



## DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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Kaulana H.R. Park, Chairman  
Anita Seyer Wong, Deputy to the Chairman  
Phone: (808) 620-9501  
Fax: (808) 620-9529

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## **DHHL Continues Building Green Affordable Homes**

### **PV panels, solar water heating and other standard energy saving features could save homeowners \$300-\$500 a month**

KEALAKEHE, HAWAII — The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) continues to ride the “green wave” as it offers 45 families an opportunity for single-family homes in the La’i ‘Ōpua community region. The homes are the first in the 100-unit La’i ‘Ōpua Village 5 subdivision in Kealakehe on the Big Island.

DHHL continues to build upon its standard house package that includes solar water heating and photovoltaic panels that will capture the abundant Kona sunlight to further reduce the price of electricity. The homes are also designed and positioned to take advantage of the winds with its windows sized and placed to promote natural air ventilation. In addition, the whole house fan promotes the removal of hot air from the house and draws in the cooler outside air, thus decreasing the need for air conditioning, which will greatly reduce electricity consumption.

“We are continuing to build upon our foundation of being a master-planned community developer by capitalizing on energy-efficient technology. We have always built affordable homes, and now we are building homes that are energy-efficient,” said Kaulana H.R. Park, director of DHHL and chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC). “Reducing living costs is one measure of a sustainable lifestyle and as native Hawaiians, living a sustainable life is what we strive for. Our overarching objective is about more than building sustainability; it is about living the cultural values of our ancestors and in time developing prosperous communities across the islands.”

As part of a master-planned community built around the current subdivision at the Villages of La’i ‘Ōpua, Village 5 contains 100 home sites and is adjacent to the current community that sits on a hillside above Kealakehe High School and Honokōhau Small Boat Harbor. The harbor area is designated for future expansion and is expected to provide additional economic development and employment opportunities.

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A hospital and higher education opportunities are planned for this area and is part of the department's vision of creating communities for living, working, playing, and learning in the same area.

"This is one of DHHL's master-planned communities that will enhance the quality of life for the entire area," said Governor Linda Lingle. "This project will provide much needed affordable housing for Big Island residents, while also helping our state achieve energy independence."

"As a government, we need to lead by example, and this project is a great example of moving forward for a better, greener Hawai'i," said Lt. Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. "This is a unique project that fits into our Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative to make our islands energy independent and reduce our reliance on foreign oil."

This offering is part of DHHL's Ho'ohiki Program, also known as the Undivided Interest Award program, which provides a homestead lease several years before house construction. The time between the Ho'ohiki awards and house construction is used by beneficiaries to work on financially qualifying for a mortgage through our Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP), or to arrange their personal and business lives for the transition to their new home.

"We are fulfilling our commitment to provide those on the wait list an opportunity for homeownership through this program that allows the lessee time to prepare to be homeowners," Park said. "These new energy-efficient homes are now ready for those lessees who did their part in going through our HOAP program, getting financially qualified and preparing to transition to their new home."

Armstrong Builders is the builder of the homes that come in two-, three-, four-, and five-bedroom models with prices ranging from approximately \$224,000 for a two-bedroom, two-bath model to \$313,000 for a five-bedroom, three-bath model, excluding any homeowner rebates.

"We are really happy to be working with DHHL," said James R. Keller, president of Armstrong Builders. "These are great homes and we are really committed to helping families live an energy-efficient and sustainable lifestyle."

Approximately \$6.0 million in Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant (NHHBG) funds have been obligated for infrastructure costs for the Villages of La'i 'Ōpua and NHHBG funds will also be used to provide subsidies for Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) eligible home buyers.

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Media Contact:  
Lloyd Yonenaka, Administrator  
Information and Community Relations Office  
Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
Phone: 808-754-0078  
E-mail: [Lloyd.Yonenaka@hawaii.gov](mailto:Lloyd.Yonenaka@hawaii.gov)  
Web Site: [www.dhhl.hawaii.gov](http://www.dhhl.hawaii.gov)