



Ka Nūhou

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Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

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DHHL Breaks Ground for New Home in East Kapolei

Governor Linda Lingle and Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. joined the Hawaiian Homes Commission and other state and community leaders in breaking ground for Hale Kalaniana'ole, the new office complex for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) at East Kapolei in January of this year.

Located at the present end of the Kapolei Parkway, Hale Kalaniana'ole will be a two-story, 45,000-square foot office building on a nine-acre landscaped parcel that includes parking.

"Hale Kalaniana'ole will be the permanent home for DHHL," said Micah A. Kāne, Hawaiian Homes Commission chairman and director of the department. "We will be moving the entire Honolulu operations of the department to our new home. The department is the vanguard of government services moving to Kapolei. We hope this will be the beginning for a hub of state government based in Kapolei."

The new DHHL home is in the midst of several developments the department has undertaken. The 226-unit Malu'ohai subdivision was completed in 2001. The homes of the 326-unit Kaupē'a are currently under construction. Site work for the 403-unit East Kapolei I subdivision is underway with home construction scheduled to start next year.

A Memorandum of Understanding between DHHL and The Salvation Army was signed last year for Kroc Center Hawai'i, a \$100 million world-class civic center on 12 acres of land at Kapolei. Negotiations are also being finalized for a 67-acre regional shopping center on Hawaiian home lands in Kapolei that will bring more than 3,800 additional jobs to the region.

Governor Linda Lingle, who participated in the groundbreaking, congratulated the department for the landmark event and for its commitment to the Kapolei region.

"As Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole envisioned, the homestead lands are indeed beginning to flourish," said Governor Lingle. "The Hawaiian homes program has come to the point where it can build its own home and, in the process, place higher education, more economic opportunities and more affordable housing opportunities in the Kapolei community. It's only fitting that this office complex be called Hale Kalaniana'ole," she added.

Kiewit Building Group is the site and building contractor for the \$21 million project. Next Design LLC is the design consultant. Expected completion is in January 2008. Project funding is through certificates of participation.



Rendering of Hale Kalaniana'ole, DHHL's new home in East Kapolei.



Untying the maile to the groundbreaking site.

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Visit our Website: www.hawaii.gov/dhhl

Chairman's Message

Aloha Kākou!

In January, Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona joined the department in breaking ground for our new home that is appropriately named Hale Kalaniana'ole to honor the founding father of the Hawaiian homes program.

We are all excited about this opportunity to have a home for our department and to be closer to our beneficiaries. It is truly an exciting period in the department's history. Kapolei is one of the fastest growing communities in the state and we hope it will soon be a hub of state government.



Chairman Micah A. Kāne

Kiewit Building Group has been selected to build the office complex that is expected to be completed early next year. The two-story office building will contain 45,000 square feet of office space and a 2,700 square foot conference facility.

We are planning to move to Hale Kalaniana'ole early next year, and we are working to keep the disruption of service to a minimum. I want to thank you in advance for your kokua and understanding. We will be sharing the details with you as the dates become firm.

While we continue to build homes for native Hawaiian and to cultivate strong, vibrant communities, our responsibility must include the greater ahupua'a. Our ahupua'a is important to each person, each household, and our native Hawaiian community will thrive in a healthy ahupua'a.

We have initiated a program that takes a broader view of our communities because we understand the need for the entire ahupua'a to be healthy. These regional community plans identify partnerships and leverage resources to more effectively develop our lands as well as improve the quality of life for everyone.

What makes our community and lives better is not restricted to what is happening just

in our neighborhood—it is what is happening in the entire region, and we need to lead that discussion.

The regional plans have helped to move several priority projects forward, including funding for the North-South Road, the Kapolei Parkway Extension, and the water storage and transmission system in Kapolei and funding for roadway and water improvements in La'i 'Opua in Kailua-Kona.

As we move forward in the coming years, we do so with a purpose and understanding that we are more than just home builders, we are responsible for our future.

Hawaiian Affairs Legislative Committees

Legislative measures impacting Hawaiians are referred to two lead referral committees. Both Senate and House committee chairs have been very supportive of the department.

In the Senate, the measures are referred to the Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Russell S. Kokubun.

Senator Kokubun was born and raised in Honolulu. In 1974, he moved to the Big Island to pursue a career in agriculture. He led the Volcano Community Association in its effort to prevent the destruction of pristine native forest. He was elected to the Hawaii County Council in 1984. He served the mayor's executive assistant in 1995 and was appointed deputy director of the Department of Planning in 1997. He was appointed to a vacant Senate seat in 2000.



Sen. Russell S. Kokubun

In the House of Representatives, the measures are referred to the Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, chaired by Representative Ken Ito.

Representative Ito is a veteran of the Air Force and is a former public school and vocational/technical resource teacher. He was named Industrial Arts Teacher of the Year in 1990. He was elected as state Representative in 1994. He was named Legislator of Year by the Friends of the Library of Hawaii in 2000. He was also honored by the National Guard Association of the U.S., receiving its Patrick Henry Award in 2004 and Charles Dick Medal Award in 2005.



Rep. Ken Ito



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DHHL logo created by Stacey Leong Mills. The lau and hōkū symbolize Papa and Wākea, the two cosmogonic creators of the Hawaiian people. Papa, Earth-Mother, is symbolized by the lau (kalo leaf). Wākea, Sky-Father, is symbolized by the hōkū (star).

Senate Confirms Kāne to 2nd Term

On March 23, 2007, the Senate of the 24th Legislature of the State of Hawaii confirmed Micah A. Kāne to a second four-year term as Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission and Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

During the confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs, Committee Chairman Russell Kokubun was informed that the past four years provided Kāne with the opportunity to build a foundation and familiarity with the long term challenges of the Hawaiian home lands trust. Kāne added that it also provided him the opportunity “to build hope...that we can perform at a high level in fulfilling our commitment to native Hawaiians.”

A series of questions from the committee and answers from Chairman Kāne sheds light in the direction for DHHL during the next four years.

Your assessment of the department’s strengths and weaknesses and how the department’s strengths can be utilized, as well as how the department’s weaknesses may be improved;

DEPARTMENT’S STRENGTHS:

The strength of our department lies with our staff and beneficiaries. There is a synergy between our team at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and our beneficiary group (those on the land, and those we are trying to get on the land). I do not believe this synergy existed at this high level at any time in the history of our trust. This is a very powerful asset to possess.

Over the past four years, we have created and communicated a vision that people understand. Our road map is our five-year strategic plan that began in 2003, and our strength lies in our track record of achievement over the past three years and our ability to continue.

Our strength also lies in our potential, not only for native Hawaiians, but to have a significant positive impact on our state overall.

DEPARTMENT’S WEAKNESSES:

DHHL is highly dependent on infrastructure funding – The biggest challenge to



Newly reconfirmed HHC Chairman Micah Kāne (right) receives congratulations from Senators Norman Sakamoto (left) and Russell Kokubun.

providing affordable housing is the cost of infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, and public utilities). Major on- and off-site cost over that past four years has risen in some counties as much as 100 percent. This has put serious constraints on our projections, development budget and our ability to continue our acceleration of homestead awards.

Defending our right to exist – We spend much of our time defending the trust from legal challenges. It is the reason we have supported and lobbied for the passage of the Akaka Bill. We will continue to seek passage of this important measure that will help keep the Hawaiian Homes Trust healthy for the benefit of native Hawaiians and the State of Hawaii.

A comprehensive vision for the department, including goals that can be accomplished within the next four years and what types of annual benchmarks can be used to evaluate the department’s progress towards those goals;

Four years ago, when I came up for Senate confirmation before Senator Hanabusa who was then Chair of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, I was asked a very similar question. I feel it is appropriate to restate the very same answer, as our vision has not changed.

VISION:

I envision an efficient, professional, and caring group of individuals with a “can do” attitude working collectively to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 and Governor Lingle.

I envision a department that will tackle the tough issues and not turn its back on those individuals who need our help the most.

I envision a department that instills pride in its own workforce; a department where morale is high and every employee understands that they are part of a team. Every employee’s work will be acknowledged, and it will, in turn, result in a level of pride being translated to our Hawaiian communities.

I envision our department serving as an economic engine for our state, attracting new industries through our general leasing capabilities, as well as attracting much needed federal dollars.

I envision a department that initiates partnerships both inside and outside the Hawaiian community. Although much of our land is geographically isolated, our people will be integrated throughout the state’s communities.

Ultimately, I envision a department that is so successful that we will succeed in working ourselves out of a job. There will not be a need for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Our native people, as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, will have been fully rehabilitated.

Changing mailing address?

Don’t forget that you must notify (in writing) the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands of any changes in your mailing address in order to remain eligible for a Hawaiian home land award. Complete the form below and mail it to:

*State of Hawai’i
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
P.O. Box 1879
Honolulu, Hawai’i 96805*

We **must have** your **current** mailing address on file at all times. *All notifications, including lease offerings, are made through the mail.* After six months, the U.S. Postal Service will not forward mail to your new address. Please remember it is your responsibility to notify us in writing of any changes.

Please check status: Applicant Lessee Both

Print full name: _____

Social Security Number: _____

New mailing address: _____

Signature & date: _____

Telephone nos.: Home _____ Bus. _____

If any of the information printed on the address label is incorrect, please correct the information by using this form.



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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

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Empowering Native Hawaiians

Helen Wai is a third generation homestead lessee who grew up on Hawaiian home lands in Nānākuli.

She knows exactly what people participating in the Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP) are going through.

She, too, lived with her parents and wanted a homestead of her own, but knew nothing about financial matters — until she went to the public library and checked out every book on money she could find.

Now, she has her own home on Hawaiian home lands at Princess Kahanu Estates and a job with the nonprofit Hawaiian Community Assets. She has represented her community as the Treasurer/Secretary for the board of directors for the past five years.

She is a consultant, trainer and counselor who has been active in homebuyer education and financial management since 2001. Wai received certification from NeighborWorks America in Homebuyer Education, Housing Counselor, Train the Trainer and Credit Counseling for Maximum Results.

Teaching HOAP classes all around the state is her way of helping beneficiaries get a homestead lease and keeping it. And that's key...Beneficiaries must be 50 percent Hawaiian to receive a lease, but they can assign it to their children or grandchildren who are at least one-quarter Hawaiian.

It's also important for beneficiaries to prove as much blood quantum as possible, to ensure their children qualify for an assigned lease, said Wai, who recently assigned her own lease to her daughter. Otherwise, "our kids will never be able to afford homes here."



Helen Wai (right) with Moloka'i Home Ownership Assistance Program clients Kirk and Ada Kiaha.

Shilo Pa, who recently was awarded a lease after attending Wai's HOAP class, said, "That kind of story really motivates us...We're looking for that. Go to a HOAP class. It will change your spending life for sure."

The eight-hour HOAP class covers budgeting, building good credit, getting a mortgage loan, maintaining a home and other topics, with Wai offering concrete tips on what people can do to improve their financial situation.

"It's not about telling them, it's about empowering them," she said. "There's no shame. I won't judge you. And it's free."

HHC 2007 Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule for the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) for the 2007 calendar year is listed below. Homestead community meetings are scheduled on Monday evenings from February through December. Regular Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays following the homestead community meetings.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Meeting type:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
April 23	Community	Kapa'a, Kaua'i
April 24	Regular	Lihu'e, Kaua'i
May 21	Community	Hilo, Hawai'i
May 22	Regular	Hilo, Hawai'i
June 18	Community	Papakōlea, O'ahu
June 19	Regular	Honolulu (DHHL)
July 23	Community	Leiali'i, Maui
July 24	Regular	Lahaina, Maui
August 20	Community	Wai'anae, O'ahu
August 21	Regular	Honolulu (DHHL)

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Meeting type:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
September 24	Community	Waimea, Hawai'i
September 25	Regular	Waimea, Hawai'i
October 22	Community	Ho'olehua, Moloka'i
October 23	Regular	Kalama'ula, Moloka'i
November 19	Community	Nānākuli, O'ahu
November 20	Regular	Honolulu (DHHL)
December 17	Community	Waimānalo, O'ahu
December 18	Regular	Honolulu (DHHL)