



## DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

---

Micah A. Kāne, Chairman  
Ben Henderson, Deputy to the Chairman  
Phone: (808) 586-3801  
Fax: (808) 586-3899

---

September 28, 2007

### **DHHL BEGINS NEW CHAPTER**

HONOKĀĪA, HAWAII – The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) held a blessing earlier this week on recently awarded pastoral homesteads that resolves a long-standing issue and signifies a new chapter of preserving and perpetuating a rural lifestyle, subsistence living and homestead ranching.

A group of applicants called the Aged Hawaiians filed a lawsuit in 1985 seeking additional pastoral lands to be issued. A settlement was ratified by the Hawaiian Homes Commission on February 15, 2005 that awarded more lands to more applicants than were originally requested.

“We resolved an issue that was long-standing,” Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) Chairman Micah A. Kāne stated. “We also recognized the need to preserve a rural lifestyle for those who desire it and these awards also represent a recognition of subsistence ranching.”

Kāne also said one of the commitments of the department was to address issues that were not settled by previous administrations. “One of the hardest things to do is resolve difficult issues that span time and commissions,” he said. “I am thankful to our commission, our staff, and our beneficiaries for helping this administration to not only bring closure to this issue, but to use it to expand opportunities for our beneficiaries.”

Seventeen applicants received the land awards that range from 5 acres to 200 acres which acknowledges both the commercial aspects of ranching as well as subsistence living.

As part of the determination for an award for commercial ranching, each applicant provided a ranching operations plan that was reviewed and approved by an independent ranch plan review process. The process was conducted by the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service Ranch Plan Review Panel.

#####

Media Contact:  
Lloyd Yonenaka, ICRO  
Phone: 808-587-6367 Cell: 808-754-0078