



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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KAUPUNI VILLAGE: 'A BETTER FUTURE' FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS

Dedication celebrates energy-efficiency, sense of community

WAI'ANAE, O'AHU — Nineteen native Hawaiian families are moving into the nation's first affordable housing subdivision certified platinum – the highest rating possible – under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands today dedicated the completion of Kaupuni Village, its first net-zero energy homestead project integrated with a Hawaiian-cultural focus.

"Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalanai'ānā'ole envisioned a day when native Hawaiians would once again flourish on their ancestral lands and, with this project, we move another step forward toward realizing his dream," Hawaiian Homes Commission Chairman Alapaki Nahale-a said. "The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is excited that homesteaders who are moving into Kaupuni Village will reap the benefits of a neighborhood designed with the Native Hawaiian culture, the environment and sustainability at its heart.

"Kaupuni Village represents what Hawai'i must do and can do to take care of the land and to take care of each other," Governor Neil Abercrombie said. "I congratulate all of those who committed themselves to energy self-sufficiency and sustainability. Kaupuni Village is the example of what we must all strive to be, not only net-zero, but a community that works together for a better future."

The Rev. Guy Kapeliela presided over the dedication ceremony, which occurred on the eve of Earth Day, followed by a community gathering at the Hale Kumuwaiwai Community Resource Center. Nearly 200 people attended today's event.

Speaking during the dedication ceremony on behalf of the Kaupuni lessee families, Kanani Velasco stated, "The dream of owning our own home has finally become a reality through Kaupuni."

Groundbreaking for the Kaupuni Village took place on March 30, 2010, and the development of the 19 homes took a little over a year to complete.

Kaupuni is designed to reconnect Hawaiians with their land through a dedicated section of the property for a community area. The community area will be soon equipped with a communal gardening area, a community learning center, and a pā hula area used to teach the Hawaiian culture, history, language and arts. The Hale Kumuwaiwai community resource center is expected to be the *piko* or center of the subdivision and members of the community are expected to participate in sustainable efforts to grow their own food and be equipped in other areas such as financial literacy, economic development and higher education to benefit the community.

Additionally, the homes at Kaupuni are designed with innovative energy-saving features, including photovoltaic panels, solar water heaters, electric vehicle outlets, and energy-efficient appliances and lighting. Other features of the homes relating to the construction include: homes with a larger roof overhang for extra shade, dual pane windows, skylights, high ceilings, composite roofing, fully insulated walls and ceilings, and pervious concrete driveway for drainage. All homes also have an energy monitoring system so families can see their energy usage at any given time and energy consumption of using various electronic devices.

Kaupuni has been a collaborative partnership with many individuals and entities, including the Consuelo Foundation which donated the land to the department, the Hawaiian Electric Company, which provided technical assistance, SolarWorld, with its energy efficient expertise, Group 70 International, and the Hunt Building Co., Ltd. "The combined efforts of all have created a net-zero energy community that is truly an environmental success story," said Chairman Nahale-a.

Kaupuni used \$6 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Other contributors include the University of Hawai'i, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the Hawai'i Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, Kamehameha Schools, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Ka'ala Farms.

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