



Hawaiian Electric Company

NEWS • RELEASE

MALAMA LEARNING CENTER RECEIVES \$50,000 FROM HECO

HONOLULU (January 25, 2006) – Hawaiian Electric Company today presented \$50,000 to the Malama Learning Center (MLC) for the Kapolei-based project that, when completed, will serve the community through arts, science and environmental education with the goal of creating a sustainable, caring community in Kapolei and West Oahu. HECO's contribution will support the development of strategic plans and material needed prior to launching a capital campaign to raise an estimated \$10 million for the construction and operations of the Malama Learning Center. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2008 or sooner.

During the brief ceremony today, MLC board and advisory group members were encouraged by the early support of local businesses and foundations. Lori Hoo, director of community relations for HECO and member of the MLC advisory group said, "We're a step closer to realizing the vision for the Malama Learning Center as a gathering place for the community as well as a living laboratory focused on preserving and fostering Hawaii's natural and cultural resources with the aid of modern technology and best practices." Among the long-term objectives of the MLC are to instill an ethic of conservation in the community and encourage students to pursue careers in conservation and sustainable technology, as well as visual and performing arts.

The plan for the MLC calls for a three-acre site on the Kapolei High School campus complete with classrooms, a theatre, dance and art studios, and an outdoor amphitheatre. The MLC will work with partner organizations and businesses from the community to offer educational workshops and a conservation program with hands-on training in field-based conservation techniques, a specialized conservation library and a native plant nursery and ethnobotanical garden. In keeping with its theme of environmental responsibility, the facility will be constructed with recycled and sustainable material, be resource efficient (energy and water conservation) and follow green and sustainable building practices. The conceptual design of the MLC was developed by local architectural firm, 8 inc, through an international design competition.

Conceived by Kapolei High School, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii and the Kapolei community, the MLC is based on the fundamental concept of *mālama* (to take care) and sustainability. The Malama Learning Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 2003. For more information on the MLC, visit www.malamalearningcenter.org.

#

CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

Hawaiian Electric Co. Inc.

The company has given \$50,000 to the **Malama Learning Center** to support the development of strategic plans and the purchase of materials needed prior to launching a capital campaign. The campaign's goal will be to raise about \$10 million for the construction and operations of the center in Kapolei. The facility, which will serve the West Oahu community through arts, science and environmental education, will be constructed with recycled and sustainable material.

Annie Sinclair Knudsen Memorial Fund

The fund has given a \$6,000 grant to the Kauai office of the **American Cancer Society Hawaii Pacific Inc.** to support its Friend to Friend program on Kauai. This peer-education program uses trained volunteers who share a common language and culture with the women in various communities and increases awareness of the importance of breast self-examination.

Ernst & Young LLP

Employees of the firm's Hawaii office have pledged \$75,000 toward the establishment of the **Donald A. Corbin Distinguished Professorship in Accounting** at the University of Hawaii at Manoa

College of Business. The professorship is a two-year effort to obtain an endowment of \$750,000 named after a professor emeritus who launched the initiative along with his wife.

Dowling Co. Inc.

The Wailuku, Maui-based company has donated \$5,000 to **The Nature Conservancy's Corporate Council for the Environment**, an initiative started in 1987 to protect Hawaii's natural heritage and engage the business community in caring for Hawaii's environment.

Hawaiian Telcom

The company has donated \$10,000 to **Ronald McDonald House Charities of Hawaii Inc.**, a nonprofit organization that serves seriously ill children and their families and develops programs and partnerships to improve the lives of children in Hawaii and the Pacific.

American Savings Bank

The bank has provided a \$25,000 grant to help fund the completion of the **Waipahu Festival Market/Business Incubator and Training Center project**. The grant will go toward the \$938,000 funding shortfall for the Waipahu Festival Market construction project.

First Hawaiian Bank Foundation

The bank has given \$5,000 to the **Friends of Iolani Palace** to help finance daily operations.

H O T S H O T S



HECO Donates \$50,000 To Learning Center Project

Hawaiian Electric Co. presented a \$50,000 check to the Malama Learning Center to benefit a Kapolei-based project that, when completed, will serve the community through arts, science and environmental education. Construction is expected to begin in 2008.

Pictured are (from left): Al Nagasako, principal Malama Learning Center; Georgette Stevens, president Malama Learning Center; Pauline Sato, vice president Malama Learning Center, and Robbie Alm, senior vice president public affairs for HECO.