

April 9, 2016

MEDIA ADVISORY

On August 28, 2014, The Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) issued a press release claiming "HCDA Invests in Public Safety at Kewalo Basin Harbor". The press release boasted a number of acts of kindness and generosity the HCDA and Ward Villages extended to the Kakaako community.

Per the press release, "**the HCDA donated a rescue boat** worth up to \$120,000 to the city Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services division. 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. "This boat is the first of its kind on Oahu, taking ocean safety to a new level."

'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. We want to be sure the lifeguards' new home at Kewalo Basin Harbor is the best and safest it can be."

Recently we were contacted by members of the community who expressed concerns that the representations made by HCDA in its August 28, 2014, press release were not fulfilled. A particular concern was that HCDA told us it donated a rescue boat to the city Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Guard Services Division in the press release.

We recently contacted the Honolulu City and County Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division and the HCDA. We learned the following: After almost two years the HCDA has not donated a boat as claimed in their press release. A rescue boat was just acquired in 2016 by HCDA, but will not be donated to the city. Instead, per HCDA, it might be leased to the city with HCDA retaining ownership and title. This begs the question, if the boat was recently acquired, what boat was Mayor Kirk Caldwell referring to in the August 28, 2014, press release where Caldwell states "This boat is the first of its kind on Oahu, taking ocean safety to a new level."

Following are questions we posed to the city about the state-of- the-art boat, and their answers.

Q. How much money does the city pay for the new rescue boat and slip?

A. \$960/mo

Q. Is the boat still the property of the HCDA and leased to the city? If yes, why did you claim in 2014, the boat was "donated" to the city?

A. yes, initially it was donated but that changed in the acquisition process

Q. Is there a budget for the boat? If yes, what is the amount and the funding source?

A. The gift account will cover most of the costs for fuel and maintenance and personnel costs will be covered by the city, in total roughly \$160,000

Q. What is the area of response for the boat?

A. Maunalua Bay to Barbers Point

We were also interested in the representations made by HCDA saying "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 gang plank that are required to safely transport patients to an awaiting ambulance"

Q. How much money was spent from the "Special Fund" to remodel the space, gang plank, and jet ski hoist?

A. \$2,000 for the space, I don't have a dollar amount for the gang plank but that was paid for by Ocean Safety and there is no hoist.

Q. When was the first payment made and who or what entity was the payment made to?

A. Last year to HCDA and Almar for office space and slip

Q. Is the slip in use yet?

A. yes for our rescue water crafts (jet-skis)

We are concerned that Mayor Caldwell, former HCDA Executive Director Anthony Chang, and others knowingly grossly misrepresented the facts surrounding this rescue boat in order to to deceive the taxpayers on behalf of big business.

If the harbor is under control of the Howard Hughes Corporation then they should be responsible for providing their own rescue boat and lifeguard response station. The city is already strapped for cash and in dire need to hire more lifeguards to prevent more drownings in waters around the Island of Oahu. How can we afford to take three men from the working population of lifeguards and place them on a boat to service private interest? If this rescue boat is as important as they make it out to be, then it should have been in place a long time ago. Based on the facts and recent revelations this is nothing more than a fleecing of the tax payer.

To add insult to injury, reportedly the HCDA and the City and County of Honolulu are planning to hold a press conference this week. Reportedly, Governor David Ige will also be in attendance.

Go to carrollcox.com to see the 2014 press release and the full list of questions and answers.

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