



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

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Blessing held for start of Lima Ola Supportive Housing Project on Tuesday

'ELE'ELE – The Kaua'i County Housing Agency held a blessing ceremony on Tuesday for the Lima Ola Supportive Housing Project in 'Ele'ele.

“When we broke ground for Lima Ola Phase One in 2020, all we could physically see on this entire 75-acre site was a lot of tall grass and red dirt,” said Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami. “Yet, we knew that one day we would see a place for our keiki to grow up, a place for our kupuna to thrive, a place for those struggling to find help, and a place for so many to finally call home. Today, we are one step closer to seeing that dream become a reality. As housing continues to be a critical need throughout our island, we celebrate this huge leap forward today, and thank all involved for your hard work and continued efforts which offer hope to our people.”

Tuesday's ceremony commemorated the start of construction for the Lima Ola Supportive Housing Project, which is modeled after the existing Keaula Supportive Housing Project located on Pua Loke Street in Līhu'e.

The blessing was officiated by cultural practitioner Aletha Kaohi, and attended by about 50 individuals, including Governor Josh Green, M.D., Senate President Ronald Kouchi, members of the Kaua'i County Council, and Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) Interim Executive Director Dean Minakami.

“Addressing homelessness and creating more affordable housing in Hawai‘i takes compassion, leadership, and united action from all aspects and organizations,” said Governor Green. “I extend my deepest gratitude to all of our state and Kaua‘i county agencies, and partners for your dedication and hard work which brings us here today, commemorating the Lima Ola Supportive Housing Project.”

The supportive housing model is intended to provide low-cost rental housing to Kaua‘i residents experiencing homelessness or who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Under this model, tenants receive on-site social services to assist them in getting back on their feet and prepare them to move to more permanent housing. While tenancy in supportive housing is not intended to be permanent, it also is not strictly time limited as are traditional, transitional housing models.

A total of 24 units, studio and one-bedroom, will be built with square footage ranging from 240 to 400 square feet. The project will also include a community building that will include offices, a reception area, and laundry facilities.

A combination of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and State and Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF), Home-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds, and county Housing Development funds were utilized for the design and build of this project. The total cost of the Lima Ola Supportive Housing Project amounts to \$4.37 million.

Shioi Construction is the contractor for this project which is anticipated to complete during the first quarter of 2024.

“We are grateful to our Housing Agency staff, Shioi Construction, HHFDC, all state and county partners, and especially our west side community for your continued commitment to creating affordable housing opportunities here on Kaua‘i,” said Housing Director Adam Roversi. “The supportive housing model has been a great success in Līhu‘e, and we are now excited to see this project develop and thrive here in West Kaua‘i.”



Above photo from left to right: State of Hawai'i Chief Housing Officer Nani Medeiros, Representative Luke Evslin, Governor Josh Green, Mayor Derek Kawakami, Kaua'i County Housing Agency Director Adam Roversi, Kaua'i County Council Chair Mel Rapozo, Conrad Murashige of Shioi Construction, and Kaua'i County Council Vice Chair KipuKai Kualii.





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