NSW Structure

NSW Coordinator

Each NSW program is spearheaded by a program coordinator. Like the other participants, he or she is a volunteer and serves as the liaison between the community and the police.

The coordinator works directly with the beat officers, designated block captain(s), and community members.

Block Captains

Block captains are accountable to the coordinator. They receive information from members and relay that information to the coordinator. Likewise, information received from the coordinator is passed on to members.

Block captains are a vital and necessary link for the success of the program.

Members

The members are the most important element of the program. Their eyes and ears—what they observe and hear in terms of suspicious activity—are often a vital link to solving crime.

NSW Features

House Decals

The NSW decal is furnished to all NSW participants. It should be placed in a conspicuous area on the exterior of your home but not on your mailbox. This decal shows others that you are a member of an established NSW program and serves as a reminder of your personal commitment to reporting crime and suspicious activities.

Street Signs

The NSW sign is a street sign with the same logo and design as the NSW decal. Its purpose is to inform everyone in the community, including criminals, that your neighborhood is involved in this effort. The program must have a 60 percent participation rate within the geographical area to merit this sign.

Requests for the installation of signs are made through the respective police districts. Installation of the signs is done by the Department of Transportation Services, City and County of Honolulu.

Remember, decals and street signs alone are not enough to reduce crime in your neighborhood. The most important components of a successful NSW program are education and active participation!

All NSW program members are educated on the following:

- Operation Identification
- Residential Security Inspections
- Reporting Suspicious Activities to 911
- How to Describe a Suspect
If you or your loved ones needed assistance or if a burglar was seen breaking into your home, you would want someone to call for help. This is the basis for the Neighborhood Security Watch program—neighbors helping each other. The Neighborhood Security Watch (NSW) program is sponsored by the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and relies on citizen participation and involvement in a self-help, cooperative battle against crime. Its primary purpose is the protection of our communities.

Because there are more private citizens than officers, it is more likely that you, your neighbors, or others in the community will be the first to see suspicious behavior or illegal activity. Your involvement in the NSW program can make a great difference in keeping our community safe. Thank you for being involved.

The NSW program was introduced in Hawaii by the HPD in 1980. At the time, it was known as the Good Neighbor program and Block Watch program. Since then, it has evolved into the NSW program with hundreds of “watches” across Oahu. Individual watches range in size from 25 to several hundred households actively participating in this community-based security effort.

**OVERALL GOALS**

The goals of the NSW program are to:

A. Educate the public about area crime problems and ways to improve residential security;

B. Implement coordinated, community-based programs to increase awareness and concern for the protection of homes within a given community;

C. Identify and develop effective measures for the prevention, deterrence, and reduction of specific crimes; and

D. Strengthen police-community relations.

Individuals representing their respective communities may write or call the police district that they live in to request information on how to start an NSW program. An information packet containing flyers, pamphlets, and brochures explaining the concept and mechanics of the program will be sent to the person. After reading the materials, the individual will be asked to take the following steps:

A. Discuss the contents of the packet with neighbors and determine their interest in the program.

B. Call the police district and ask for an officer to conduct an NSW presentation. A minimum of 25 attendees is preferred.

C. At this presentation, the following information will be given:

1. Literature relating to burglaries, home security, and personal safety;
2. A brief description of property crimes; and
3. The benefits and goals of the NSW program and how to start one in your community.

D. At the conclusion of the meeting and after the officer has left, the group will remain to discuss starting a program and to select a coordinator and one or more block captains.