

AmeriCorps Education Award

To qualify for an education award, you must successfully complete the required term of service for the program in which you participate. AmeriCorps VISTA members may choose a cash payment of \$100 per month of service instead of the education award; however, all other AmeriCorps members are eligible only for the education award.

It is possible to earn up to two of three types of education awards including full-time, part-time, and reduced part-time awards.

Full-time service:

Qualifying members are those who successfully serve at least 1,700 hours over the course of 9-12 months.

Members who fulfill a full-time service term are eligible for a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725.

Part-time service:

Qualifying members are those who successfully serve at least 900 hours over the course of 1 year.

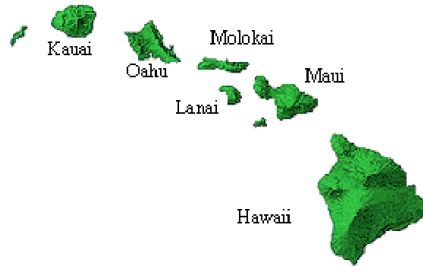
Members are eligible for a part-time award of \$2,362.50.

Reduced Part-time service:

Individuals who serve in special programs, such as summer programs, may be eligible for a reduced part-time award of value proportional to the number of hours served.

Is Hawaii Right For You?

Hawaii is a state which is known for its natural beauty, a gentle and easy pace of life, and the warm, friendly local culture whose people define and perpetuate the spirit of *aloha*. Adjusting to life in Hawaii means understanding and embracing the local culture as well as being open to new experiences.



Some important things to consider before moving:

Distance: Hawaii is the most geographically isolated land masses in the world. Distance and time

zones can make visiting home and keeping in touch with friends and family costly and difficult. Most accept this as part of the price of living here while others may find this adjustment especially difficult.

Cost of Living: The cost of living in Hawaii is close to that of Manhattan or San Francisco in terms of rent and groceries. Finding a roommate is a common solution to this problem.

Multiculturalism: Hawaii is truly a cultural melting pot where Polynesia, Asia, U.S. Mainland, European, and other cultures from around the world meet and forge what is contemporary Hawaiian culture. Most locals are proud and protective of their heritage. Newcomers are encouraged to be nonjudgmental and humble when learning about their new surroundings.

Here are some online resources for learning more about life in Hawaii:

www.gohawaii.com - Hawaii Visitors Bureau

<http://pahoehoe.ehawaii.gov/portal/community/newcomer.html> - Newcomers info. on Hawaii

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF HAWAII



AMERICORPS PROJECT LAULIMA

PROGRAM INFORMATION:
A GENERAL GUIDE TO THE
AMERICORPS PROGRAM
AT THE LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



What is the AmeriCorps Project at Legal Aid?

AmeriCorps provides opportunities for more than 70,000 Americans each year to give intensive service to their communities and country through three programs: **AmeriCorps State and National**, **AmeriCorps VISTA**, and **AmeriCorps NCCC** (National Civilian Community Corps).

AmeriCorps members serve through national and community-based private and public organizations. Members help solve community problems through service in a variety of areas. Also, upon completion of service, members receive an education award, which can be used to repay student loans, pay current educational expenses, or pay expenses while participating in a school-to-work program.

Most AmeriCorps members serve through **AmeriCorps State and National**. Roughly three-quarters of all AmeriCorps grant funding goes to Governor-appointed state service commissions, which award grants to nonprofit groups who recruit AmeriCorps members to respond to local needs.

Summary of AmeriCorps Programs Eligibility: Applicants must be at least 17 years old and a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States. Term of Service is typically one year though some part-time service opportunities are available.

Living Allowance / Room and Board:

Most programs provide a modest living allowance paid biweekly. Members are typically responsible for covering their own housing and meals from their living allowance.

Insurance / Expenses:

Many members receive health insurance and may qualify for childcare assistance. However, most programs do not pay for members' relocation expenses.

Locations & Training:

Projects are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



Access to Justice Project

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii's AmeriCorps program began in 1997 and continues today as Project Laulima. Members are placed at Legal Aid offices projects across the state including (but not limited to) the Center for Equal Justice, the Affordable Lawyers Project, and the Fair Housing Enforcement Project.

Members are also located in partner agencies providing non-legal assistance to low and moderate income individuals.

In exchange for their service, members receive a living allowance and an educational award. Members may also be able to receive student loan forbearance, interest paid on student loans, health insurance benefits, and school credits.

The mission of the project is to empower low-income individuals by helping them resolve their critical legal, economic, and social issues on their own. This is achieved through the hard work of members and volunteers who focus on the following four primary areas:

AmeriCorps VISTA focuses the efforts of approximately 6,500 members each year on eradicating poverty and helping to meet the needs of people living in low-income communities nationwide.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a team-based, residential program designed specifically for young adults, ages 18-24. Approximately 1,100 members serve in AmeriCorps NCCC each year.

When/How to Apply:

Applications are accepted year-round.

You can apply online at www.americorps.org or call either 1-800-942-2677 or 1-800-833-3722 to request an application packet.

For more information about Legal Aid, call 808-536-4302 or visit www.legallaidhawaii.org

Hotline & Intake: members provide counsel & advice via phone & direct client contact

Center for Equal Justice: one-on-one assistance to unrepresented users in the form of counsel, advice, & brief services.

Development of Written Materials: Members develop, format and revise written materials which assist clients with common legal, social, and economic problems.

Self-help Clinics: Members create, coordinate, and implement workshops in various legal, economic, and social topics.