



ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i is dedicated to promoting fair housing and ending housing discrimination through education, advocacy, outreach, and litigation.

State law prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, religion, gender identity or expression, family status, disability, marital status, age, sexual orientation and HIV



CALL TO APPLY FOR LEGAL SERVICES

O'ahu 808.536.4302

Neighbor Islands 1.800.499.4302

Our services are free if you qualify!



924 Bethel Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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This project was supported by the Hawai'i Women's Legal Foundation.

Know Your Rights: Sexual Harassment and Housing

Fair Housing Protections

Have you experienced unwanted touching, unwanted sexual advances, sexual jokes, comments, or gestures in your rental housing?

Fair housing laws may help you.

WWW.LEGALAIHAWAII.ORG

WWW.FAIRHOUSINGHAWAII.ORG

The Right to Be Free From Sexual Harassment in Rental Housing

1. What are my rights?

Under the Fair Housing Act (FHA), it is illegal for landlords or their employees to discriminate against tenants because of their sex. They also cannot sexually harass tenants. The FHA may protect you from sexual harassment and discrimination in housing.

2. What is sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment can be many things, such as sexual favors, unwanted sexual advances, touching or comments of a sexual nature.

For example:

- The landlord tells you he'll only keep renting to you if you go on a date with him.
- A maintenance person comes to fix your sink and makes sexual jokes, comments, and gestures to you while there.
- Your property manager tells you, "I'll take \$100 off your rent—if you..."
- You experience harassing behavior directed at you because of your sex.

3. Who must obey the law?

Fair housing laws apply to a variety of people, including:

- Landlords
- Property managers
- Maintenance people
- Other tenants

If the landlord or manager knew or should have known about the harassment and did not stop it, the landlord or manager could be held responsible.

4. What should I do if I have been sexually harassed?

If you are experiencing sexual harassment, act quickly. Tell someone about it. Write down the following:

- What happened
- When and where it happened
- The name of the harasser
- The names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses or any other tenants who have been harassed

Keep any documents related to the harassment, such as:

- Notes or gifts from the harasser
- Rent increase notices
- Warning notices
- Eviction notices

5. Who can help me?

If you have been sexually harassed in your housing, contact Legal Aid. We can help explain your rights and options. If you fear that the harasser may harm you or your family, call the police immediately.

6. Can I be evicted if I report the harassment?

It is illegal for the landlord to try to evict you or raise your rent for reporting the harassment. **If you receive any type of eviction notice, call Legal Aid immediately.**

7. What are some of my options?

If you are a victim of sexual harassment, some of your options include:

- Having Legal Aid contact the landlord to make the harassment stop.
- Having the Fair Housing Enforcement Program (FHEP) at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i investigate the harassment.
- Filing a complaint with government agencies.
- Suing the harasser in court.

You only have a limited time to enforce your rights, so it is important to seek help from quickly.