



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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DHHL Lessees Getting Long Awaited Infrastructure

KĒŌKEA, MAUI — The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) will fulfill a commitment made more than 23 years ago to provide basic infrastructure of roads, potable water, electrical and telecommunications service to 66 homestead lessees for their farm lots in Upcountry Maui.

As a result of the infrastructure, the subdivision in Kēōkea was recently reconfigured and 66 lessees selected their new homestead lots today. Infrastructure is expected to be completed soon and lessees are expected to be able to build homes on their property within the next three months.

The original subdivision and homestead leases were made during what was called the Accelerated Lease Awards Program in the mid 1980s that provided homestead leases on lands without infrastructure. While infrastructure was provided on many of the original awards, some homesteads such as the 68 in Kēōkea, Maui were never provided basic infrastructure.

"We made a commitment to address some long-standing issues and not carry them over to another administration," said Micah A. Kāne, Director of DHHL. "This is a great day because people can finally build their home."

"The Hawaiian Homes Commission and the department are fulfilling a promise made a long time ago," said Perry Artates, Hawaiian Homes Commissioner from Maui. "We are looking forward to welcoming new families to our community and bringing native Hawaiians back home." Artates is a Hawaiian homestead lessee and lives in a neighboring subdivision.

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