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News Release

For Immediate Release: September 27, 2022

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Blessing held Monday for Hā'upu View workforce housing project in Līhu'e

LĪHU'E – The Kaua'i County Housing Agency, in partnership with the Āhē Group, held a blessing ceremony on Monday for the completion of Hā'upu View, the county's newest workforce housing complex on Pua Loke Street in Līhu'e.

“This is how we are approaching housing here at the County of Kaua'i. What was formerly underutilized county land has now been brought back to life thanks to the many hands involved,” said Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami. “Mahalo to our Housing Agency, the Āhē Group, Hawai'i Housing Finance & Development Corporation, EAH Housing, Kaua'i County Council and state legislators, and everyone who had a hand in this important project which adds much needed inventory to our housing here on Kaua'i. We especially thank the families who are now living here, and our Pua Loke neighborhood for embracing this new community. This is workforce housing at its finest.”

Monday's blessing was performed by Kahu Sean Chun and attended by about 50 individuals, including members of the Kaua'i County Council, and state representatives Nadine Nakamura and Dee Morikawa.

“On behalf of the entire Kaua'i County Council, we want to say a huge congratulations and thank you to everyone for making this housing development a reality,” said Arryl Kaneshiro, Kaua'i County Council Chair. “I was here two years ago for the groundbreaking during COVID, and as we were standing on a small patch of grass, I couldn't imagine us fitting a housing project on this property, which was

formerly an overflow parking lot that could barely fit two cars. But through the hard work of the administration, the team at Āhē Group, and all involved, we were able to create housing right here in the heart of Līhu‘e with existing infrastructure, and healthcare, social services, schools, and employment opportunities nearby.”

The Hā‘upu View project included the new construction of three buildings, which houses 54 one- to three-bedroom rental units that have been fully occupied since the completion of each building. Applicants were chosen through a lottery process, where they were required to submit historical information including rental history, income/asset verifications, and more. Income requirements for this property are 30%, 50%, 60%, and 100% of Kaua‘i’s Area Median Income.

“This is our first project where we have dedicated units supporting the Housing First initiative, working closely with the Kaua‘i Community Alliance to house homeless and formerly homeless residents,” said Makani Maeva, President and CEO of the Āhē Group who spearheaded the construction and is operating the project under a long-term ground lease agreement, after which the project reverts to County ownership. “The units here are a special mixture of low-income, transitional units up to 60% of the AMI, and also some at market rate. This property is really a good example of a full continuum of housing. We have five units set aside for those who are formerly homeless and are working in partnership with the county’s transitional housing facility across the street, Kealaula, to offer long-term permanent supportive housing. We are extremely happy to continue to build affordable housing on the Garden Island, and we couldn’t do it without the unparalleled support of the County of Kaua‘i.”

Construction of the \$27 million housing project was made possible by a combination of federal housing funds, County affordable development funds, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and private financing.

Hā‘upu View commenced construction in May 2020, with Building A completed in August 2021, Building B completed in September 2021, and Building C completed in November 2021.



Above photo, from left to right: Kaua'i County Council Chair Arryl Kaneshiro, HHFDC Executive Director Denise Iseri-Masubara, President and CEO of Āhē Group Makani Maeva, Carole Lau of First Hawaiian Bank, and Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami.



Above photo, from left to right: Kaua'i County Council Vice Chair Mason Chock, Councilmember Bill DeCosta, President and CEO of Āhē Group Makani Maeva, Councilmember Bernard Carvalho Jr., Councilmember Luke Evlin, Council Chair Arryl Kaneshiro, and Councilmember Felicia Cowden.



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