

Hawaii Banks Support Funding for

Access to Justice

Hawaii Banks Support Funding for Effective July 1, 2008, an amendment to Rule 11 of the Rules of the Hawaii Supreme Court was adopted. This amendment requires all banks participating in the Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program to pay the highest interest rate generally available at their institutions to their non-IOLTA accounts when IOLTA accounts meet the same minimum balance or other account qualifications. This action by the Court will significantly increase funding for legal service providers and other access to justice initiatives. Hawaii becomes the twentieth state to adopt this rate comparability requirement.

The Hawaii Justice Foundation (HJF) has worked closely with all nine banks that presently participate in IOLTA program. HJF has developed the Prime Partner Program, where participating banks choose to pay more than may be legally required under Rule 11. HJF is very

*by James A. Kawachika, President,
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pleased to announce that seven of the nine participating banks have qualified as Prime Partners, effective July 1, 2008. These seven banks are:

AMERICAN SAVINGS BANK
BANK OF HAWAII
CENTRAL PACIFIC BANK
FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK
HAWAII NATIONAL BANK
HOME STREET BANK
PACIFIC RIM BANK

Each of these banks is to be commended for going above and beyond the call in its demonstrated commitment to the cause of increasing justice for all in the Islands.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2008, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., HJF will hold its annual meeting in downtown Honolulu. The HJF Annual Meeting will discuss "Moving Justice Forward" and will include presentations by Justice Simeon Acoba and others regarding current and future activities in the area of access to justice. Anyone interested in attending this annual meeting should e-mail hjf@hawaii.rr.com for further details. There is no charge for attending the meeting, and a complimentary buffet lunch is served. The meeting is an excellent opportunity to meet with others in our legal community who are interested in achieving justice for all.

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