



Hawaii State Judiciary

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Aid for tenants, landlords program expands to Kauai

LIHUE, Hawaii – Following the success of a program that helps landlords to get paid and keep tenants from being evicted on Oahu and in Maui County, Steps to Avoid Eviction is now available on Kauai.

The STAE program guides homeowners and tenants to resolve disputes without going to court. Its goals are to teach renters how to avoid evictions and to ensure that landlords can consistently collect rental income that is due.

"When landlord-tenant cases enter the judicial system, it is often too late to amicably resolve their issues," said Fifth Circuit District Court Judge Michael Soong. "We hope that by providing advance information and available resources, all parties may address their problems before someone files a lawsuit."

The potential impact for Kauai is strong. A recent U.S. Census Bureau study indicated that 25 percent of the island's 30,238 total housing units are occupied by renters. Furthermore, the population of 71,735 residents is growing an average of three people daily, the bureau reported.

"I want to thank the participating agencies, and attorneys Craig De Costa, Michelle Premeaux, Patrick Childs, and Linda Vass for assisting with the program and brochure," Soong added.

The agencies providing strong support for STAE are Kauai Self Help Center; Legal Aid Society; Kauai Economic Opportunity Mediation Services; County of Kauai Housing Agency; Mental Health Kokua; Catholic Charities; Women in Need; Family Life Center Kauai; and The Salvation Army.

"I deeply appreciate the hard work of the attorneys, agencies, and businesses in bringing this important early intervention program to the Garden Island, and thank Judge Soong for his leadership," said Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald.

The STAE brochure is available through numerous Kauai agencies, including those listed above, and online. A copy of the brochure is attached.

Program information: http://www.courts.state.hi.us/special_projects/stae

Kauai brochure: http://www.courts.state.hi.us/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Kauai_STAE_brochure_FINAL.pdf

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