

FSS NEWSLETTER

City & County of Honolulu ◦ Department of Community Services ◦ Section 8 Rental Assistance Branch ◦
Family Self-Sufficiency Program
<http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs/rentalassistance.htm>

JUNE 2014
Volume 2



Contents

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| FSS Graduate | 1 |
| Homeownership | 2 |
| Featured Partners | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 4 |

**SUCCESS
IS WHERE
OPPORTUNITY
MEETS
PREPARATION!**

Family Self-Sufficiency

City and County of Honolulu
Section 8 Rental Assistance
51 Merchant Street, 2nd Fl.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 768-7090

U'ilani Silva, Coordinator
FSS/HOP Programs
(808) 768-7093
usilva@honolulu.gov

Vickie Punua-McGinnis
Case Manager/Trainer
FSS/HOP Programs
(808)768-7089
vpunua@honolulu.gov

Shannon Gripper
Case Manager/Trainer
FSS/ Section 8 Programs
sgripper@honolulu.gov

Appreciative Graduate Says Aloha to Section 8

To Whom It May Concern,

Since graduating from the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, I have also had the privilege and honor of being the first recipient of the City & County's Section 8 Homeownership Program in 2005. Having a home has always been a dream of mine, but something I imagined as being unattainable- especially with the high cost of living in Hawaii. But with the help of the HOP Program that dream became a reality.

Having a home in a safe neighborhood with a great school provided my daughter the solid foundation to succeed and she currently attends a prestigious private school on Oahu primarily on financial aid. She continues to bring home straight A's, competes in Speech, maintains a campus job and has even traveled to Costa Rica for community service.

For me, having my dream of homeownership come true gave me the inspiration and drive to continue with my own goals and I am pleased to be graduating this December with my Masters Degree in Library and Information Science.

*FSS is much more than a welfare program, it is truly a **life changer** for struggling families! It is the "helping hand" that makes unimaginable differences in people's lives. Whether it is a warm place to sleep at night and a place to call home, or the ability to find*



better jobs or budget the family – FSS educates and guides families to be self-sufficient, healthier and productive members of society.

Thank you to the Section 8 office staff, Glenn Ocampo and Kerry Kaneshiro for their professionalism and always treating me with respect and kindness.

Of course, I'm deeply in debt and amazed by the hard work and dedication of the FSS and HOP Staff: Judy Pulido, Vickie Punua-McGinnis and Uilani Lingo. The FSS Program is fortunate to have such innovative and pioneering women leading the way to change the lives of many Hawaii families. I have been blessed to be a part of this program and I truly hope that the program continues to expand and thrive.

*Aloha,
1st Time Homeowner*

Our sincerest congratulations to this family on all their accomplishments!! They exemplify the goals of the FSS-HOP Programs as they now live in their own home without any government assistance.

Homeownership Dreams Becoming a Reality



In 2012, four FSS/ HOP families broke ground and started building their homes in Maili via the Self-Help Housing Corporation of Hawaii & USDA Rural Development.

Participating families are builders as well as owners, with each family contributing 32 hours per week of labor to help each other build the houses. Using a team building method and a mass construction technique, Self Help construction supervisors teach families building skills, framing, roofing, window installation, siding, cabinets, countertops, baseboard, laying floor tiles and painting. All the houses are completed at the same time and families move in at the same time.

A family's sweat equity saves up to 50% of the cost. House prices start at mid \$200,000 with monthly mortgage payments starting around \$1,200/month (payments include principal, interest, taxes and insurance).

Eligibility for Self Help Housing is determined by income and household size.

For more information, please call Self Help Housing at 842-7111.



Q & A: Section 8 Homeownership Program (HOP)

Q: How can I learn more about Homeownership?

A: *Whether you're ready to buy or not, Homebuyer Classes and Home Buyer Fairs are great places to start. Classes are supportive environments that provide students with the knowledge needed to navigate the process. You'll receive an individual assessment of where you're at and what it'll take to make your homeownership dreams a reality.*

Home buyer fairs are one stop shops where you can meet *lending experts* who are able to prequalify you for a mortgage loan so you know what you can afford; *housing experts* who can inform you of what the present and future homeownership markets will look like; and *non-profit and government agencies* that can assist with bridging the gaps in financing.

Hawaii Homeownership Center
www.hihomeownership.org
PH: (808) 523-9500

Hawaiian Community Assets
www.hawaiiancommunity.net
PH: (808) 587-7886

Nanakuli Housing Corporation
www.baseyard.com
PH: (808) 842-0770

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, August 23, 2014
Hawaii Convention Center

VISIT OUR TRADESHOW TO MEET OUR PROFESSIONALS!

- Realtors • Mortgage Companies
- Developers • Non-profit assistance programs
- Renovation and home improvement specialists

Find everything you need to know about buying a home in Hawaii!

Star Advertiser
HAWAII HOME BUYERS FAIR

hawaiihomebuyersfair.com

FSS FEATURED PARTNERS

YWCA GOING PLACES NETWORK

Aloha!

*My name is Milla A. Servito and I want to express my “Mahalo” to the FSS Program for getting me involved with the YWCA’s **Going Places Network (GPN) and the Dress for Success (DFS) Program.** GPN Program Director, Kehau and her staff, Bettelyn and Angela, really helped me a lot to better myself by providing me with two good outfits for interviews, enrolling me in a computer class, helping me update my resume and cover letters, providing me with a mentor and most of all, expressing full confidence in me that I could succeed. I attended the YWCA’ Going Places Network for 9 weeks and I can honestly say I wish it was longer. Every week, we got to hear about different companies, who they hire and what type of employee they are looking for. Some weeks we practiced answering interview questions with staff and volunteers. Other weeks we worked on setting goals and planning our job search. I really miss the staff of GPN because they love to help women who need help to better themselves. **I’ve improved a lot knowing it’s not hard to take that first step and that it all depends on me.** May the Lord bless the YWCA Going Places Network for reaching out to struggling women. I hope this encourages other women to seek out this program if they think it might help them.*



Mahalo and God Bless.



YWCA: Going Places Network (GPN)

- * Free of charge and open to women who are seeking employment; *case manager’s referral required.*
- * Through 9 weekly meetings, you will learn how to present your personal “brand” in interviews, customize your resume for different positions, navigate LinkedIn and other social media for job leads and much more. You will also have the chance to work one-to-one with career coaches and build your personal network in a small, supportive environment with other women.
- * To learn more about GPN, please contact 695-2632, www.ywcaoahu.org

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 2014

23 & 30 MONEY \$MARTS
Kapolei Hale
9 am - 1 pm
(must attend both sessions)

23 HOMEBUYER FAIR
Convention Center

SEPT 2014

16 JOB FAIR
Neal Blaisdell Center
10 am - 3pm

For additional Info:
Call (808) 768-7090



FREE

Open to
Ages 14+

Learn about...

Budgeting

Saving

Banking

Credit

Loans

Buying
Vs
Renting

Hawaii
Landlord-
Tenant
Code

Kahua Waiwai Financial Education Workshop

Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center
87-1876 Farrington Hwy, Waianae, Hawaii 96792

Mon. Jun 23rd - Tue. Jun 24th
Mon. Jul 21st - Tue. Jul 22nd
Mon. Aug 25th - Tue. Aug 26th
Mon. Sept 22nd - Tues. Sept 23rd

Workshops held from 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Qualify for Match Savings & Micro-Loans

Free Credit Report Counseling Available

Receive Workshop Certificate

To register call Lahela @ (808) 587-7660 or
email Lahela@hawaiiancommunity.net



Sharing the Aloha – Save Energy Workshop



Monday, June 30, 2014 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Oahu Work Links – 1505 Dillingham Blvd., Suite 110

RSVP – call 768-7090, please leave your name and number

REDUCE YOUR MONTHLY ELECTRIC BILL – Learn how to save electricity and get rebates when purchasing energy-saving appliances, lighting and water heating

START SAVING TODAY – Receive a **FREE** energy-Saving conserve power switch just for attending (one per household while supplies last)