



HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

ANTHONY CHING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HCDA Invests in Public Safety at Kewalo Basin Harbor

HONOLULU — The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) and Ward Village® today made a major investment in the future Honolulu Emergency Services Department lifeguard response station at Kewalo Basin Harbor. The donation to the City and County of Honolulu will go toward facility improvements and equipment to ensure lifeguards and EMS personnel are well equipped to protect and save lives in and around the Kakaako waterfront area.

“With the expansion of activities at Kewalo Basin Harbor, we think enhancing public safety is always a good thing,” said HCDA Executive Director Tony Ching. “Stakeholders have previously voiced their support for an emergency response station at Kewalo as part of our Kakaako Makai Conceptual Master Plan, and we want to ensure that vision is fulfilled.”

“Ward Village is dedicated to making Kewalo Basin Harbor a stronger community amenity, and this donation with the HCDA will help us to ensure the safety of the many recreational users of Kewalo every day,” said Race Randle, Senior Director of Development, Ward Village.

“Together, Kewalos, Ala Moana Beach Park, and Point Panic represent one of the largest and most utilized collection of beach parks in Hawaii, and it is our hope that the new lifeguard facilities will make the use of these spaces more enjoyable for both local residents and visitors.”

Ward Village donated \$18,500 toward the city’s planned lifeguard response station at Kewalo Basin Harbor, which will fund the construction of dock facilities that can hoist rescue jet skis in and out of the water, as well as an aluminum dock and gangplank that are required to safely transport patients to an awaiting ambulance. The HCDA donated a rescue boat worth up to \$120,000 to the city Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services division, which will drastically increase the efficiency of water rescues in Kewalo Basin and along the Kakaako shoreline.

“This type of commitment to public safety at Kewalo Basin Harbor by the HCDA and Ward Village will save lives. We already have world class watermen and women and now with this lifeguard response station and a state-of-the-art rescue boat, we are able to provide them with the necessary equipment to protect our public,” said Honolulu Emergency Services Director Mark Rigg.

“You can’t put a price tag on safety, and we want to be sure the lifeguards’ new home at Kewalo Basin Harbor is the best and safest it can be for harbor tenants and other Kakaako ocean users,” Ching said.

The HCDA owns the land where the future lifeguard response station will be built. The Kewalo Basin Harbor site will be the city's first emergency response station situated directly on the water.

"This partnership with HCDA provides our skilled lifeguards with quick access to the ocean and faster response times," said Mayor Kirk Caldwell. "This boat is the first of its kind on Oahu, taking ocean safety to a new level. It will help lifeguards save lives. I thank HCDA for making this possible and our lifeguards for taking on this valuable responsibility."

The new lifeguard facility is one of many improvements to Kewalo Basin Harbor that are scheduled to take place in the upcoming years. It will be operational as soon as practical.

About the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA)

The HCDA was created by the 1976 state Legislature to redevelop historically underutilized areas across the state. The HCDA's mission is to build communities in the designated Community Development Districts of Kakaako, Kalaeloa and Heeiea, to provide more opportunities for residents to grow in a vibrant environment. In Kakaako, the HCDA is committed to revitalizing the urban core and providing housing opportunities to residents of all income levels. To date, the HCDA has overseen the development of over 6,000 new housing units in Kakaako, with another 4,200 units in various stages of construction. By creating a community where one can live, work, and play, we give the youth of Hawaii a reason to stay here in the islands and raise future generations. For more information, see www.hcdaweb.org.

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