

# Neighborhood Security Watch Program

“Helping to Keep our Community Safe”

## Fact Sheet

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### WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY WATCH PROGRAM?

1. The Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) program on Oahu is sponsored by the Honolulu Police Department.
2. The NSW program involves total citizens' participation and involvement in a self-help cooperative battle against crime.
3. Its primary purpose is the protection of our communities and our property.
4. Crime can create a climate of fear and mistrust. One of the most effective and least costly answers to crime is neighborhood watch groups.
5. Watch groups are a foundation of community crime prevention.

### OVERALL GOALS:

1. To increase public education concerning local problems and effective preventive measures which lead to improved residential security.
2. To implement community-based and coordinated programs that are designed to increase the level of community awareness and mutual concern for the protection of homes within a given community.
3. To enhance community and police relations.

### NSW STRUCTURE:

*The Coordinator:* The *Program Coordinator* is a volunteer, working as the liaison between the community and the police. They work directly with the beat officer in that geographical area, the assigned district resource officer, the designated block captain and community members.

*The Block Captain:* *Block Captains* are directly responsible to the coordinator. They receive information from the members and relay that information to the coordinator. Information that is received from the coordinator, is likewise, passed to the members.

*The Members:* The *Members* are the ever important hub of this wheel of security. Their eyes and ears, what they observe and hear in terms of suspicious activity, most often are a vital link to solving crime.

## **LET'S GET STARTED. WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?**

### **Step 1: Getting Started**

Individuals wanting to start a NSW program should contact the Community Affairs Section at: (808) 529-3351, or via the internet at [honolulu.org](http://honolulu.org), to request an officer to come to their community for a lecture about the Neighborhood Security Watch Program. The lecture will include what is the NSW program, and the different features that make it up; How to start a program and the overall benefits of the program.

### **Step 2: Initial Presentation**

An officer from the district in which the program is to be established will give an initial presentation on Neighborhood Security Watch and Citizens Patrols. You and your neighbors will then decide what program you want (or both programs). The next step will be to select the persons to represent the neighborhood in the capacity of Coordinator and Block Captain.

### **Step 3: Signup Members**

The coordinator and block captain will gather the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all those interested in becoming involved in the program. That information, along with a map of the area listing streets, etc., will be sent to the police department's district resource officer. The district resource officer will provide to the coordinator materials for all members who have signed up.

### **Step 4: Program Information**

Program information will be forwarded to the district resource officer. The district resource officer will then contact the coordinator and develop the relationship necessary for smooth and cooperative effort between police and the community. With guidance from law enforcement, the watch trains its members in home security techniques, observation skills, and crime reporting. Residents also learn about the types of crime that affect the area.

### **Step 5: Periodic Review**

Hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and to collectively decide upon program strategies and activities. Proper vigilance must be practiced for the program to be successful. Information regarding crime and suspicious activity must be disseminated throughout the program in a timely manner.

## **NSW: Tips for Success**

- Involve everyone-- young and old, single and married, renter and homeowner.
- Consider linking with an existing organization, such as a citizens' association, community development office, tenants association, housing authority.
- Canvas door-to-door to recruit members.
- Get information out quickly. Share all kinds of news.
- Gather the facts about crime in your neighborhood. Check police reports, do victimization surveys, and learn residents perceptions about crime.
- Don't forget events or potluck dinners that gives neighbors a chance to get together. Such items as pins, t-shirts, hats, or coffee mugs with the group's name enhance identity and pride.
- It's essential to celebrate the success of the efforts and recognize volunteers contributions through such events as awards, annual dinners, and parties. To help meet community needs, Neighborhood Watches can sponsor meetings that address broader issues such as drug abuse, gangs, self-protection tactics, isolation of the elderly, crime in the schools, and rape prevention.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [http://www.honolulu.org/community/nsw\\_start.htm](http://www.honolulu.org/community/nsw_start.htm)