting was installed. According to Rick Speers, HCDCH Project Engineer, residents are extremely pleased with these renovations. A big MAHALO to the construction crews for a job well-done! A another MAHALO to the residents for their patience!



Resident Services Welcomes Two New Staff

Loren Okamura
Program Specialist



Loren joined to RSS from Community Care Services where he was a case manager. He is originally from the Kona side of Big Island of Hawaii. Loren enjoys fishing in his spare time. He is looking forward to working and meeting with the resident associations. Please welcome him when you see him in your community.

Lois Gongob
Clerk Typist



Lois comes to RSS from a property management company, where she was an administrative assistant. Lois has been a welcome addition to RSS where she uses her computer and organizational skills to keep the office running smoothly.



Transportation Services for the Elderly.

Catholic Charities sponsors a Transportation Services Program (TSP) which enables people 60+ to remain independent and continue living in the community. The vans transport clients and groups for shopping, medical appointments and other needs. This “door-to-door”, hands-on-assistance” service uses regular vans for most clients, but also has lift vans to accommodate those in wheelchairs.

Many of the TSP users have no access to a car, find it difficult to use public transportation, and does not have friends or family members who can take the time to transport them in the community. TSP is the only viable transportation option that allows them to mobile within the community.

This program is largely funded by federal and state grants through two contracts with the Elderly Affairs Division, City and County of Honolulu. The state-funded contract (Assisted Transportation) is part of the State Kupuna Care Program. Currently, clients who are eligible for services under the State contract , and who have an income of 150% over the poverty line, may have to pay a share of the cost of their trip.

Service is provided Monday to Friday (except State Holidays) from 7:00am to 3:30pm. For more information, call Catholic Charities at 595-0077.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The new school year is right around the corner so if you haven't already registered your child for kindergarten, the time to do it has arrived. For the past couple of months, public school officials have been strongly encouraging parents of children born in 2000 to register their children for kindergarten now. Parents who wait until the last minute might also find their children missing immunization or legal documents that will prevent them from starting school on time.

To find out which school your child will attend, call the elementary schools in your neighborhood to determine whether your street address falls in that district.

Documents required for registration include

- 1. Health Records:** (Form 14) Children must have a physical examination, written documentation of required immunizations and tuberculosis clearance to enter school on the first day.
- 2. Birth certificate:** An **original** or **certified copy** is required to verify a child's age.
- 3. Legal Documents:** If there were changes to the child's name, custody arrangements or guardianship.
- 4. Proof of local address:** a document such as an electric, telephone or cable bill, or a housing or rental agreement that shows the address of the child's home.

For More Information, call the nearest elementary school or visit <http://www.doe.k12.hi.us/parents>

Kaahumanu Homes/Kamehameha Homes

Partners in Learning

The Kaahumanu Homes and Kamehameha Homes have joined forces to help their youth gain an edge in education. From Monday – Thursday, during the school year, youth from Kaahumanu Homes and Kamehameha Homes participate in an After School Tutoring program. Created a year ago, as an out-growth from the Attorney General's Community Action Seminar at the suggestion by youth from both communities, the After School Tutoring program is a natural fit.

The two sites are less than 100 yards apart, the youth go to the same schools, and the officers have known each other for years. Youth from kindergarten to middle school do their homework in a quiet and supportive setting where residents from both communities volunteer their time to assist with math, reading or whatever subject the keiki need help with.

So far, about 20% of the participants have shown an improvement in their grades. But as the program coordinators have said, they get their greatest satisfaction by the looks on the faces and the words of appreciation expressed to them day in and day. Students from the UH's Cancer Research Center have also played a role as tutors in the past and the program is always on the lookout to collaborate with other organizations. So look out world, here comes Hawaii's future.

