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GOVERNOR  
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STATE OF HAWAII



JOHIE M. K. MASAGATANI  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AHA, JR.  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

April 4, 2018

**Sent via email to molokai.aom@gmail.com**

Ms. Kilia Purdy-Avelino, Board President  
Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
PO Box 159  
Ho'olehua HI 96729

Dear Kilia,

Mahalo for your email correspondence (dated March 13, 2018) regarding the Molokai Veterans Center project. Our primary focus is to encumber the funds before lapsing on June 30, 2018. This is a great opportunity for the island of Moloka'i. The latest update is that the funds have not been released yet to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). We are awaiting funding re-appropriation, per Governor's Message No. 11 to the State Legislature. In order to meet the June 30, 2018 deadline, we needed to start the Design and Environmental Review process.

As noted in my February 2, 2018 letter to you, the current Design of the Center is flexible enough to meet most if not all the needs that you expressed in your October 20, 2017 letter. How rooms will be used and activities allocated will depend on the business plan for operations and programming. See attached letters for reference.

The following are responses to your comments.

1. Survey. We appreciate the suggestion for DHHL to conduct a survey. However, we feel it is not necessary, as there has been previous opportunities for community input. Efforts were made to reach out to all those involved, including meetings with the Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans (MVCV) board in June, September and December 2017; beneficiary informational meeting on September 5, 2017; and early consultation via letter (dated November 30, 2017) to initiate the environmental review process required by State law.

There will be additional opportunities, where everyone is encouraged to participate – including the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Assessment and the DHHL beneficiary consultation on the license to manage and operate the Center.

2. How did this project start? The MVCV organization sought State funds in 2015 for improvements to the existing facility in Kaunakakai. Four million dollars in State CIP funds was appropriated through Act 124 in 2016 for improvements to the existing Veterans Center in Kaunakakai. Due to the nature of the funds as “CIP”, there is no formal application, such as a Grant-In-Aid would have. The State Department of Defense was identified as the administering agency at that time. It was then discovered that the existing Kaunakakai facility is not on State lands, so the State CIP funds could not be used. DHHL was then approached to find a suitable location – either an existing facility on state land or state land on which to build a new facility. In our initial assessment, we identified the Hoolehua parcel on which to build a new facility. It is land already in DHHL’s inventory; already designated for “community use”, per the Molokai Island Plan, approved by the HHC; and was determined to have adequate infrastructure (water, sewer, etc.), which will be verified before construction. Then, in 2017, the \$4 million in State CIP funds for this project was re-directed to DHHL to administer and implement.

## NEXT STEPS

We invite and encourage participation by all beneficiaries as the project moves forward. The next steps for this project are as follows, as well as additional opportunities for community input.

- By May 2018 – State Legislature to re-authorize the \$4M CIP funds to DHHL.
- By June 30, 2018 – DHHL to encumber the funds for construction.
- Public comment period on the Draft Environmental Assessment – Time period TBD.
- Seek approval from the Hawaiian Homes Commission on the Final Environmental Assessment and Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) – TBD.
- Construct the facility – Time Period TBD.
- Conduct beneficiary consultation on the License to manage and operate the facility – Date TBD.
- Seek approval from the Hawaiian Homes Commission on the License to manage and operate the facility – Date TBD.

Lastly, you indicated in your letter dated October 20, 2017, that you as board president of the Ahupuaa o Molokai and the board president of MVCV met and reached an understanding of the facility uses. Please let me know whether the boards of both organizations have taken formal

Ms. Purdy-Avelino  
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action and agreed to the understanding on the facility uses. If possible, please provide a copy of the board meeting minutes (from both organizations) indicating the date of the official actions taken and vote. This is important for us to know as we continue to work on the facility design and the environmental review process.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Gigi Cairel at (808) 620-9461 or email [Gigi.O.Cairel@hawaii.gov](mailto:Gigi.O.Cairel@hawaii.gov).

Aloha and mahalo,



Jobie M. K. Masagatani  
Chair, Hawaiian Homes Commission

Enclosure

cc: DHHL staff

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



JOHN M. K. MASAGATANI  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
1<sup>ST</sup> VICE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

February 2, 2018

Kilia Purdy-Avelino, President  
Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
P.O. Box 159  
Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Aloha Kilia,

Mahalo for your letter dated October 20, 2017, which I received on Dec. 4, 2017, expressing interest in the Ho'olehua Veterans and Homestead Residents' Center (Center) currently being planned for the northern end of the Lanikeha Center parcel. I am encouraged by your initiative in meeting with the Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans (MVCV) President, Samuel Makaiwi, and appreciate you sharing the outcome of that meeting with us.

I also recognize that there were two projects that the Ho'olehua homestead community had in mind for the same area, the Learning/Youth Activity Center and playground, that were discussed at the Statewide Homestead Leaders' Conference and Puwalu held in Hilo in August 2016. I agree with your conclusion that the broader needs of the community can be met most effectively via healthy communication and a cooperative relationship between Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans and the Ho'olehua homestead leaders and community members, as a number of the Veterans are also Ho'olehua homestead lessees.

As was shared by myself and Representative Lynn DeCoite at the Community Informational Meeting on September 5, 2017, due to the timeline on the CIP grant, we are having to pursue an aggressive schedule for this project in order to meet the June 2018 deadline to encumber the funding. Staff has been meeting regularly with the board of the MVCV to discuss various aspects of the project. We feel that the current design of the Center is flexible enough to meet most if not all of the needs that you have expressed in your letter. How rooms will be used and activities allocated will depend on development of a plan for operations and programming, which has only recently been started. DHHL supports the Ahupua'a's participation in that planning process. Management of the facility will be determined during the DHHL Land Management Division review process for land disposition.

The environmental review process for the project is currently in the Early Consultation phase of Environmental Assessment (EA) preparation, and you should have received a letter addressed to your organization from the Consultant, Group70, requesting comments on the project. Please respond to that letter as soon as possible so that the needs and wants that were

Kilia Purdy-Avelino  
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agreed upon are included in the record. DHHL and the consultants will then respond to your comments in writing and potentially make changes, where feasible, prior to publication of the Draft EA in the Environmental Notice. Also, at your earliest convenience, please let me know whether the boards of both organizations have formally agreed to the understanding that was reached, and the date(s) those official actions were taken.

Once the Draft EA has been published, please review it carefully as there will be another opportunity to comment during the 30-day comment period. DHHL will respond in writing to all comments received. An EA is required to thoroughly describe the natural physical environment, but also the social and cultural environment, of the project site. An EA is also required to adequately discuss the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed action on the surrounding environment and community, as well as discuss alternative methods and modes for implementing the proposed action, selecting the one with the least detrimental effect on the environment. Some alternatives that should be considered include: different sites, different facility configurations, or different implementation methods. Alternatives analysis should also include input from the community as a part of the early consultation process.

I have directed staff to prepare a chronological summary of project correspondence, discussions and actions so that your organization can be fully informed of the process to date, a copy of which will be provided to you when completed. Please don't hesitate to contact the Acting Planning Program manager, Kaleo Manuel, at [kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov](mailto:kaleo.l.manuel@hawaii.gov) or the environmental review planner, Nancy McPherson, [nancy.m.mcpherson@hawaii.gov](mailto:nancy.m.mcpherson@hawaii.gov) if you have further questions or concerns.

Aloha,



Jobie M.K. Masagatani  
Chairman, Hawaiian Homes Commission

Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
P.O Box 159  
Ho'olehua, HI 96729  
(808) 646-1592

October 20, 2017

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
Attn: Chair Jobie Magasatani  
P.O Box 1879  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96805

Aloha Chair Masagatani,

The Ahupua'a o Moloka'i Executive Board and its Homestead Association Presidents, as motioned and carried at its October 11, 2017 meeting, would like to request involvement in the Veteran Center Project being erected at Lanikeha, from its current stage until completion. We would also like to request any past correspondence and plans relating to this project so that we will be made up to date. This request comes at the interest of our Ho'olehua homestead residents and beneficiaries to assure that this development is a **partnership** between beneficiaries and veterans.

A meeting between Veteran President, Samuel Makaiwi and Ahupua'a President, Kilia Purdy-Avelino on October 11th, proved that the partnership between homestead beneficiaries and veterans can and will benefit the whole of our community. Being able to meet one-on-one, representing the two interested parties involved, without 3rd party controllers, we were able to listen and share our needs and wants. We both reached an understanding, that, if agreed upon by both our boards, would include:

- 1) [the] playground area accessible to our homestead community;
- 2) a room to be designated for our kūpuna program(s);
- 3) a room to be designated for a community learning center;
- 4) any/all veteran medical related concerns such as PTSD would be conducted at their Kaunakakai center;
- 5) Ahupua'a o Moloka'i through its Ho'olehua Homestead Associations would help to maintain the beautification of area and/or any fair and reasonable financial obligations

On August 5th-8th, 2016 Statewide Homestead Leaders Conference held on Hawai'i island, DHHL honored the request of its Ho'olehua beneficiaries to build a Learning Center and playground area on its Lanikeha property by including it in their budget. I see this partnership as a means to fulfill your promise to your beneficiaries that you serve. If it can be resolved between the two interested parties, DHHL should have no hesitation to allow us to be a part of the process.

We will expect to hear from you shortly confirming receipt of this letter along with any correspondence including the next steps of action in regards to the Veteran Center at Lanikeha.

Mahalo nui,

Kilia Purdy-Avelino  
President, Ahupua'a o Moloka'i

Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
P.O Box 159  
Ho'olehua, HI 96729  
(808) 646-1592

cc:

Hala Pā-Kalā, President, Kamiloloa/One Ali'i Homestead Association  
Pinky Gaspar, President, Kapa'akea Homestead Association; Vice-President, Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
Gayla Haliniak, President, Kalama'ula Homestead Association  
Sybil Lopez, President, Kalama'ula Mauka (Hou) Homestead Association  
Ochie Bush, President, Ho'olehua Homestead Association  
Kammy Purdy, President, Ho'olehua Homestead Agriculture Association; Secretary, Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
William "Tubs" Kalipi, President, Makakū'oha Coop  
Kapua Lauifi, Secretary, Makakū'oha Coop  
Shona Pineda, Treasurer, Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
Fred Aki, Sgt.-at-Arms, Ahupua'a o Moloka'i  
Nancy McPherson, DHHL Planning  
Samuel Makaiwi, President, Molokai Veterans