



ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

The Fair Housing Enforcement Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that all persons are afforded equal access to housing, furthering the goal of equal opportunity housing and providing assistance in the enforcement of fair housing law.

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 infection.

FAIR HOUSING HOTLINE:

O'AHU: 808.527.8024

NEIGHBOR ISLANDS: 866.527.FAIR
866.527.3247



924 Bethel St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Main Legal Intake Hotline
Toll Free: (800) 499-4302
www.legalaidhawaii.org

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The Fair Housing Enforcement Program

Assistance Animals as a Reasonable Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities in Housing



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What is a **Reasonable Accommodation**?

State and Federal law requires that housing providers make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practice or services when doing so would afford a disabled person an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling.

Requests for *Assistance Animals* as accommodations to “no pets” policies are very common.



Assistance Animals are not pets

Assistance Animals perform tasks for the benefit of a disabled person. They can be trained service animals or animals that provide **comfort or emotional support**. *They do not have to be certified or formally trained* and sometimes it's the animals mere presence that alleviates symptoms of a disability.

You do not need to provide medical records or tell your landlord the nature or severity of your disability. You only need to certify that you are disabled and that there is a connection or nexus between your disability related needs and your request for an assistance animal.

Who is a person with a **Disability under the Fair Housing Act**?

A disability is a **mental or physical impairment** which **substantially limits** one or more of a person's major life activities. There must be a record of the impairment or a disabled person must be regarded as having such an impairment.



Major life activities may include, but are not limited to, *walking, talking, hearing, seeing, breathing, performing tasks, caring for one's self, or learning.*

If your disability is not obvious, a housing provider can request only what is necessary to prove the need for an assistance animal.

A Housing Provider **CANNOT**

Charge a “pet” deposit, require liability insurance, charge fees for the cost of determining the need for an assistance animal or any other fees related to your disability.

Tell other tenants about your disability.

Contact your doctor without your permission or send you to a medical review.

A Housing Provider **CAN**

Charge you for damage that your animal causes.

Require your animal to have a license.

Require the animal to be registered with them.

Require you to *keep your animal on a leash* and to *clean up their waste*.

Require vaccination.

