

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>

2023

Volume 11



Happy Holidays!

Mahalo for letting us share in all your accomplishments this year! Please review your training plan and contact your FSS Coordinator in the New Year to discuss your progress.

May the New Year bring you happiness, peace, and prosperity! Wishing you a joyous and successful year!

The secret to getting ahead is getting started.

~Mark Twain



Family Self-Sufficiency

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~ Congratulations Holly ~

*Holly enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) shortly after completing her Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Family Studies at UH Manoa. She had been working part-time while she was in school, and was now ready to look for employment using her degree. **Holly had three main goals when she started FSS:** employment somewhere she could help others, to improve her financial situation, and to learn about homeownership.*

*Holly started by registering with American Job Center (AJC). She created an account on HireNet Hawaii, uploaded her resume and met with an AJC employment counselor who provided her with leads and referrals. She applied for a lot of different positions and eventually obtained a case management position at Susannah Wesley Community Center, along with a part-time job as an adult education teacher assisting students toward obtaining their high school diplomas. **Holly loves her job.** She loves working with families and helping them find the resources they need to meet their challenges. She feels like she's making a difference, changing lives and giving back to the community.*

*Now that she had more income, Holly wanted to focus on improving her financial situation and enrolled with Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA). Holly didn't have any credit cards or loans. When asked about them, she said "never again". She felt they were be a bad thing so she became an expert budgeter and learned to live on cash. After completing HCA's financial education and homeownership classes, she learned that it was great not having debt, but cash only also meant she didn't have any credit. **And no credit can be regarded the same as having bad credit.** Holly worked with an HCA counselor to build and improve her credit score. She took out a small loan with manageable repayment terms and obtained a low interest, rewards credit card, charging her regular monthly expenses to it. Because she knew her budget, she was able to pay her credit card bill in full every month. Her credit card bill along with her loan payments were always paid on time and she never accrued any interest charges.*

With her improved credit, Holly was able to move to a newly renovated affordable apartment in downtown Honolulu. She may or may not pursue homeownership but for now she's thankful for everything she learned through her experience with FSS, AJC and HCA.

Holly graduated FSS with about \$25,000 in escrow.

Congratulations Holly! Your story is an inspiration!

American Job Center <https://www8.honolulu.gov/dcs/workhawaii/>

HireNet Hawaii <https://www.hirenethawaii.com/>

Hawaiian Community Assets <https://hawaiiancommunity.net/>

Susannah Wesley Community Center <https://www.susannahwesley.org/>



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES (SMVF) PROGRAMS

Catholic Charities Hawai'i offers a variety of specialized programs for service members, veterans, and their families regardless of their faith and culture. Our SMVF team is dedicated to providing tools, understanding, and strategies to help people find hope and healing.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

SMVF PROGRAMS:

- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)**
- **SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP)**
- **Legal Services for Veterans (LSV)**

PLEASE NOTE THAT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS VARY BY PROGRAM.

PLEASE CONTACT OUR CCH HELPLINE:

(808) 521-4357

Select Option 3 for Veterans Services

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*If you need immediate assistance, please call the national suicide crisis lifeline(s).



HOW WE CAN HELP AND WHAT WE CAN OFFER:

- Individualized, supportive, and compassionate case management
 - Assistance with transportation, shelter, and child care
- Mental health and substance treatment options
- Assistance navigating healthcare options
- Eviction prevention assistance
- Housing placement services
- Financial literacy education
- Referral for legal assistance
- Peer specialist support
- Resource navigation

WWW.CATHOLICCHARITIESHAWAII.ORG

Career Expo Calendar Dates

Wednesday, **January 31, 2024** 9AM - 2PM

Wednesday, **April 24, 2024** 9AM - 2PM

Wednesday, **July 31, 2024** 9AM - 2PM

Wednesday, **October 30, 2024** 9AM - 2PM

Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall

<https://www.workforcehonolulu.com/>

INSTAGRAM

@HAWAIIJOBFAIRS



**CHECK
IT OUT**
↓

Classes Available

- High School Equivalency (GED / HiSET)
- English Language Acquisition
- Workforce Development
- iCAN College & Career Transition
- Digital Literacy

**In-Person and Online
Classes Available**
www.wcsahawaii.org

For More Info Visit
www.wcsahawaii.org
wcsa.transition@gmail.com



WAIPAHU COMMUNITY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Adult Education Classes

**Check out a location
near you!**

Kailua, Oahu

Waipahu

Wahiawa

Kapolei

Nanakuli

Maili

Waianae

Hilo

Kona



**LEARNING
NEVER
ENDS**

FREE Tax Prep through VITA

Thanks to certified volunteers working across the State of Hawaii, you can have your federal and state tax returns prepared for **FREE**. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites generally become available at the end of January and run through April. Sites accept clients by appointment only.

Please check their website - www.hawaiiataxhelp.org for more information, including tax site locations.