



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

News Release

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DHHL Building First Net Zero Community Subdivision KAUPUNI Ke Kaiāulu Ho'owaiwai, The Prospering Community

WAI'ANAE, O'AHU – The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) broke ground today for the nation's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum subdivision combined with a community cultural and educational center that will create one community of 18 native Hawaiian families.

Through the traditional practices of our past and the use of the latest and most innovative features and house design; the subdivision will be efficient in energy while producing food sustainability and promoting cultural Hawaiian values.

“This is a huge step towards building upon the foundation set forth by Governor Lingle and her Administration because we are now going to incorporate the latest technology with our traditional lifestyles of the past. This will eventually be more than sustainability and more like prosperity,” said Kaulana H. R. Park, Chairman of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) and Director of DHHL. “It is also exciting is to see how 18 families can come together as one strong community to reconnect to our past traditions through the *‘āina* and pave the way for a holistic lifestyle that we will share for our future planned projects across the state.”

Park said Hawaiians had previously lived in a self-reliant, sustainable manner that did not depend on anyone beyond the islands or even beyond their *ahupua'a*.

“We are going back to our concept of *ahupua'a*, of having everything you need to live in one place,” he said. “The traditional *ahupua'a*, was a land division from mountain to sea, but we are applying that concept of self-reliance and sustainability from the macro level to the micro level.”

Kaupuni will have energy-saving and energy-generating capacity, but will also include a food supply component with the addition of a community center that will have an aquaponics system that blends hydroponics and aquaculture.

The community 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.

“This is a unique project that fits into our Administration’s Hawai‘i Clean Energy Initiative to make our islands energy independent and reduce our reliance on foreign oil,” said Lt. Governor James R. “Duke” Aiona, Jr., who participated in today’s groundbreaking ceremony. “As a government, we need to lead by example, and this project is a great example of us moving forward for a better, greener Hawai‘i.”

The homes will have solar water heating and photovoltaic panels, and are designed and being constructed with energy savings and sustainable living features.

The homes will have a larger roof overhang for extra shade, dual pane windows, high ceilings, electric vehicle outlets, composite roofing, fully insulated walls and ceilings, energy star appliances and lighting package, and pervious concrete driveway for drainage.

All homes will also have an energy monitoring system so families can see their energy usage at any given time and the effects of turning on or off lighting or devices that use energy.

Kaupuni is a project with collaborative efforts by many people and groups, including the Consuelo Foundation which donated the land to the department several years ago and the Hawaiian Electric Companies, which provided technical assistance and support in concept and design.

“Hawaiian Electric and DHHL share a vision of bringing sustainable communities to life in our state,” said Robbie Alm, Hawaiian Electric executive vice president. “We’re proud to provide the technical expertise for this project and look forward to working with DHHL on others.”

Kaupuni will use \$4.5 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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