



RSS Newsletter



Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii

Bringing People Together to Make Housing Dreams Come True

Volume 2, Issue #7

July 2005

Executive Director's Monthly Message

Dear Residents,

Fair Housing means it is against the law to discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin. These are federal protected classes. In addition, the state of Hawaii also protects against discrimination because of age, marital status, HIV infection, and ancestry.

The term "disability" relates to a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities for example, walking, talking or breathing.

There has been some confusion relating to accessibility and reasonable accommodations. If persons with physical disabilities are living in a multi-floor housing complex they cannot be forced to live in a ground floor unit. It is their right to choose to live in a unit on a floor above the ground level.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Aveiro
Executive Director



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Adult Education- Competency-Based High School Diploma Program



Charmaine Pagaduan
CBASE Graduate

Attention Adults - Graduation is not only for high school and college students. For those of you who may not know, the Department of Education provides adults the ability to obtain a high school diploma via the Hawaii Competency-Based High School Diploma Program (CBASE). One person who motivated herself to obtain her high school diploma in order to build a better future for her children is Charmaine Pagaduan.

This cheerful resident of Mayor Wright Homes attended class every Monday and Wednesday evening for a year and a half at HCDCH's School St. classroom in Building L. "It feels good to finally be a high school graduate after all these years" says Charmaine. Her advice to others is "to give this program a chance, the books are free and they (HCDCH) provide bus passes if you need one. So you can't go wrong and think how good you will feel when you get your diploma. Knowledge is power!" As far as her future, it's off to college. The sky's the limit for this energetic young woman. *Congratulations and Best of Luck Charmaine!*

If you're interested in attending a CBASE class, call the Resident Services Section at 832-5900 or your nearest Adult Community School for more information!

Aloha Meds



State agencies and community organizations have pulled together with America's pharmaceutical companies to develop AlohaMeds. AlohaMeds is a program designed to help low-income, uninsured Hawaii residents get **free or discounted** brand-name medicines.

If you have a hard time paying for your medications, you may be eligible for help in paying for prescriptions. You can visit the AlohaMeds website at www.alohameds.com or you can call them toll free at 1-888-477-2669.



Kahekili Terrace Volunteer Resident Patrol



Recently, members of the Kahekili Resident Patrol were recognized for their efforts to keep drugs and violence out of their neighborhood. Coordinated by Maui Economic Opportunity's Free to Grow project, the celebration featured the presentation of more than 30 certificates to residents, including youths, who participated in the patrol. In addition to the recognition of the residents, certificates of appreciation were presented to manager Cliff Libed, and Sgt Jamie Becraft and Craig Bajadali of Maui Police Department's Community Relations Section.

Patrol members wear bright yellow T-shirts and jackets bearing the group's name as they walk the streets and alert law enforcement to suspicious activities. The key partners included MEO, housing management, MPD and of course, the residents. Congratulations and keep up the good work!



WHAT IS THE PHA PLAN?



For Federal Public Housing Residents: The PHA Plan, what is it? Furthermore, what is a PHA? In answering these questions we can begin to understand that this is more than just a bunch of words. Let us start with the question, "What is a PHA?" PHA stands for Public Housing Authority. In our case, the PHA would be the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH). Next question, "What is the PHA Plan?" The PHA Plan is a two-part guide to HCDCH's policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting Hawaii's housing needs and goals. The PHA Plan also represents itself as the annual application for grants to improve the quality of life in public housing. Every year, HCDCH submits the PHA Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for implementation in July.

The PHA Plan serves as a planning tool to help HCDCH decide how it will reach its goals. The PHA plan takes into consideration the housing needs of the community, the financial resources available, establishes goals and strategies to meet the needs identified, and finally HCDCH turns these strategies into policies and programs.

The PHA Plan serves as a tool to involve HCDCH's resident community in playing an important role in the development of the PHA Plan. Through involvement in the PHA Plan, residents can ensure that their needs are being addressed and become more involved in issues that directly affect them. Also, being involved in the PHA Plan, residents will be more aware of the process that HCDCH goes through to prioritize agency activities.

The PHA Plan takes into consideration several factors such as housing needs, statement of financial resources, grievance procedures, community service and self sufficiency, safety and crime prevention, and the pet policy.

Another important purpose of the PHA Plan is that the plan acts as the agency's request for formula Capital Funds for renovation and remodernization activities. A PHA that fails to submit their PHA Plan will not receive funding until their plan has been submitted and approved by HUD.

As mentioned earlier, the PHA Plan is comprised of two parts. The first part is the Five-Year Plan and the second the Annual Plan. The Five-Year Plan is submitted by HCDCH to HUD, once every fifth fiscal year. Included in the Five-Year Plan are HCDCH's mission statement and HCDCH's goals and objectives spanning a five year period.



RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

For Federal Public Housing Residents: In 1998, the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) was formed to assist and make recommendations regarding HCDCH's 5-year and annual plan. The RAB consists of nineteen members from around the state.

Island (area)	Number of representatives on RAB
Kauai	2
Maui	2
Big Island	2
Oahu – Windward District	2
Oahu – Leeward District	2
Oahu - Central District	2
Oahu - Honolulu District	5
Section 8 based Representatives	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	19



Officers of the 2004 RAB

The RAB holds monthly meetings with the HCDCH staff from September to February at the HCDCH's School Street offices. The RAB holds a very important role in giving input and suggested recommendations to HCDCH as the 16 components of the PHA Plan are reviewed annually. After the Plan is reviewed and the RAB and the public are allowed to comment on the PHA Plan, HCDCH submits it to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval.

For more information on the RAB you can check out the HUD website at www.hud.gov.



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!

4th of July Fireworks Shows



FREE fireworks shows are available on O'ahu to celebrate our nation's birthday.

Ala Moana Beach Park: 8:30 Fireworks

Entertainment in the parking lot will start at 6pm. There will be local entertainers and prize giveaways.

Schofield Barracks: Sills Field 8:30pm Fireworks

Oceanic Stage Entertainment from 11:00am. Fun Run, Pony Rides, Game and Food Booths will be available.

Kailua Beach Park: 8:00pm Fireworks

Have a fun and safe 4th of July



School and your child: Finding a Perfect Fit.

If you have decided as a parent to send your child to preschool, you may be faced with the difficult decision of which pre-school to choose. The Partnership for Learning (www.partnershipforlearning.org) offers a free on-line guide to walk parents through the task of choosing a school for their child. If you don't have access to a computer we have listed below important questions that parents can ask themselves about the prospective school they are looking into.

Does the school engage parents as partners?

Schools work best when they treat families as valued partners. See how welcome your questions are and whether the school treats parents as a problem or an ally.

Does the school have a clear plan focused on academic achievement?

School leaders should be able to tell you in plain-English what their mission is and why they do what they do. In addition, you should know what your child will be expected to learn throughout the school year.

Is the principal confident, focused and engaged?

The principal is the leader of the school. Look for a leader who recognizes the problems the school faces, who can be specific about what is being done to address them and how progress is being measured.

Is the school the right size?

Be aware of the teacher/student ratio and make sure that it fits the needs of your child. In early grades, you may want a smaller class size so that your child may get the individual help they need.

Does the school have basic resources ?

Beautiful buildings don't guarantee excellence, but poor facilities and lack of supplies distract from learning. How well supplied is the school library and the computer lab?

Are the staff committed?

The staff should be serious about learning and respecting the kids that they teach. Keep a watchful eye on whether teacher absenteeism is high, if leaders are unavailable or if the staff parking lot is empty 20 minutes after school is out.

Is the school safe?

The best schools ensure the safety and security of the children. Issues like bullying and proper character seriously in their programming.

To make the best decision for your child, keep these questions in mind when choosing your child's school.

*(This is a summary of an article taken from
February 2005 issue of Island Family)*

What is the PHA Plan..continued from page 2

The second part to the PHA Plan is the Annual Plan. The Annual Plan provides details about HCDCH's current programs and the resident population served, as well as the HCDCH's strategy for addressing the housing needs of currently assisted families and the larger community. Also, included is HCDCH's approach to managing programs and the delivering of services for the upcoming year. The Annual Plan also serves as a tool to determine the role of HCDCH in the community. The Annual Plan is submitted to HUD every year. It is from the Annual Plan that Capital Funding and PHDEP funding that HCDCH received is generated from.

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Another important piece to the PHA Plan is the involvement of residents in the planning process. HCDCH, benefits by working with residents since the residents can provide important information regarding the physical condition of the developments, physical or management improvements that are needed, and resident self-sufficiency needs. This information provided by the residents helps HCDCH to prioritize capital improvement activities and obtain supportive services for residents.

As required, HCDCH also works with the Resident Advisory Board (RAB). RAB membership is comprised of individuals who reflect and represent the residents. HCDCH meets with RAB members to obtain their comments and recommendations on proposed policies and strategies detailed in the PHA Plan. For more information on the RAB, see related article on the RAB in this month's and future newsletters or to find out who represents your project on the Resident Advisory Board, contact the Resident Services Section at 832-5900.

Also, to ensure public participation in the planning process, PHA Plans, including attachments and supporting documents, must be able for viewing by the public at the principle office of HCDCH during normal business hours.

Wow, that is a lot of information to take in! Hopefully, the PHA Plan and the process itself became a little clearer. You can find a complete copy of the PHA Plan on the web at www.hcdch.hawaii.gov or in your Manager's Office.

This is the first in a series of articles on HCDCH's Public Housing Agency Five-Year and Annual Plan.