



## **HAWAI'I HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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**KAREN SEDDON**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 587-0641

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### **GRAND OPENING FOR AFFORDABLE RENTALS FOR VETERANS**

KALAELOA – A dedication ceremony was held today for 80 newly renovated apartments specifically for U.S. military veterans. Hale Uhiwai Nalu at Kalaeloa is the result of a public-private collaboration between the State of Hawai'i's Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, First Hawaiian Bank and Cloudbreak Hawai'i, LLC.

The apartments are one of three buildings located on the former Barbers Point Naval Station and is held through a 50-year lease with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The rental units are targeted at U.S. military veterans whose incomes are at or below 30 percent to 100 percent of Honolulu County's median income as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). All apartments are built along a central corridor with a large community space located on the ground floor. Each unit is fully furnished and includes central air conditioning, private baths and kitchenettes.

The HHFDC provided a \$1 million loan from the Rental Housing Trust Fund for the project to assist in providing a continuum of care for homeless veterans in the state of Hawaii. With the addition of the new units, total campus capacity will increase to 286.

"With an estimate of 131,000, far too many of our nation's heroes are homeless. I applaud this effort to support the men and women who have served in the armed forces when they are in serious need," said Senator Daniel K. Akaka, who chairs the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. "And I especially applaud the various groups that came together to make this happen here in Hawai'i."

" Hale Uhiwai Nalu is a welcome addition to the inventory of housing solutions, particularly for homeless veterans," said the State's Homeless Efforts Achieving Results Together (HEART) coordinator Russ Saito. The HEART initiative, launched by the Lingle-Aiona Administration in 2006, spurred the development of shelters and transitional housing units for the homeless along O'ahu's Leeward coast. An emergency shelter was also in Kaka'ako, and the State worked with Kauai County to open a shelter and a transitional housing facility on that island.

"With the successful opening of emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities the State has pursued with our partners over the past few years to address the homeless emergency, we are now focusing on increasing opportunities for permanent housing that is affordable to working families and those transitioning out of homeless shelters," said Governor Linda Lingle. "I appreciate the collaborative work between HHFDC and our federal and private sector partners to convert Hale Uhiwai Nalu into a place where our veterans can have affordable housing and the quality of life they deserve."

"Since opening the campus, over 1,350 veterans have been housed and United States Veterans Initiative, the primary service provider has seen over 2,017 veterans and placed 621 veterans in jobs. The addition of the new units will provide much needed housing options for all veterans seeking safe supportive longer term stability with ready access to VA health care team, and other services on the campus" said project developer Tim Cantwell, principal of Cloudbreak Hawaii, LLC.

For more information, contact:  
Kent Miyasaki  
Information Officer, Hawai'i Housing  
Finance and Development Corporation  
Phone: (808) 371-8441  
[Kent.K.Miyasaki@hawaii.gov](mailto:Kent.K.Miyasaki@hawaii.gov)