



HAWAI'I COVID-19 JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

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NEWS RELEASE

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PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY TAKING MULTIPLE STEPS TO PROTECT RESIDENTS

HONOLULU – Packing and distributing thousands of masks, distributing hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies, and participating in COVID-19 outreach events, are just a few of the things the staff and management of the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority (HPHA) have been engaged in.

HPHA is working hand-in-hand with the Dept. of Health and the Hawai'i Air National Guard (HING), at outreach events at its large public housing properties. These events are designed to educate the community about COVID-19 and to show people how they can stay safe and healthy. Anyone with flu-like symptoms are tested. The agency administers about 6,200 federal and state low-income public housing units on five islands.

“None of these activities could be carried out without the dedicated support of all our staff who remained hard at work since the start of this pandemic, including property managers, office and maintenance staff, and many others, said HPHA Executive Director Hakim Ouansafi. He added, “The HPHA continues to step up its efforts to keep our at-risk seniors and families as safe as possible during these trying times.”

In addition to staff-made cloth and commercial surgical face masks that have been distributed to public housing participants statewide, HPHA has also:

- **Distributed** cleaning supplies to staff and residents, when a family tests positive
- **Distributed** hand sanitizer to hundreds of elderly households
- **Provided** thousands of healthy meals
- **Continued** to provide vital COVID-19 information to all households
- **Waived** all minimum rents/late fees due to COVID-19-related income loss
- **Permitting** delayed recertification and flexible rules to self-certify loss of income
- **Implemented** direct deposit for rent payments
- **Launched** free Wi-Fi at ten sites to encourage at-home learning
- **Processed** additional vouchers to get more people into housing
- **Purchased** laptop computers and cell phones to help staff perform tele-work

HPHA established a website to help inform public housing residents, Section 8 program participants, applicants, and agency staff: www.hphaishereforyou.org

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RESOURCES

(All images courtesy: HPHA and HING)

Photographs –

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ql3j1wh1ezdp65l/AADCe4hQlsvq6R6EQkepLLG8a?dl=0>

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