

Get Help Today

Call the Fair Housing Hotline

Illegal housing discrimination can happen to anyone. If you feel you may have been a victim of discrimination, know that you have rights.

Oahu

808.527.8024

Neighbor Islands

866.527. FAIR

(866.527.3247)

All services are provided free of charge.

There are no income eligibility requirements.

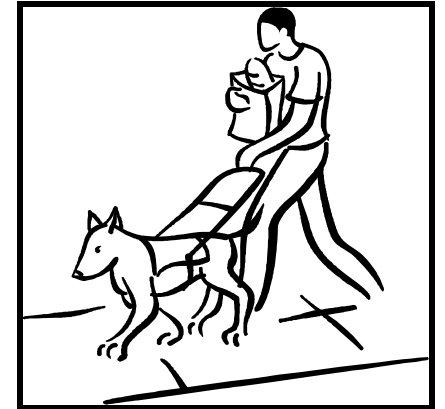
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FAIR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII
924 Bethel Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program

Service Animals, Companion Animals and Housing



Reasonable Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities

Tel: 808.527.8024

Do you need a service or companion animal?

TERMS:

Service Animals

Example: a seeing eye dog

A trained animal that provides a service for a physically disabled person.

Companion Animals

Example: emotional support animal

A trained animal that provides a service for a mentally disabled person.

Fair Housing law allows for service and companion animals for persons with a disability.

Pets

Examples: a pet dog or cat

A domesticated animal that is kept for personal enjoyment and is not a medical or therapeutic necessity.

Fair Housing law does NOT allow people to keep pets even if the person has a disability.

FAQ:

What if the building has a 'no-pet' policy?

You can ask for an exception to the 'no-pet' policy to accommodate your service or companion animal. This is a 'reasonable accommodation,' per the Fair Housing Act.

How do I ask my landlord for a reasonable accommodation?

You, or someone on your behalf, may write a letter or talk to your landlord. Your landlord may ask you to prove important information, or may suggest other ideas.

Do I have to provide a doctor's note?

Your landlord can ask for reliable disability-related information to show that you need the animal. The landlord cannot ask about your specific disability, or how severe it is. Also, you do not need to release full medical records to show your disability-related need.

What are my responsibilities?

As the owner, you must observe leash laws and pick-up laws. Your animal cannot make excessive noise, or be aggressive or threatening. You are responsible for the animal's behavior.

Can I be charged a pet deposit?

Usually a pet deposit cannot be charged for a service or companion animal. If the animal damages property, you must pay for it.

How Can We Help You?

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program assists people who believe they have been a victim of illegal housing discrimination. Our services include:

- **Answering fair housing questions**
- **Assistance with filing a formal complaint with a government agency**
- **Advice about how to assert your fair housing rights**
- **Informational materials**
- **Referrals to other organizations that can help you with your housing needs**
- **Educating the community about fair housing rights**

Please feel free to call our hotline, even if you are not sure that what happened to you is against the law.

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Neighbor Islands: 866.527.3247**

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OF HAWAII

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