

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEARN THE DO'S AND DON'TS ABOUT SERVICE DOGS

Hawaii Fi-Do will Offer Free Informational Workshop as part of International Assistance

Dog Week

HONOLULU – To kick off International Assistance Dog Week (August 7-13), Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs will be having a free informational workshop on Saturday, August 6 at 11 a.m. at the center stage at Windward Mall.

The workshop's topics will include the differences between service dogs versus therapy dogs, what businesses can do with customers who bring their alleged service dogs, and Q&A from the audience. Numerous working teams and puppy raisers will be at the mall, handing out information on service dogs and the laws.

International Assistance Dog Week was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability-related limitations. In addition to honoring assistance dogs during their special week, one of the goals is to raise awareness about these very special and highly-trained canines.

"It is important to raise awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in our communities; and that we honor the puppy raisers and trainers of assistance dogs," said Jim Kennedy, executive director of Hawaii Fi-Do.

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their devoted companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family.

Hawaii Fi-Do Service Dogs, a nationally accredited program, is a nonprofit organization that trains and certifies service dogs for people with disabilities other than blindness, educates the community on awareness and rights of working dog teams, and offers the unique "Youth at Risk" programs on Oahu. For more information on Hawaii Fi-Do, visit www.hawaiifido.org.