



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands welcomes 160 new homesteaders to the Ka'uluokaha'i subdivision of East Kapolei

Department beneficiaries to become the first homeowners in Kapolei's newest subdivision

KAPOLEI, HAWAI'I – The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is set to welcome 160 homesteaders to the Ka'uluokaha'i subdivision during a turn-key home selection ceremony being held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Kapolei. This award ceremony reflects the culmination of a nearly two year-long Hawaiian Home Lands initiative to reinvigorate the vacant lot and turnkey home awards program for beneficiaries statewide.

"There is no better gift that someone can receive than that of becoming a new homeowner," said Governor David Y. Ige. "My administration understands how vitally important the Hawaiian homesteading program is and we will continue to work with Chairman Masagatani as well as with the Hawaii State Legislature to ensure the department receives the support it needs."

The Kauluokahai subdivision is the first phase of the East Kapolei II master-planned community that is being developed by DHHL on the Ewa Plains, mauka of the Ewa Villages Golf Course. Once fully completed the community will be comprised of approximately 1,000 single-family house lots. Infrastructure construction for the subdivision began in September 2009, which included mass grading of increments and the construction of Maunakapu Street (formerly known as East West Road). Gentry Kapolei Development, LLC began home construction in September of this year with first home occupancy slated for May of 2018.

"There are no words that can accurately describe what a day like this means to me, my staff and most importantly our beneficiaries," said Jobie Masagatani, Director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. "This selection ceremony wouldn't be possible without a team of people working together towards a common goal, including our beneficiaries, our staff as well as our partners in the financial sector and construction industry."

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands received over \$3 million in infrastructure development funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (U.S. HUD) as well as the United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA-RD) and Rural Utilities (USDA-RU). Another \$11 million of infrastructure funding came from the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) program.

DHHL's HALE program also played an integral role in preparing department beneficiaries for the financial responsibility of purchasing and maintaining a new home. More than 150 beneficiaries took advantage of the financial literacy workshops provided by Helen Wai, LLC which assisted them on

their path to financial readiness. In addition, the department worked closely with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development, HomeStreet Bank and Bank of Hawaii to ensure that beneficiaries had the most viable financing options available prior to purchasing their new homes.

The Ka'uluokaha'i lot selection ceremony caps off a productive year for the department in terms of beneficiary awards and outcomes:

- 35 vacant lots awarded to beneficiaries in Waimanalo on the island of Oahu
- 22 vacant lots awarded to beneficiaries in Anahola on the island of Kauai
- 45 vacant lots awarded to beneficiaries in the Keokea-Waiohuli area on the island of Maui
- 69 beneficiaries becoming new homeowners in the department's rent-with-the-option-to-purchase pilot project in Kapolei on the island of Oahu.
- In partnership with Habitat West Hawaii's "Blitz Build" program, 10 homes built in 10 days for beneficiaries in the La'i 'Öpua subdivision of North Kona on Hawai'i Island.

The department will continue to build on the momentum gained in 2017 with more vacant lot, turn key home and subsistence agriculture awards anticipated across the State in 2018.

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