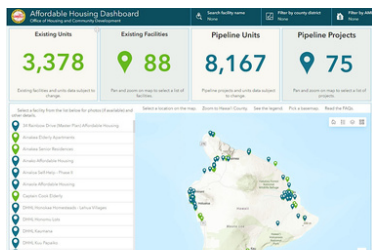




# Office of Housing and Community Development NEWSLETTER

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING DASHBOARD LAUNCHED



The Affordable Housing Dashboard provides a user-friendly interface where residents can find information on existing rental units and projects in the pipeline.

## New Tool Lets Public Explore Existing and Pipeline Units

The County of Hawai'i has launched a new online tool to help residents track and find affordable housing projects on Hawai'i Island.

The County of Hawai'i Affordable Housing Dashboard provides a user-friendly interface where residents can easily view details such as project location and income limits, as well as status updates for the over 8,100 units in the affordable housing pipeline and thousands of existing rental units. This information is crucial for residents interested in understanding the availability and accessibility of housing options within their communities.

"Our commitment to enhancing housing opportunities for all residents of Hawai'i Island is unwavering. This new online tool reflects our dedication to transparency and

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Families are anticipated to begin moving into Kauhale I Ke Kula Uka in December 2024. County of Hawai'i photos

# Kauhale I Ke Kula Uka Nearing Completion

## FAMILIES TO BEGIN MOVING INTO UNITS IN DECEMBER 2024

A waiting list is now open for Kauhale I Ke Kula Uka, formerly known as the Kaloko Heights Affordable Housing Project, in Kailua-Kona.

Nonprofit developer Hawai'i Island Community Development Corporation (HICDC) through property manager Hawai'i Affordable Properties Inc. will accept applications July 29, 2024, to August 12, 2024. A lottery will be then held to determine the order in which residents will be processed for eligibility and final tenant selection.

Completion of Kauhale I Ke Kula Uka is slated for fall 2024. Families are anticipated to begin moving into units in December 2024.

Kauhale I Ke Kula Uka features 99 family units, including 58 3-bedroom units and 41 2-bedroom units, in addition to one resident manager's unit.

The development will provide homes for



A crewmember works on a utility box at Kauhale I Ke Kula Uka.

families earning 30% to 60% of area median income (AMI). Five of the units are set aside for eligible households with children that are experiencing homelessness, at-risk of becoming homeless, or transitioning out of

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## SUCCESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Nonprofits assist justice-involved resident in charting a new path

A remarkable transformation has unfolded in the life of a Big Island woman, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Going Home Hawai'i and community partners supported by the County of Hawai'i's Homelessness and Housing Fund.

C.A. (initials used to protect participant's identity) entered the Going Home Hawai'i (GHH) program in January 2024. GHH is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that assists justice-involved men, women, and youth with reintegration into community life through employment, education, housing, and appropriate services.

In her mid-50s, and unable to maintain employment due to health concerns, GHH worked with C.A. to secure Social Security Disability Income benefits to support herself as she embarked on her journey.

With the supportive services of GHH, C.A. successfully completed substance abuse treatment at Bridge House, Inc., and began her own Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous (AA/NA) meetings for fellow participants.

Meanwhile, C.A. worked hard to graduate from Big Island Drug Court, and in mid-May earned a college certificate as a health care worker. She has since transitioned to independent housing, reunited with her adult children, obtained her driver's license and purchased a vehicle.

Though C.A. has completed the GHH program, she continues to sponsor/mentor some of the nonprofit's current participants. She was also able to train a peer to take over the on-site AA/NA meetings that she had started.

Les Estrella, CEO of Going Home Hawai'i, called C.A.'s journey "a tremendously inspiring real-time story of resilience, perseverance, and determination" noting how "meaningful support can lead to transformative change."

"She not only obtained success in her life but continues to inspire others in similar circumstances. Truly, a peer leader!" Estrella added.

Going Home Hawai'i (GHH) and Bridge House Inc. (BH) are nonprofit organizations that received Year 1 and Year 2 County of Hawai'i Homelessness and Housing Fund grants.

## SECOND PHASE OF SELF-HELP HOMES COMPLETED IN 'ĀINALOA



Ten Hawai'i Island families gathered in July to celebrate the milestone of homeownership. County of Hawai'i photo

The Hawai'i Island Community Development Corporation (HICDC) blessed the second and final phase of its 'Āinaloa Mutual Self-Help Housing Program during a ceremony held Friday, July 19, 2024.

The 10 three-bedroom, two-

bathroom homes were built by the families who will occupy them. Each household earns between 30% and 80% of Area Median Income.

For more information on HICDC's Mutual Self-Help Housing Program, please visit [www.hicdc.org](http://www.hicdc.org).

### Notice of Public Hearings and Request for Proposals for 2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The County of Hawai'i Office of Housing and Community Development and the State of Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation are beginning the 2025 Consolidated/Action Plan process for the CDBG program.

As required by federal regulations, the County, in conjunction with HHFDC, will hold public hearings on the following dates:

Virtual Public Hearing via Zoom

August 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

To register, go to

<https://tinyurl.com/3nkxzyw5>

Dial-in: 1-669-254-5252

Meeting ID: 161 117 4414

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In-Person Public Hearing

August 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

1990 Kino'ole St., Suite 104

Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

The purpose of these public hearings is to hear views and comments from citizens on housing and community development needs and the past performance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) CDBG program.

Persons requiring special accommodation should call the OHCD at (808) 961-8379 at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearings so arrangements can be made. Citizens who are unable to attend these hearings may submit testimony on their housing and community development needs by August 29, 2024, to Susan Kunz, Housing Administrator, 1990 Kino'ole St., Suite 102, Hilo, HI 96720, or by e-mail to [ohcdcdbg@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:ohcdcdbg@hawaiicounty.gov).

The goal of the CDBG program is to encourage the development of viable communities by providing decent housing, suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities for persons of low- and moderate-income. The County expects to receive approximately \$2,600,000 in Program Year 2025.

For more information on CDBG program criteria, eligibility requirements, and program objectives, please visit [www.hawaiicounty.gov/cdbg](http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/cdbg).

Project proposals will only be accepted electronically starting September 1, 2024, and will be due by 4:30 p.m. on November 15, 2024.



# DASHBOARD:

*Continued from front*

accountability, ensuring that residents have the information they need to participate in the dialogue about housing development in our County," Housing Administrator Susan Kunz said.

Built entirely in-house by staff from the Department of Information Technology and Office of Housing and Community Development, the County of Hawai'i Affordable Housing Dashboard utilizes an array of information provided by various County and State agencies and non-profit and for-profit developer partners.

Future phases will incorporate additional data points regarding affordable housing on Hawai'i Island.

Explore the Affordable Housing Dashboard by scanning the QR code at left or by visiting the OHCD



SCAN HERE

website at [www.housing.hawaiicounty.gov](http://www.housing.hawaiicounty.gov).

# Former Hilo Canal Residents Successfully Moved to New Location

Hawai'i County officials are pleased to announce the successful relocation of residents from the Ponahawai Temporary Respite Area to a newly established short-term shelter on Kuawa Street, near the Ho'olulu Complex in Hilo.

The July 31, 2024, move was carried out with the coordinated efforts of the County of Hawai'i, Hope Services Hawai'i, Project Vision Hawai'i, the Neighborhood Place of Puna, Going Home Hawai'i, and the Salvation Army Hawai'i, who assisted 15 residents in safely moving themselves, their belongings, and their pets to the new location.

The Kuawa Street site will continue to offer netted Quickshades for residents to store their belongings and receive essential services. As each person transitions to permanent or emergency housing, their

space at the short-term shelter on Kuawa Street will be dismantled and removed.

Security measures will remain in place to monitor the area and ensure compliance with established rules and laws. Individuals who violate these rules will be removed from the site and subject to enforcement actions.

Looking ahead, the County of Hawai'i, in collaboration with The Salvation Army Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division, is planning to open a new emergency overnight cot sleeping shelter for 25 individuals per evening in Downtown Hilo in late August.

Individuals experiencing homelessness who require access to community resources are encouraged to contact the Hawai'i County Homeless Engagement (HCHE) Hui by visiting this website or calling (808) 501-1413, ext. 3.

## THE COORDINATION CENTER

*your first step to support*



NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE OF PUNA

In partnership with the County of Hawai'i

The Coordination Center offers a first point-of-contact for Hawai'i County residents to get connected to services, ensuring you have access to the supports you need. We help you find, navigate, and connect with housing, financial, and health-related resources offered in our community.

Call or text ☎ (808) 501-1413 or visit [neighborhoodplace.org](http://neighborhoodplace.org) today!

Regular business hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm.

Calls and texts received outside of business hours will be returned within 2 business days.

# KALOKO:

*Continued from front*

an emergency shelter or transitional housing program.

"We are glad to bring these affordable homes to the Kona community. Our thanks go out to the State Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, the County of Hawai'i, the National Equity Fund and Bank of Hawai'i for funding this project. A special thanks to RCFC Kaloko Heights LLC who provided the land and water for the project along with constructing a sewer line that we will tie

into," said Keith Kato, executive director of HICDC. "We couldn't have done it without these partners. Their contributions will benefit the local community for generations to come."

Applications may be obtained and submitted online at [www.hawaiiaffordable.com](http://www.hawaiiaffordable.com); in-person at the Hawaii Affordable Properties Inc. office at the Honalo Business Center, located at 79-7266 Mamalahoa Highway, Suite 1, Kealakekua, Hawaii, 96750; or via U.S. Mail by calling (808) 322-3422 (TDD: 877-447-5990), sending an email to



Kauhale I Ke Kula Uka is located at 73-4515 Hina Lani Street. County of Hawai'i photo

[kalokoapplications@hawaiiaffordable.com](mailto:kalokoapplications@hawaiiaffordable.com), or mailing a written request with your name, address and contact number to: Hawaii Affordable

Properties, Inc., PO Box 148, Kealakekua, Hawaii, 96750.

For more information on the HICDC and its programs, please visit [www.hicdcorp.org](http://www.hicdcorp.org).

## UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

- Friday, August 16 — Statehood Day
- Monday, September 2 — Labor Day
- Tuesday, November 5 — General Election Day
- Monday, November 11 — Veterans Day



## STAY CONNECTED

Facebook: [@hawaiicounty.officeofhousing](https://www.facebook.com/hawaiicounty.officeofhousing)

Instagram: [@hawaiicounty.officeofhousing](https://www.instagram.com/hawaiicounty.officeofhousing)

Online: [www.housing.hawaiicounty.gov](http://www.housing.hawaiicounty.gov)

Email: [ohcd@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:ohcd@hawaiicounty.gov)